
National Capacity Needs, Constraints and Priorities for the Implementation of the Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity Conventions



Kingdom of Swaziland National Capacity Self-Assessment NCSA/UNDP/SEA/CC/01



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Executive Summary

It is estimated that drought and desertification affects 110 countries and directly threatens the livelihoods of 250 million people with more than one billion people at risk. In combating issues of land degradation the global community opened the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UN CCD) in June 1994. The objective of the UN CCD is “*to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification*”.

Desertification under the UN CCD refers to “land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities”. These areas are particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation, inappropriate land-use, the effects of poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing and poor irrigation practices.

In *combating desertification* the Convention envisages “activities which are part of the integrated development of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas for sustainable development which are aimed at:

- (i) prevention and/or reduction of land degradation;
- (ii) rehabilitation of partly degraded land; and
- (iii) reclamation of desertified land.”

Entering into force on 26 December 1996 the UN CCD has 191 signatories, of which 50 are African countries. The Convention specifically differentiates between the obligations of countries in different regions. These being Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean and the Northern Mediterranean. As signatories to the UN CCD, countries assume certain obligations to meet the overall objective of the Convention with priority consideration given to Africa. Specific commitments and obligations for African Contract Parties are deposited in the Convention and in the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (RIAA).

An exhaustive review of the UN CCD identified specific commitments and obligations upon signatories. Central to meeting the provisions of the Convention is the development and implementation of a National Action Programme to prevent land degradation, with a focus on public participation and assisting local communities to help themselves in preventing and reversing the effects of degradation and drought. However, it has been broadly recognised that a lack of capacity among member states has limited the successful realisation of provisions under the UN CCD. This Thematic Review examines the context within the Kingdom of Swaziland.

In order to address the issues covered by the UN CCD and facilitate success of national initiatives, countries need to ensure they have sufficient capacity to respond to the provisions of the Conventions. Acknowledging capacity constraints at different levels as one of the key constraints to meeting the challenges and provisions of the Conventions the Swaziland Environment Authority has commissioned a **National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) Report on National Capacity Needs, Constraints and Priorities for the Implementation of the Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity Conventions.**

The aim of the NCSA is to determine national capacity requirements and define national capacity needs and priorities. The Swaziland Environmental Authority, with support from the

UNDP and the GEF, has established an NCSA Project Management Group (PMG) to facilitate the National Capacity Self-Assessment. According to the Terms of Reference (ToR), the objective of this project is *to identify national capacity constraints and priorities to meet binding commitments contained in the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification*. The information gained through this process is to be used by the PMG to *determine how best to develop this capacity to meet Swaziland's commitment to global environmental management through the production of a strategy and action plan*.

As a Contracting Party to the UN CCD, the Kingdom of Swaziland has committed itself fully to the provisions contained therein. A thorough review of these provisions was carried out. In addition to the preparation of the National Action Programme, the following keys areas in which Parties to the Convention have agreed to specific commitments and obligations were identified.

- Reporting
- Policy measures
- Research and monitoring
- Training and education
- Public awareness and exchange of information
- Financial mechanisms
- Capacity

A total of 191 countries have signed the UN CCD with Swaziland the 51st country to do so, signing on the 26th of July, 1994, ratification in October of 1996 and the Convention coming into force on 5th January 1997. Swaziland was 25th of the 51 African countries to sign the UN CCD. An analysis of strengths and weakness with respect to the country's performance since that time pertaining to the commitments and obligations of the UN CCD was conducted, with consideration given to potential opportunities and threats.

The SWOT analysis revealed that Swaziland has been largely successful in complying with the commitments and obligations contained within the UN CCD. The SEA has delegated the Land Use Planning Section (LUPS) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation as the UN CCD Focal Point Coordinator. The LUPS serves as the secretariat of the National Steering Committee on Desertification (NSCD) and the Focal Point for all UN CCD activities. The Coordinating Assembly of NGOs (CANGO) was designated as coordinator of the NGO sector, with Yonge Nawe appointed as the NGO Focal Point. To ensure participation of communities local level committees were also established under the NSCD as part of the coordinating system.

Through a consultative process and with the assistance from the UN Special Operation Office for Desertification Swaziland has prepared the first National Action Programme (NAP). The NAP proposed 14 specific programmes outlining a series of recommendations and interventions including;

- Institutional Arrangements
- Chieftaincy and Chiefdom Boundary Disputes
- Promotion of Awareness And Capacity Building
- Promotion of Active Participation of Communities in Land Management Programmes

- Reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded land to promote sustainable utilisation of land resources
- Formulation of a National Forestry Policy and Exploitation of Forest Products Framework
- Research and Technology
- Proper Location of Construction Sites and Physical Infrastructure.
- Development of Alternative Energy Sources
- Improvement of Livestock Management Practices
- Drought Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation Strategies
- Land Use Policy
- Settlement and Resettlement Policy
- Population Policy

The NAP recommended establishing a co-ordination unit comprising a Programme Manager (currently the Focal Point) and four Programme Officers (or Programme Assistant Managers) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Land Use Section or the SEA. The NSCD subsequently raised concerns regarding the approach used in NAP and articulation of the 14 proposed programmes, relating to the requirements and resources for implementation. A review of the 14 programmes was commissioned with the aim of exploring ways to ensure the goals of the NAP were achievable and donor-friendly. Of the 14 programmes recommended in the original NAP, three priority programme areas were identified, namely:

- Priority Programme 1: The promotion of awareness, capacity building, and community participation programme;
- Priority Programme 2: The land management, land use planning and land rehabilitation programme; and
- Priority Programme 3: The desertification research and technology programme

This resulted in the “Update of the First National Report on the Implementation of CCD” submitted to the COP in April 2002. The country is currently finalising its third report on the UN CCD to the COP.

Swaziland has a comprehensive policy framework building upon early legislative efforts of the 1900s. recent policy measures aim to integrate legislative measures into an integrated framework for the sustainable development of the country with a focus on poverty alleviation. The National Development Strategy (NDS) represents the country’s key policy document, detailing the long-term (until 2022) vision for the country and identifying priority development objectives. The NDS acknowledges Swaziland’s international obligations under various international Conventions along with the need for actions in ensuring compliance with these Conventions. The NDS recognises the draft National Land Policy as an essential precondition for its own successful implementation.

Using a consultative process the success in meeting the commitments and obligations of the UN CCD were interrogated further in an attempt to reveal the root cause. These were then interpreted as being specific constraints or priority needs. They are considered as relating to systemic, organisational or individual capacity issues and are summarised below.

Systemic Capacity

Poverty and its attendant problems is one of the greatest factors undermining the realisation of sustainable land use management. Many of the provisions under the UN CCD require broad interventions at the systemic level. It was acknowledged that realisation of these often requires long time frames and successful implementation of national policies addressing broader issues, such as the overall performance of the national economy poverty alleviation improved land management.

The lack of synchronization of national policy, legal and regulatory frame-works leads to confusion between sectors and between national, regional and local levels. In order to achieve a level of harmonisation there needs to be an iterative process of implementation and access to policy making structures to ensure appropriate revisions following the review and evaluation of project subsequent to completion

Despite progress towards an integrated and holistic approach to environmentally sustainable development there still remains a need to ensure harmonisation and integration of legislation addressing sustainable and integrated land use management and tenure.

Political understanding and commitment to the principles of the UN CCD are needed to create an enabling environment. This process requires sensitisation of appropriate institutions and individuals.

Issues of land degradation, specifically commitments of the UN CCD, must “compete” with other pressing issues, such as HIV/AIDS and poverty alleviation. Although inter-related the political mechanisms often do not appreciate the linkages.

A comprehensive policy framework and the constitution provides an appropriate environment for engaging issues of sustainable development there is a lack of policy relating to development and implementation of incentive systems and market instruments to ensure the use of appropriate land use and technology.

There is a need to create a stronger enabling environment to support devolution of responsibilities to regional and community level structures.

Awareness among decisions policy makers, with the requisite political will and commitment is needed for a legislative framework that can accommodate and facilitate financial allocations from government budgets.

Organisational Capacity

Organisational Capacity refers to institutional levels, focusing on the overall performance and functional capabilities of an organisation, access to finances, information, technology, infrastructure and other resources, its organisational structure and its ability to adapt to change. Stakeholders acknowledged that Swaziland had made significant progress in revising and re-aligning the organisational framework and institutional arrangements in relation to land management.

The organisational responsibilities for the UN CCD in Swaziland are well defined.

Organisational commitment is undermined by a lack of financial resources, sufficient staff and time. Although nominated and accepting the role and responsibilities of Focal Point under the UN CCD the existing organisational framework does not make provisions for the additional responsibilities therein and there is a continued reliance upon external consultants and funding.

Implementation of the NAP requires commitment of time, staff and resources to administer and coordinate the process. Shifts in availability of funding will require necessary capacity to source and obtain alternative funding.

According to its members, the National Steering Committee functioned well during the initial phases, but problems have been in maintaining enthusiasm and commitment.

Small size of the country results in small organisations with limited staff and narrow management structures. This results in responsibility being vested in a few individuals with limited institutional memory or redundancy, with a single expert for a given department. This means that if that person is to leave they take with them all of the acquired knowledge and experience.

There is a need for a more clearly defined organisational mandate to ensure co-ordination, co-operation, integration and partnership between all stakeholders. This would also facilitate holistic planning and implementation of land degradation rehabilitation and mitigation programmes.

Centralised Information Management Systems need to be implemented and comprehensive to capture project successes and failures.

Institutional feed back mechanisms are required to build on information and lessons learned.

Individual institutions need clearly defined lines of responsibilities, mandates, mission statements and organisational visions and with corresponding levels and acknowledged accountability. The development of such capacity will in turn support negotiating skills within regional and international fora.

Explicit land use and management policies and incentive measures to facilitate private ownership involvement and participation in national actions are required.

There is a need to stimulate and support national research initiatives that will strengthen the national position, enhance capacity and improve public awareness and communication.

Institutional investment is required in appropriate infrastructure to support research and monitoring measures to monitor and detect changes in the baseline condition.

Dedicated support is needed for a unit to effectively implement, collate, report and disseminate information on the UN CCD.

Individual Capacity

The relatively small size of Swaziland affords the country many advantages in the identification, monitoring and management of land issues. It also means that the country has a limited capacity to support full-time employed professionals. It is therefore important to identify, develop and consolidate a critical mass of scientists and practitioners.

There is an acknowledged need for specialists, such as soil chemists, microbiologists, physicists, remote sensing and survey and land use planning. Development of regional linkages and programmes, with concomitant financial support from national structures would assist in enhancing the capacity and commitment as well as developing national research programmes.

Government has supported the development of staff through sponsoring of tertiary studies, often with assistance of external financial support through the institutions themselves or donor programmes. However, staff turnover is considered high with many staff soon leaving to take advantage of the better salaries within the private sector or neighbouring countries.

Swaziland has a strong cultural tradition with well defined, respected community structures. These provide clearly defined mechanisms and structures for engaging in national debate and national action.

Low levels of individual awareness and knowledge limit the ability for discussion, decision-making and action. This translates into an apparent unwillingness among community members and local resource users to participate in the design and implementation of projects.

Chieftaincy and land disputes have brought several land management programmes and rehabilitation projects to a standstill. Other issues with a lack of inter-community co-operation and community isolation have been problematic in the implementation of land management and rehabilitation programmes. These relate to broader social issues associated with communal land, lack of recognised and defined title and failure to properly engage communities in the development of projects.

There is a need to garner political support and commitment to ensure the land management issues are successfully addressed. This requires targeted awareness programmes aimed at senior government officials.

Lack of technical expertise among senior officials necessarily means briefing reports from Focal Points and delegates from the COPs are non-technical and general in nature. Information from these meetings is technical in nature much is lost through simplification. In turn, this can undermine the efforts of those responsible leading to low morale.

Focal Point lack the specific mandate included in their job descriptions covering day-to-day activities under the UN CCD. Constraints arise from the pressures of additional projects, reporting requirements and responding to communications with the UN CCD Secretariat, under the auspices of the UN CCD.

Stakeholders acknowledged that sufficient capacity exists at the individual level, with respect to the technical skills required to meet the national commitments under the UN CCD.

Many institutions experience bottlenecks and constraints due to the lack of clearly defined organisational structures at the lower levels of line ministries. Tasks and responsibilities additional to the normal day-to-day workings, and deployment outside of these, cause bottlenecks and ineffective utilisation of resources. Harmony between the mandate of the LUPS of the MOAC and the objectives of the UN CCD affords an opportunity unique to the UN CCD to capitalise on the units commitment and capacity through appropriate staffing requirements and ensuring sufficient resources.

Individuals need the requisite institutional framework and support mechanisms. This includes ensuring sufficient equipment and technology to facilitate monitoring as well as engagement of stakeholders.

Successful interventions are dependent upon sufficient capacity of individual community members in planning and implementation of rehabilitation.

A Logical Framework Analysis has been proposed with the intention of allowing these constraints and priorities to be structured in a way that will assist the NCSA Project Management Group in formulating an appropriate strategy and action plan to ensure Swaziland has the capacity to meet its commitments to global environmental management.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The UN Conventions

Increasing recognition of anthropogenic changes in the natural environment as a result of human interference has resulted in the international community agreeing on a number of multi-lateral environmental agreements. These were initially proposed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in June 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Known as the Earth Summit, these agreements provide a set of principles and obligations related to the protection of Earth and to the improvement of life quality of its inhabitants through sustainable development. They were compiled and recorded into a global action plan, Agenda 21.

Specific government commitments to ensuring sustainable development and translation of the ideals contained within the Rio Principles and Agenda 21 were defined in six different international agreements. These define specific government commitments to-wards the following issues:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Desertification
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Prior Informed Consent (PIC)
- Straddling and migratory Fish Stocks

Central to the objectives of each of these Conventions is recognition of the potential that such anthropogenic changes have to undermine the sustainability and development of livelihoods and the global diversity upon which all of these system processes rely. Two of these, the conventions on Biodiversity and Climate Change, were opened for signing at the Earth Summit in Rio while the other four were developed in subsequent years. The conventions on Biodiversity (UN CBD), Desertification (UN CCD), Climate Change (UN FCCC) and Fish Stocks have all come into force with the conventions on Biodiversity and Climate Change having been expanded to include new legal mechanisms - the Biosafety and Kyoto Protocols. The Kyoto Protocol, under the UN FCC, has yet to be brought into force.

The UN Conventions provide a framework for countries to ensure sustainable development with specific commitments to mitigate and manage the effects of human developments and pressures on the natural environment. They call for specific policies, strategies and solutions to mitigate the loss of biodiversity, effects of climate change, and desertification. In particular, each calls on countries to integrate these objectives into national and regional development plans, policies, programmes, and strategies.

1.2 Background to the NCSA

In order to address the issues covered by the UN Conventions and guarantee the success of national initiatives, countries need to ensure they have sufficient capacity to respond to the provisions of the Conventions and changing environment. In facilitating this, the Conventions provide a number of tools and instruments to assist signatories meet their obligations under the provisions of the Conventions. However, in the ensuing decade since the international community agreed on the Rio Principles and Agenda 21 it has been acknowledged that one of

the biggest challenges in meeting the commitments and obligations assumed within the various conventions continues to be a lack of capacity. These capacity issues exist at various levels, namely *individual, organisational* and *systemic* (REFS).

In response, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) instigated the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) in January of 2000. The aim of this initiative was to establish a more comprehensive and informed approach to issues around capacity needs and priorities, along with a strategy for developing capacity among developing countries to meet their global environmental commitments under the UN Conventions.

In this spirit and acknowledging capacity constraints at different levels as one of the key constraints to meeting the challenges and provisions of the Conventions the Swaziland Environment Authority has commissioned a **National Capacity Self-Assessment Report on National Capacity Needs, Constraints and Priorities for the Implementation of the Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity Conventions.**

The National Capacity Self-Assessment is aimed at determining national capacity requirements and defining national capacity needs and priorities. The Swaziland NCSA aims to address a number of cross cutting issues that are specific to the country e.g. community level capacity, traditional structures, institutional management, technical training, sectoral policies and legislation, data information and political will (UNDP/GEF, 2003).

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The Swaziland Environmental Authority, with support from the UNDP and the GEF, has established an NCSA Project Management Group (PMG) to facilitate the National Capacity Self-Assessment.

According to the Terms of Reference (ToR), the objective of this project is *to identify national capacity constraints and priorities to meet binding commitments contained in the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification.*

The information gained through this process is to be used by the PMG to *determine how best to develop this capacity to meet Swaziland's commitment to global environmental management through the production of a strategy and action plan.*

2 OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION PROCESS IN THE NATIONAL SELF-ASSESSMENT

The process for undertaking the NCSA involved a review of the legal and institutional framework with Swaziland. The review examined the obligations and commitments of Parties to the UN Conventions and Swaziland's response. Through this process a detailed stakeholder analysis was carried out. This was used to identify institutions and individuals with responsibilities under the Conventions. Key stakeholders are presented in Annex 1. The process of self-assessment was facilitated through structured and unstructured interviews, telephonic communication, email, review of reports and site visits, culminating in a stakeholder workshop (30 November 2004).

Eighty-two key stakeholders were invited to participate in a Thematic Workshop (TW) under each of the Conventions themes. The aim of these workshops was to bring together those responsible for and those with an interest in the Kingdoms obligations and commitments under each of the Conventions. The workshops were limited in number to those identified as having key role to play in realising the Kingdoms obligations and commitments under the

Conventions. In order to ensure representation of key stakeholders to facilitate the process of self-assessment invitations were followed up to confirm, with **forty-six** stakeholders verbally confirming their participation.

The workshop focussed on a participatory approach. A total of thirty-two stakeholders attended and participated. This included ten Government representatives, two NGO representatives, six from industry, one from the FAO, four from parastatals, three from the University of Swaziland and six consultants. Of these consultants two were from the university. Following the official introduction and opening, the first session outlined the background to the NCSA process. Participants were then briefly introduced to the Conventions before being asked to write down two commitments under each of the three Conventions. A more detailed review of the Conventions was then presented, outlining the provisions contained therein and the binding commitments and obligations upon Swaziland as a signatory. Participants were then again requested to write down two activities or responses that they believed themselves, their organisation of the country had undertaken in response. A more detailed review of the Kingdoms response to date was then presented and discussed. An analysis of strengths and weaknesses was then performed. Participants broke away into three groups under each of the Conventions and analysed the perceived strengths and weakness in relation to Swaziland's response to the Conventions. This information was captured and collectively summarised through plenary sessions. From this summary emerged a number of areas where Swaziland had demonstrated strengths in relation to the Conventions along with a number of key problem areas perceived to be weaknesses in relation to the Conventions. Threats to Swaziland meeting their obligations along with opportunities were also examined.

These perceived weaknesses were interrogated further using a root-cause analysis. Through a facilitated process participants were forced to work through the various reasons behind the perceived problems to the underlying, or root, cause. The causal factors identified through this process were used to define the key capacity constraints, from which capacity needs emerged. Capacity needs as identified and defined through this process were discussed with participants in order to examine potential interventions, actions and strategies to overcome and realise the objectives of the Conventions.

The workshop documentation is presented in section 5 of the report. The process was guided by the GEF (2001; CDI, 2000) definition of capacity "*the ability of individuals, institutions and systems to make and implement decisions and perform functions in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner.*"

3 LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Analysis and description of the causes of the creation of UN CCD

The objective of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UN CCD) is "**to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification**". Under the CCD, desertification refers to "land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities". These areas are particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation, inappropriate land-use, the effects of poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing and poor irrigation practices.

The CCD Secretariat estimates that drought and desertification affects 110 countries and directly threatens the livelihoods of 250 million people with more than one billion people at risk. In combating desertification the Convention envisages "activities which are part of the

integrated development of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas for sustainable development which are aimed at:

- (i) prevention and/or reduction of land degradation;
- (ii) rehabilitation of partly degraded land; and
- (iii) reclamation of desertified land.”

Central to meeting the provisions of the Convention is the development and implementation of a National Action Programme to prevent land degradation, with a focus on public participation and assisting local communities to help themselves in preventing and reversing the effects of degradation and drought. The Convention recognises that this objective will only be achieved “through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas”.

3.2 Parties to the Convention

Adopted in June 1994, the UN CCD entered into force on 26 December 1996. Now with 191 signatories, of which 50 are African countries, the Convention recognizes the disparity that exists between member countries and specifically differentiates between the obligations of countries in different regions. These regions are Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean and the Northern Mediterranean. As signatories to the UN CCD, countries assume certain obligations to meet the overall objective of the Convention with priority consideration given to Africa. Specific commitments and obligations for African Contract Parties are deposited in the Convention and in the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (RIAA).

3.3 Provisions of UN CCD

Implementation of the provisions of the Convention is guided by a series of principles that emphasise participation of locally effected communities at one level and international collaboration at another. These ideals are enshrined in the first three of the four guiding principles of the Convention, namely:

- (a) the Parties should ensure that decisions on the design and implementation of programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought are taken with the participation of populations and local communities and that an enabling environment is created at higher levels to facilitate action at national and local levels;
- (b) the Parties should, in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership, improve cooperation and coordination at subregional, regional and international levels, and better focus financial, human, organizational and technical resources where they are needed;
- (c) the Parties should develop, in a spirit of partnership, cooperation among all levels of government, communities, non-governmental organizations and landholders to establish a better understanding of the nature and value of land and scarce water resources in affected areas and to work towards their sustainable use.

The fourth principle introduces the idea of responsibility in accordance within the national context. Recognising such, the fourth Principle – Article 3 Paragraph (d), calls on Parties to take into full consideration the special needs and circumstances of affected developing country Parties.

Acknowledging the capacity constraints faced by many countries, Article 4 of the Convention outlines general obligations with specific obligations of affected Parties outlined under Article 5. As signatories to the Convention African contracting Parties undertake, in accordance with their respective capabilities, to:

- (a) adopt the combating of desertification and/or the mitigation of the effects of drought as a central strategy in their efforts to eradicate poverty;
- (b) promote regional cooperation and integration, in a spirit of solidarity and partnership based on mutual interest, in programmes and activities to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought;
- (c) rationalize and strengthen existing institutions concerned with desertification and drought and involve other existing institutions, as appropriate, in order to make them more effective and to ensure more efficient use of resources;
- (d) promote the exchange of information on appropriate technology, knowledge, know-how and practices between and among them; and
- (e) develop contingency plans for mitigating the effects of drought in areas degraded by desertification and/or drought.

In addition to these, and pursuant with the general and specific obligations set out in Articles 4 and 5 of the UN CCD, Annex I, the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (RIAA), affected African country Parties should aim to:

- (a) make appropriate financial allocations from their national budgets consistent with national conditions and capabilities and reflecting the new priority Africa has accorded to the phenomenon of desertification and/or drought;
- (b) sustain and strengthen reforms currently in progress toward greater decentralization and resource tenure as well as reinforce participation of local populations and communities; and
- (c) identify and mobilize new and additional national financial resources, and expand, as a matter of priority, existing national capabilities and facilities to mobilize domestic financial

In summary, the provisions of the Convention essentially create three categories of obligations on its Contracting Parties.

- (a) Obligations that must be met through domestic or national activities, policies, programmes and laws.
- (b) Obligations that must be implemented at sub-regional level through sub-regional institutions.
- (c) Obligations pertaining to reporting to and participation in Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

3.3.1 Reporting

Article 26 Paragraph 1 of the UN CCD – Communication of Information, calls upon Parties to communicate to the COP “*reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation*”. The timetable and format for submission is to be determined by the COP. Paragraph 6 states that such information should be communicated “*as soon as possible*”.

Subsequent Paragraphs of Article 26 requires affected Parties to provide description of the strategies established pursuant to Article 5 (Paragraphs 2 and 3) and of any relevant

information on their implementation (Paragraph 5). Where affected Parties have implemented the National Action Programmes (NAP), in line with the provisions under Articles 9 to 15, they are obliged to provide detailed description of the programmes and of their implementation.

In addition to national obligations, any group of affected country Parties may make a joint communication on measures taken at the sub-regional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes (Article 26 Paragraph 5).

The RIAA provides an outline for the content of the National Action Programme(NAP) under Article 8. Accordingly, the NAP should include;

- (a) the use, in developing and implementing national action programmes, of past experiences in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account social, economic and ecological conditions;
- (b) the identification of factors contributing to desertification and/or drought and the resources and capacities available and required, and the setting up of appropriate policies and institutional and other responses and measures necessary to combat those phenomena and/or mitigate their effects; and
- (c) the increase in participation of local populations and communities, including women, farmers and pastoralists, and delegation to them of more responsibility for management.

In addition to these the Convention recommends that NAPs include, as appropriate, the following:

- (a) measures to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty:
 - (i) increasing incomes and employment opportunities, especially for the poorest members of the community, by:
 - developing markets for farm and livestock products;
 - creating financial instruments suited to local needs;
 - encouraging diversification in agriculture and the setting-up of agricultural enterprises; and
 - developing economic activities of a para-agricultural or non-agricultural type;
 - (ii) improving the long-term prospects of rural economies by the creation of:
 - incentives for productive investment and access to the means of production;
 - price and tax policies and commercial practices that promote growth;
 - (iii) defining and applying population and migration policies to reduce population pressure on land; and
 - (iv) promoting the use of drought resistant crops and the application of integrated dry-land farming systems for food security purposes;
- (b) measures to conserve natural resources:
 - (i) ensuring integrated and sustainable management of natural resources, including:
 - agricultural land and pastoral land;
 - vegetation cover and wildlife;
 - forests;

- water resources; and
- biological diversity;
- (ii) training with regard to, and strengthening, public awareness and environmental education campaigns and disseminating knowledge of techniques relating to the sustainable management of natural resources; and
- (iii) ensuring the development and efficient use of diverse energy sources, the promotion of alternative sources of energy, particularly solar energy, wind energy and bio-gas, and specific arrangements for the transfer, acquisition and adaptation of relevant technology to alleviate the pressure on fragile natural resources;
- (c) measures to improve institutional organization:
 - (i) defining the roles and responsibilities of central government and local authorities within the framework of a land use planning policy;
 - (ii) encouraging a policy of active decentralization, devolving responsibility for management and decision-making to local authorities, and encouraging initiatives and the assumption of responsibility by local communities and the establishment of local structures; and
 - (iii) adjusting, as appropriate, the institutional and regulatory framework of natural resource management to provide security of land tenure for local populations;
- (d) measures to improve knowledge of desertification:
 - (i) promoting research and the collection, processing and exchange of information on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of desertification;
 - (ii) improving national capabilities in research and in the collection, processing, exchange and analysis of information so as to increase understanding and to translate the results of the analysis into operational terms; and
 - (iii) encouraging the medium and long term study of:
 - socio-economic and cultural trends in affected areas;
 - qualitative and quantitative trends in natural resources; and
 - the interaction between climate and desertification;
- (e) measures to monitor and assess the effects of drought:
 - (i) developing strategies to evaluate the impacts of natural climate variability on regional drought and desertification and/or to utilize predictions of climate variability on seasonal to interannual time scales in efforts to mitigate the effects of drought;
 - (ii) improving early warning and response capacity, efficiently managing emergency relief and food aid, and improving food stocking and distribution systems, cattle protection schemes and public works and alternative livelihoods for drought prone areas; and
 - (iii) monitoring and assessing ecological degradation to provide reliable and timely information on the process and dynamics of resource degradation in order to facilitate better policy formulations and responses.

3.3.2 Policy Measures

The UN CCD calls upon Parties to "create an environment to combat and mitigate the effects of drought and/or desertification. Article 2 acknowledges that this will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously on improving productivity of land, and the

rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources. The results should lead to improved living conditions, particularly at the community level.

As such, Parties to the UN CCD are required to integrate the NAPs into the national legislative and policy frameworks. The NAPs need to be linked with other national strategies for sustainable development, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, in order to ensure successful implementation.

Policy measures are variously addressed in numerous provisions of the UN CCD, although these are not explicitly stated. For example, the general obligations outlined under Article 4 calls upon parties to;

- (a) adopt an *integrated approach* addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought
- (b) give due attention, within the relevant international and regional bodies, to the situation of affected developing country Parties with regard to international trade, marketing arrangements and debt with a view to establishing an *enabling international economic environment* conducive to the promotion of sustainable development
- (c) *integrate strategies* for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought
- (d) *promote cooperation* among affected country Parties in the fields of environmental protection and the conservation of land and water resources, as they relate to desertification and drought
- (e) *strengthen* sub regional, regional and international cooperation
- (f) *cooperate* within relevant intergovernmental organizations
- (g) determine *institutional mechanisms*, if appropriate, keeping in mind the need to avoid duplication; and
- (h) *promote* the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements that mobilize and channel substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

All of the above require some sort of policy development, harmonization or revision. Similarly, Article 5, outlining the obligations of affected parties and the provisions under the RIAA call on Parties to prioritize and promote, establish and address as well as create an enabling environment to address the objectives of the UN CCD.

These are encompassed by the NAPs, which have the purpose of identifying factors contributing to desertification and developing practical measures to combat and mitigate. Articulated under the provisions of Article 10, covering NAPs, paragraphs a and e specifically call for the promotion and incorporation of policies and strategies. These paragraphs and the provisions of RIAA Article 4 Paragraph c also call for the rationalization and strengthening of institutional frameworks. Paragraph 2a of Article 4 similarly calls for sustaining and strengthening reforms currently in process toward greater decentralization and resource tenure.

3.3.3 Research and Monitoring

Section 2 of the UN CCD details measures under Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Monitoring is covered by the provisions of Article 16 – Information collection, analysis and

exchange. These require collection, analysis and exchange of short and long-term data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas. This information is to inform early warning and advanced planning. Specific provisions are outlined under Paragraph a of Article 16. These require;

- standardisation of methods and systems;
- ensuring relevant data and stations including remoter areas;
- use and disseminate modern technology for data collection, transmission and assessment on land degradation; and
- linking national, sub regional and regional data and information centres more closely with global information sources.

Specific measures are also required for the collection, analysis and exchange of socio-economic data and the integration with bio-physical data, under Paragraph e.

Research and development measures are outlined under Article 17 – Research and Development, which calls upon Parties to promote technical and scientific cooperation in the fields of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, according to their respective capabilities and through appropriate national, subregional, regional and international institutions.

Under the provisions of Article 17, the NAPs should include research priorities for periodic review by the COP.

Parties are also required to promote, finance and/or facilitate the financing transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought. This calls on parties to protect, promote and use relevant traditional and local technology, know-how and practices. As such, Parties are required to;

- make inventories of such technology and their potential;
- ensure such knowledge is protected and that local population benefit directly;
- encourage and actively support the improvement and dissemination of such knowledge; and
- facilitate integration of such knowledge with modern technology.

3.3.4 Training and Education

Article 19 under Section 3: Supporting Measures of the Convention articulates the obligations and commitments of Parties to the Convention to Capacity Building, Education and Public Awareness. Specific measures addressing training and education call upon Parties to:

- (a) promote, on a permanent basis, access by the public to relevant information, and wide public participation in education and awareness activities;
- (b) develop and exchange educational and public awareness material, where possible in local languages, exchange and second experts to train personnel of affected developing country Parties in carrying out relevant education and awareness programmes, and fully utilize relevant educational material available in competent international bodies;
- (c) assess educational needs in affected areas, elaborate appropriate school curricula and expand, as needed, educational and adult literacy programmes and opportunities for

all, in particular for girls and women, on the identification, conservation and sustainable use and management of the natural resources of affected areas; and

- (d) develop interdisciplinary participatory programmes integrating desertification and drought awareness into educational systems and in non-formal, adult, distance and practical educational programmes.

3.3.5 Public Awareness and Exchange of Information

Given the important emphasis placed upon the participation of local communities, the UN CCD has a strong emphasis on the exchange of information and development of public awareness. Successful implementation of the NAP is acknowledged as requiring buy in from stakeholders and therefore requires a comprehensive consultative process aimed at establishing partnership agreements.

Under the provisions of Article 16 - Information collection, analysis and exchange, the Parties agree to:

- (a) exchange and make fully, openly and promptly available information from all publicly available sources relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought; and
- (b) subject to their respective national legislation and/or policies exchange information on local and traditional knowledge, ensuring adequate protection for it and providing appropriate return from the benefits derived from it, on an equitable basis and on mutually agreed terms, to the local populations concerned.

More specifically, Article 19 defines provisions for capacity building, education and public awareness. Under Paragraph 3 the Parties agree to cooperate with each other and through competent intergovernmental organizations, as well as with non-governmental organizations in undertaking and supporting public awareness and educational programmes to promote understanding of the causes and effects of desertification and drought and of the importance of meeting the objective of the UN CCD. To that end, the provisions include such that the Parties undertake to:

- (a) organize awareness campaigns for the general public;
- (b) promote, on a permanent basis, access by the public to relevant information, and wide public participation in education and awareness activities;
- (c) encourage the establishment of associations that contribute to public awareness; and
- (d) develop and exchange educational and public awareness material, where possible in local languages, exchange and second experts to train personnel of affected developing country Parties in carrying out relevant education and awareness programmes, and fully utilize relevant educational material available in competent international bodies.

3.3.6 Financial Mechanisms

Provisions outlining measures relating to financial resources and mechanisms are outlined under Articles 20 and 21 of the UN CCDs main text and Articles 14 and 15 of the RIAA.

Article 4 under Paragraph 3a of the RIAA, outlining commitments and obligations of African country parties, calls upon parties to aim to make appropriate financial allocations from national budgets. The UN CCD acknowledges the constraints of some Parties and so adds that such allocations should be consistent with national conditions and capabilities.

Paragraph 2b of the same calls upon parties to identify and mobilise new and additional national financial resources and expand, as a matter of priority, existing national capabilities and facilitates to mobilise domestic financial resources.

Article 14 of the RIAA outlines provisions for financial resources pursuant to Article 20 and 4 of the main Convention. It calls upon Parties to endeavour to provide a macroeconomic framework conducive to mobilisation of financial resources and to develop policies and establish procedures to channel resources more effectively to local development programmes, including non-government organisations.

Parties are also required to establish an inventory of sources of funding at the national, sub-regional, regional and international level to ensure the rationale use of existing resources. Such an inventory will also serve to identify gaps in resource allocations to facilitate implementation of the action programmes. This is supposed to be reviewed and updated at regular intervals.

Article 15 Paragraph 1a of the RIAA calls upon parties to facilitate the establishment of national desertification funds to channel finances to the local level and to strengthen existing funds and financial mechanisms at the subregional and regional levels.

Funding to support the realisation of the Conventions objectives and implementation of activities is provided through the Convention's Global Mechanism (GM). The International Fund hosts the fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) with additional funding requested through GEF during the fourth COP session in Bonn during December 2000. The GM was not conceived as a mechanism for raising or administering funds but rather it encourages and assists donors, recipients, development banks, NGOs, and others to mobilize funds, and channel them to where they are most needed. It seeks to promote greater coordination among existing sources of funding, and greater efficiency and effectiveness in the use of funds. The GM is under the authority of the COP, which periodically reviews its policies, operational modalities and activities and is hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

3.3.7 Capacity

Article 19 under Section 3: Supporting Measures of the Convention articulates the obligations and commitments of Parties to the Convention to Capacity Building, Education and Public Awareness. It commits Parties to capacity building measures, which are defined as institution building, training and development of relevant local and national capacities in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

The Government of Swaziland, as a Party to the Convention, is thereby committed to promote capacity building through:

- (a) The full participation at all levels of local people, particularly at the local level, especially women and youth, with the cooperation of non-governmental and local organizations;
- (b) Strengthening training and research capacity at the national level in the field of desertification and drought;
- (c) Establishing and/or strengthening support and extension services to disseminate relevant technology methods and techniques more effectively, and by training field agents and members of rural organizations in participatory approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;

- (d) Fostering the use and dissemination of the knowledge, know-how and practices of local people in technical cooperation programmes, wherever possible;
- (e) Adapting, where necessary, relevant environmentally sound technology and traditional methods of agriculture and pastoralism to modern socio-economic conditions;
- (f) Providing appropriate training and technology in the use of alternative energy sources, particularly renewable energy resources, aimed particularly at reducing dependence on wood for fuel;
- (g) Cooperation, as mutually agreed, to strengthen the capacity of affected developing country Parties to develop and implement programmes in the field of collection, analysis and exchange of information pursuant to article 16;
- (h) Through innovative ways of promoting alternative livelihoods, including training in new skills;
- (i) By training of decision makers, managers, and personnel who are responsible for the collection and analysis of data for the dissemination and use of early warning information on drought conditions and for food production;
- (j) More effective operation of existing national institutions and legal frameworks and, where necessary, creation of new ones, along with strengthening of strategic planning and management; and
- (k) By means of exchange visitor programmes to enhance capacity building in affected country Parties through a long-term, interactive process of learning and study.

Affected developing country Parties also commit to conducting, in cooperation with other Parties and competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, an interdisciplinary review of available capacity and facilities at the local and national levels, and the potential for strengthening them.

3.4 Summary of Swaziland's Context to the UN CCD

Swaziland signed the UN CCD on the 26th of July, 1994 and ratified in October of 1996. The Convention subsequently came into force on the 5th January 1997. Swaziland was the 51st country to ratify the Convention, which has now been ratified by a total of 191 countries globally and 51 African countries. This places Swaziland just outside the top quartile internationally (27%) and as the 25th of the 51 African countries, places it below the 50th percentile of all African countries to have signed the Convention (49.02%). This is highlighted in the Figure below (Figure 1) which reflects the date of ratification by African countries.

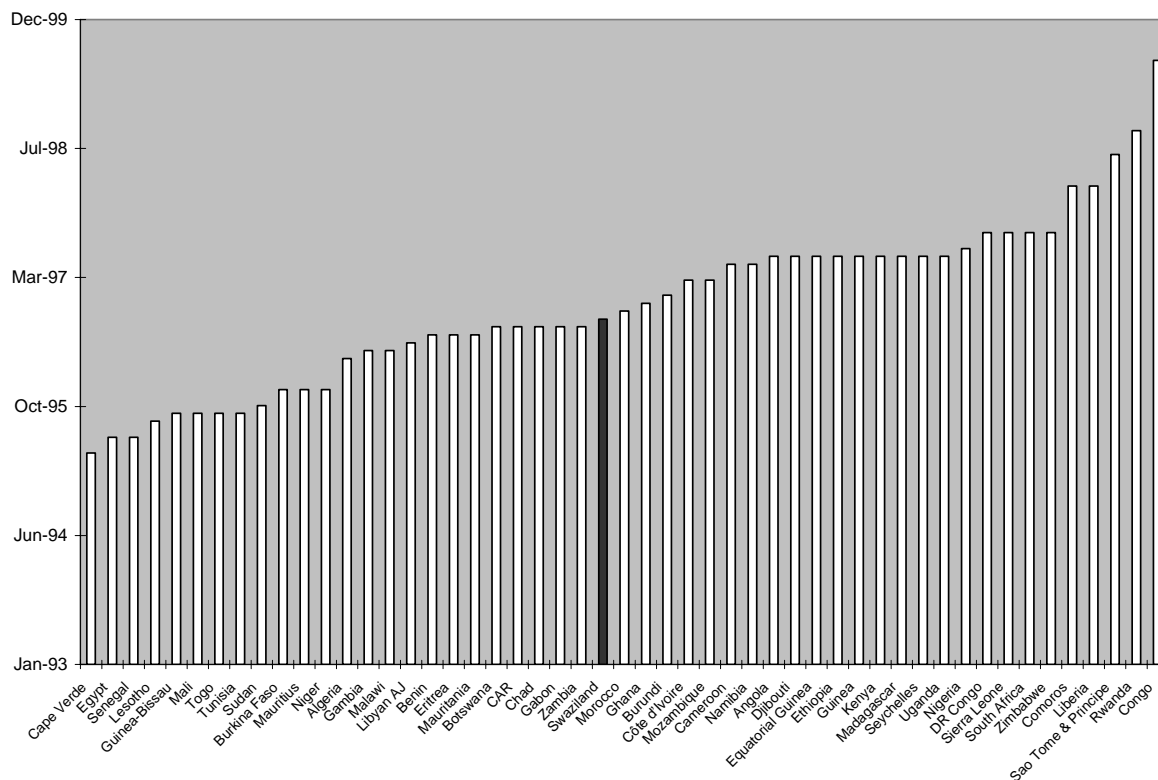


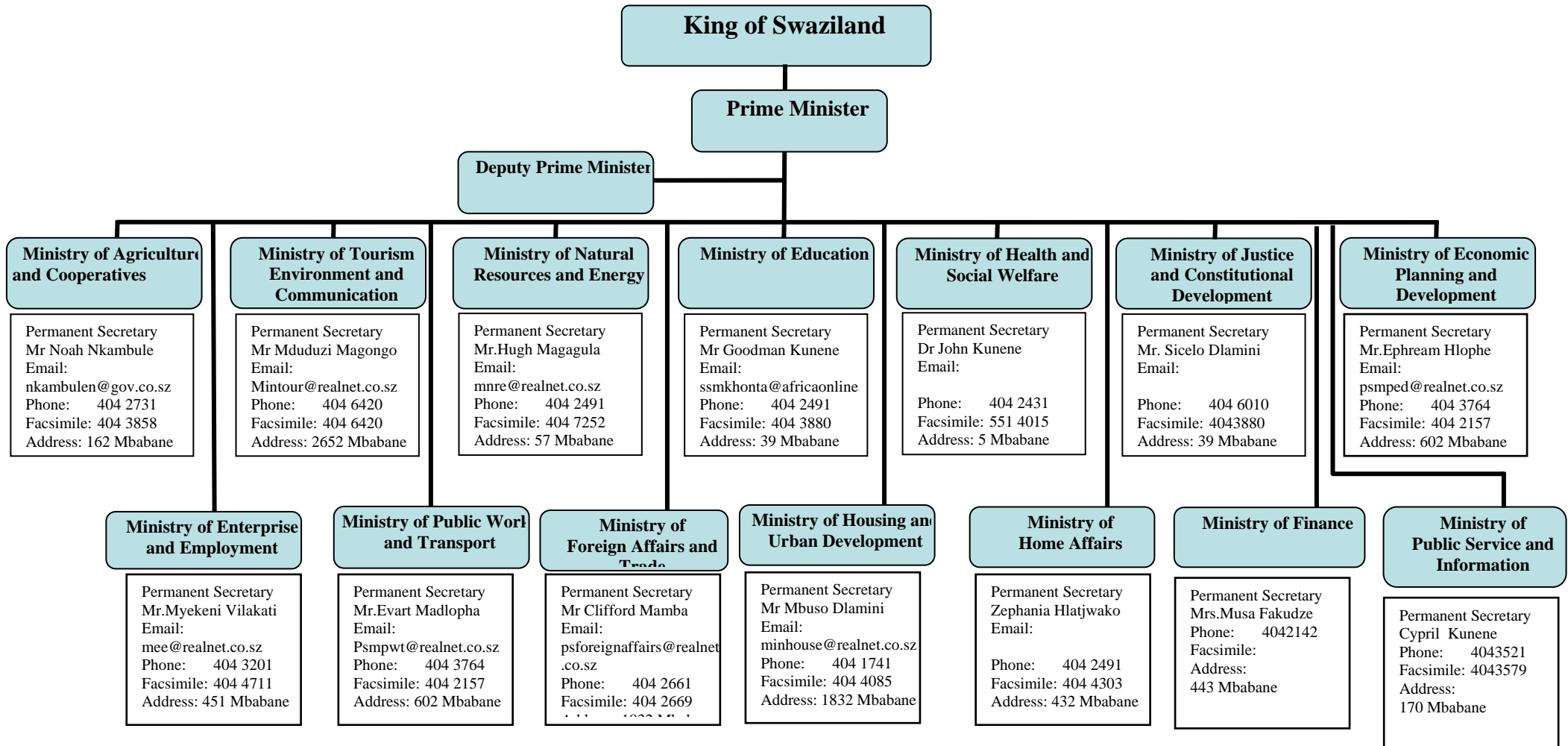
Figure 1 The date of ratification of the UN CCD by African countries. Swaziland is highlighted in black (October 1996).

3.4.1 Institutional Arrangements

The Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, outlined schematically in Figure 2, is currently comprised of the following ministries:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Office of the Prime Minister | Ministry of Enterprise and Employment |
| Deputy Prime Ministers Office | Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy |
| Ministry of Education | Ministry of Public Service and Information |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs |
| Ministry of Public Works and Transport | Ministry of Housing and Urban Development |
| Ministry of Health and Social Welfare | Ministry of Economic Planning and Development |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Ministry of Tourism Environment and Communication |
| Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives | |

Figure 2 Institutional Map of the Government of Swaziland



3.4.2 Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communication

The Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA), within the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communication, was appointed as the national coordinator responsible for the Convention. The role of the Ministry, established in 1996, is encapsulated in the following official mission statement;

To ensure sustainable and equitable development through promotion of sound environmental principles, conservation of our national heritage, and efficient communication infrastructure, conducive to the Swazis and attractive to international visitors and to ensure efficient and effective custody of all recorded information.

The MTEC was established through the amalgamation of several existing entities and encompasses the following responsibilities;

- Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA)
- Environmental protection
- Administration of Game Act*
- Protection and development of wildlife (flora & fauna)
- Museums, national archives and game parks
- National Trust Commission
- Liquor Licensing Board
- Post and Telecommunications
- Tourism and Gaming

* The Administration of Game Act has subsequently been transferred to the King's Office.

There are no official organograms for the ministry and the following represents schematically the different departments and parastatals.

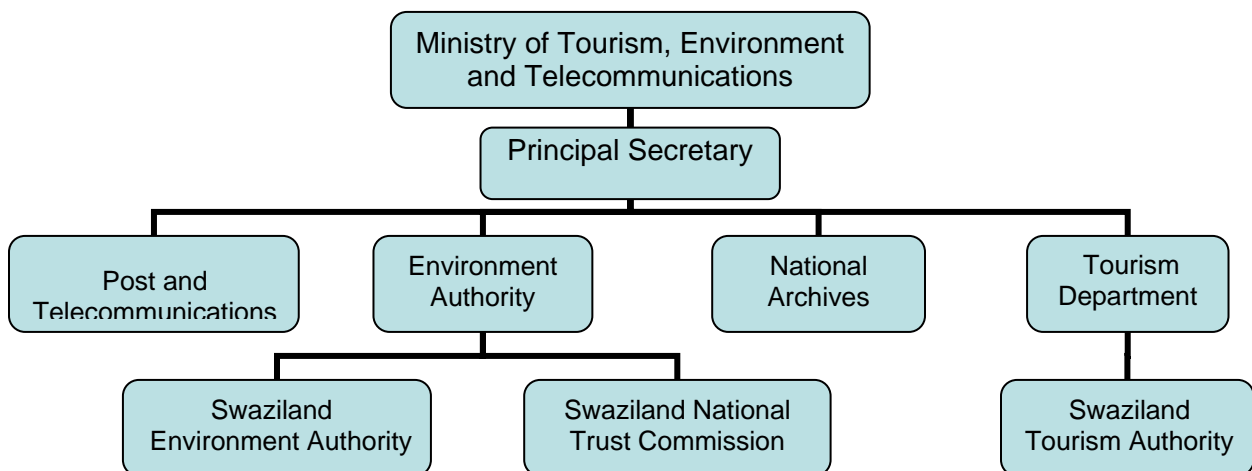


Figure 3 Institutional map of the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Telecommunications in Swaziland.

The Swaziland National Trust Commission (SNTC) was established in 1972 and is responsible for the development and administration of national parks and reserves, along with the identification of protection worthy areas and protection of national cultural heritage. The SNTC also coordinates the National Environmental Education Programme within Swaziland.

3.4.2.1 Swaziland Environment Authority

The SEA was first conceptualised in 1988 acknowledging the need for establishment of a national body to coordinate environmental activities. The SEA was established by statute in 1992 as a government department. The SEA's mission statement is;

Ensure that Swaziland's development is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, by means of promoting sound environmental policies, practices and development which meets appropriate national and international standards.

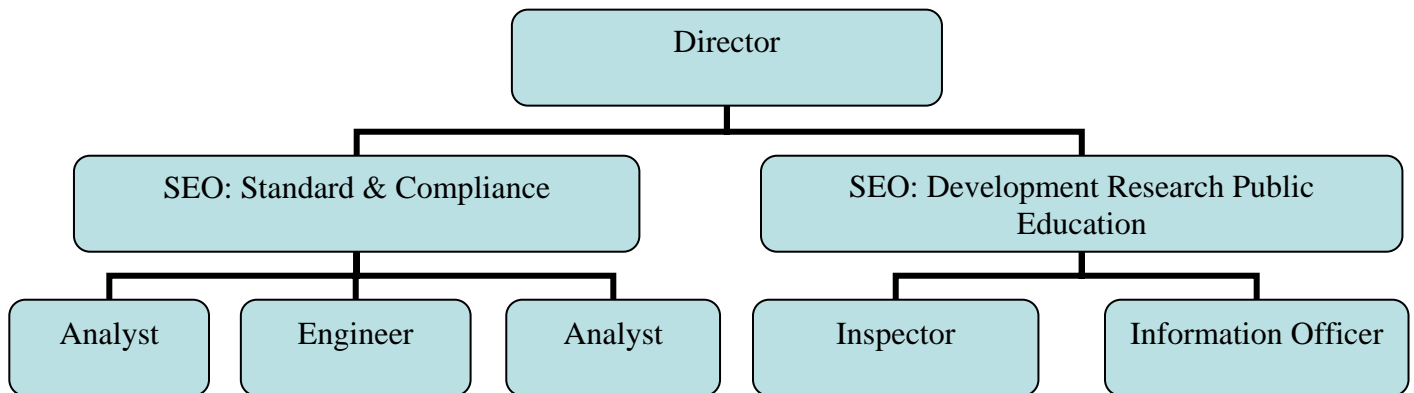


Figure 4 Organisational framework of the Swaziland Environment Authority.

According to the Swaziland Environmental Management Act (2002), the SEA is comprised of a governing body appointed by the Minister, including the following members:

- Director who serves as the Secretary of the Board but who may not vote;
- Principal Secretary of the Ministry responsible for environmental affairs;
- Principal Secretary of the Ministry responsible for agriculture;
- Principal Secretary of the Ministry responsible for finance;
- Principal Secretary of the Ministry responsible for natural resources and energy;
- A representative of the traditional authorities;
- A person from a non-governmental organisation or association of such organisations which has as a main purpose the promotion of environmental

protection and/or the sustainable management of natural resources, who shall be appointed from among persons nominated by such organisations;

- A person involved in business in Swaziland who shall be appointed from among persons nominated from an organisation representing industry;
- A person noted for the person's special knowledge of, and interest in, environmental matters, who shall be appointed from among persons nominated by the public.

The Director of the SEA is seen as providing the key link between Swaziland and the International community on environmental issues. In order to ensure greater independence and autonomy, the Environment Management Act provides for the SEA to become a body corporate, with additional responsibilities beyond those described and required under the original, repealed 1992 Environment Authority Act.

The Environmental Management Act identifies numerous functions of the SEA, including four major categories of work:

- (a) policy development and research
- (b) environmental assessment and monitoring
- (c) regulation and compliance
- (d) education and information

The SEA has developed a business plan and a strategic plan for implementing the Environmental Management Act, and it has subjected the organisation to several diagnostic reviews. The SEA's approach includes numerous specific references about coordination of Swaziland's obligations and implementation of international Conventions.

The SEA has been supported through various donor involvements over the past decade, which has led to considerable growth. Beginning in 1993, the SEA had two staff, and it has now grown to more than nine permanent staff, reflecting its increased assumed responsibilities. The strategic plan for the future development of the SEA recommends a staff complement of approximately 44 permanent staff. Due to budget constraints, however, the revised estimate proposed to government is more likely to be in the order to 25 to 30 staff.

3.4.3 Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

The SEA appointed the Land Use Planning Section within the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation as the UN CCD Focal Point Coordinator. This section is responsible for natural resource surveys, ensuring suitable land allocations along with establishing and implementing criteria for land conditions and grazing capacity.

The mission of the MOAC is encapsulated in the following official statement;

To ensure household food security and increased sustainable agricultural productivity through diversification and enhancement of commercial agricultural activities, formation of appropriate technologies, and efficient extension services while ensuring stakeholder participation and sustainable development and management of natural resources in Swaziland.

The following organogram illustrates the different departments and sections within the ministry, with key departments related to environmental sustainability as envisaged under the conventions including Land Use Planning Section, Soil Testing Unit, Forestry section and the CRDB.

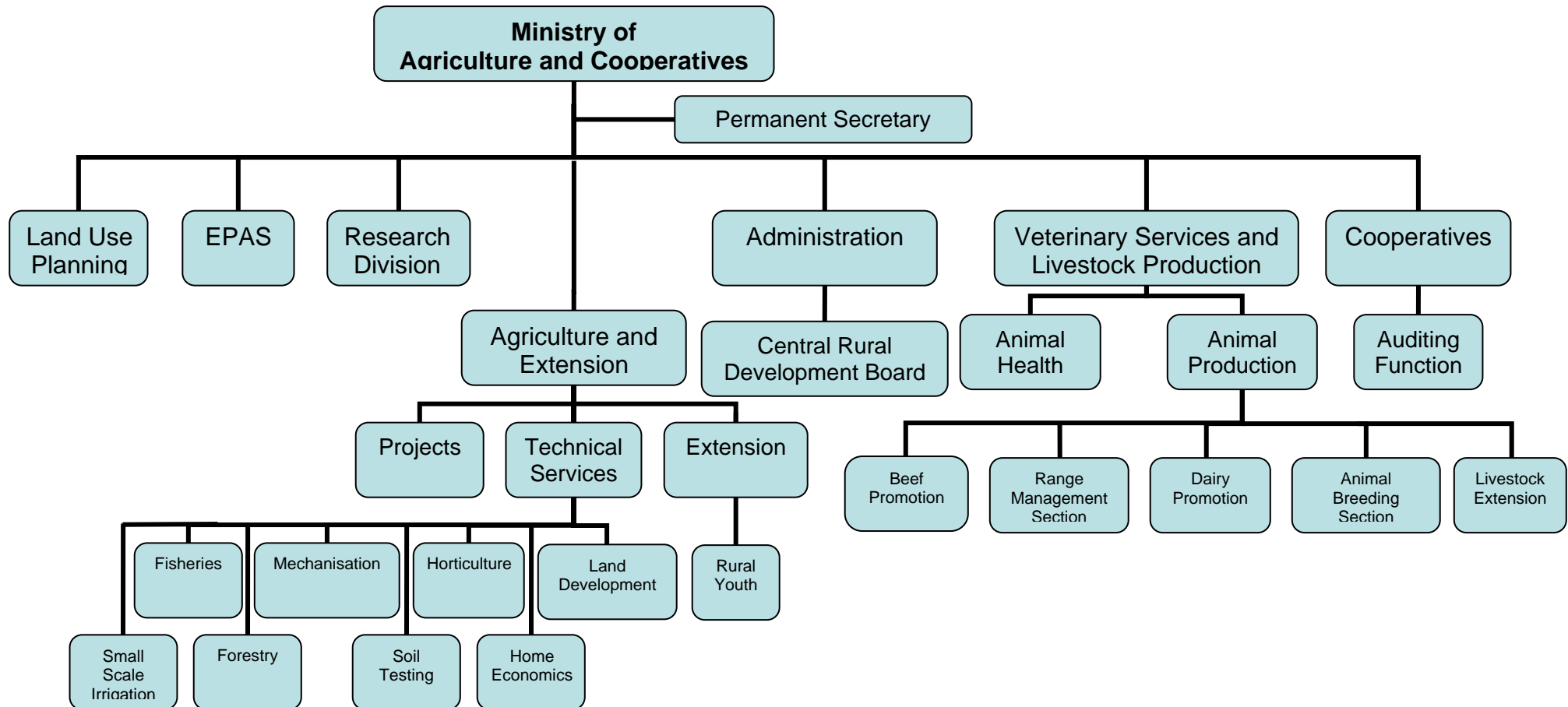
3.4.4 UN CCD National Steering Committee

As the UN CCD Coordinating Unit the Land Use Planning Section (LUPS) of the MOAC was designated to serve as the secretariat of the National Steering Committee on Desertification (NSCD). As the Coordinating Unit the LUPS acts as the Focal Point for all UN CCD activities and represents the government face of the UN CCD.

The Focal Point is responsible for the day-to-day coordination and programme implementation of national activities under the provisions of the UN CCD. The Focal point has no specific budget allocation and relies on the integration of activities under the UN CCD with those of the LUPS.

The Coordinating Assembly of NGOs (CANGO) was designated as the coordinator of the NGO sector, with Yonge Nawe appointed as the NGO Focal Point. To ensure participation of communities local level committees were also established under the NSCD as part of the coordinating system.

Figure 5 Organisational Map for the Ministry Of Agriculture and Co-operatives



3.5 Reporting

With the assistance from the United Nations Special Operation Office for Desertification, the Government of Swaziland prepared the UN CCD Swaziland National Action Programme (Fakudze and Mlipha, 1998). This represented the culmination of a consultative process that began with community and regional consultations aimed at sharpening awareness among various stakeholders and followed from the National Forum held at Mphophoma on September 10, 1997.

The NAP proposed 14 specific programmes outlining a series of recommendations and interventions:

- Institutional Arrangements
- Chieftaincy and Chiefdom Boundary Disputes
- Promotion of Awareness And Capacity Building
- Promotion of Active Participation of Communities in Land Management Programmes
- Reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded land to promote sustainable utilisation of land resources
- Formulation of a National Forestry Policy and Exploitation of Forest Products Framework
- Research and Technology
- Proper Location of Construction Sites and Physical Infrastructure.
- Development of Alternative Energy Sources
- Improvement of Livestock Management Practices
- Drought Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation Strategies
- Land Use Policy
- Settlement and Resettlement Policy
- Population Policy

Each of the fourteen programme areas outlines a set of objectives, outputs and strategies to achieve these along with three possible funding mechanisms:

- (a) UNDP/UNSO;
- (b) the National Desertification and National Environmental Funds; and
- (c) the Private Sector.

Specifically the NAP recommended establishing a co-ordination unit comprising a Programme Manager (currently the Focal Point) and four Programme Officers (or Programme Assistant Managers) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Land Use Section or the SEA.

In May of 1999, the National Steering Committee for Desertification submitted Swaziland's First National Report on the Implementation of CCD to the UNCCD Conference of Parties. However, concerns were raised by the NSCD regarding the approach used in NAP and articulation of the 14 proposed programmes. These related to the requirements and resources for implementation in line with the Guiding Principles and Programme Strategy articulated in the NAP. Given these concerns a review of the 14 programmes was commissioned (ECS, 1999).

The aim of the review was to explore ways of ensuring the goals of the NAP were achievable and donor-friendly. Of the 14 programmes recommended in the original NAP, three priority programme areas were identified, namely:

Priority Programme 1: The promotion of awareness, capacity building, and community participation programme;

Priority Programme 2: The land management, land use planning and land rehabilitation programme; and

Priority Programme 3: The desertification research and technology programme

Following this process, in April 2002 an "Update of the First National Report on the Implementation of CCD" was submitted to the COP. The update provided detail on the progress made in the development and implementation and policies in relation to the UN CCD.

The country is currently undertaking finalisation of the Kingdoms third national report on the implementation of the UN CCD. A draft report has been prepared and a workshop held with 22 key stakeholders during November 2004.

3.6 Policy Measures

In developing its response to issues of poverty alleviation, food security and the need to maintain an environmentally sustainable framework, the Government of Swaziland formulated the National Development Strategy (NDS) as the country's key policy framework. Adopted in 1999, the NDS details the long-term (until 2022) vision for the country based on the identification of priority development objectives. The NDS acknowledges Swaziland's international obligations under various international Conventions along with the need for actions in ensuring compliance with these Conventions.

The Swaziland Environment Action Plan (SEAP) provides a sharper focus on the environment than does the NDS, outlining the environmental development issues relating to environmentally sustainable development, and making the appropriate recommendations for action. The NDS recognises the draft National Land Policy as an essential precondition for its own successful implementation.

The NDS has spawned a variety of Ministerial policies, strategies and action plans all of which more clearly articulate the broad policy statements made in the NDS and SEAP. These in themselves represent an effort to integrate issues of sustainable development and can thus be considered within the context of the UN CCD, building upon the long history of issues dealing with land degradation in Swaziland. These date back to early legislative measures, such as the Forest Preservation Act of 1910, the Natural Resources Act (1951)

and the King's Order in Council of 1954, which lead to the establishment of the Central Rural Development Board (CRDB). The Swazi Nation Act (1961) controls land use in rural areas while the Control of Tree Planting Act was established in 1972 with control over the development of urban and rural settlements governed by the Human Settlement Act of 1989 as amended in 1992. Other initiatives include the Rural Development Area Programme, the Fattening and Sisa Ranches Programme and the Grazing Management Demonstration Areas.

The following tables provide a summary of more recent policies and legislation developed which is of relevance to the provisions of the UN CCD. The status of these has been verified telephonically with each of the respective ministries and is considered accurate as of November 30th 2004. Of particular importance to note is the adoption by cabinet of the NAP in 2001.

Table 1 Policy, Strategies and Action Plans of the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communications in Swaziland

Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Communications		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The Swaziland Environmental Action Plan	1997	Adopted
The Environmental Management Act	2002	Adopted
The National Environment Policy	2000	Awaiting approval
The Swaziland National Solid Waste Management Strategy	2003	Awaiting approval
The Tourism Policy	2000	Approved
The Swaziland Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	2000	Awaiting approval
The Telecommunications Policy	2000	Status unknown

Table 2 Policies and Action Plans of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Swaziland

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The National Action Programme of the UN CCD	2001	Adopted
The National Forest Policy	2002	Adopted
The National Forestry Programme	2002	Awaiting approval
The National Rural Resettlement Policy	2003	Adopted
The Livestock Development Policy	1995	Adopted
The National Dry lands Development Programme (NDDP)	2003	Awaiting approval
The Comprehensive Agricultural Sector Policy (CASP)	2004	Being formulated
The National Irrigation Policy	2004	Being formulated

Table 3 Policies, Action Plans and relevant Acts of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy in Swaziland

Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The National Land Policy	2000	Awaiting approval

The Mining Policy	2003	Awaiting approval
The Water Act	2003	Approved
The National Energy Policy and Action Plan	2003	Approved

Table 4 Relevant Acts under the Ministry of Enterprise and Employment in Swaziland.

Ministry of Enterprise and Employment		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The Sugar Act	2000	Approved

Table 5 Policies, Strategies and Action Plans of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in Swaziland

Ministry of Economic Planning and Development		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The National Development Strategy	1999	Adopted
The National Population Policy	2000	Draft
The Poverty Alleviation Strategy	2004	Being revised
The Aid Policy	2001	Being formulated

Table 6 Policies and Development Plans of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in Swaziland

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The National Housing Policy	2001	Approved
The Peri-Urban Growth Policy	1997	Draft
The Urban Government Policy	1996	Adopted
The National Physical Development Plan	1997	Adopted
Regional Lubombo Spatial Development Plan	2004	Draft
The Regional Physical Development Plan - Lubombo	2004	Being formulated
The Regional Physical Development Plan - Hhohho	2004	Being formulated

Table 7 Policies of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in Swaziland

Ministry of Public Works and Transport		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The National Transport Policy	2000	Awaiting approval
The National Construction Industry Policy	2002	Adopted

Table 8 Policies of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Swaziland

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The Social Welfare Policy	1998	Awaiting approval
The HIV / AIDS Policy	2004	Being revised

The National Health Policy	2003	Awaiting approval
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Table 9 Policies and Action Plans of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development in Swaziland

Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
Codification of Swazi Law & Custom	1973	Continuing
Constitution		In process

Table 10 Policies of the Ministry of Education in Swaziland

Ministry of Education		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The Education Policy	2001	Approved

Table 11 Policies of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Swaziland

Ministry of Home Affairs		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The National Sports Policy	2001	Adopted
The NGO Policy	2001	Being formulated
The National Gender Policy	2000	Awaiting approval
The National Youth Policy	2003	Approved

Table 12 Policies and Bills of the Deputy Prime Ministers Office in Swaziland

Deputy Prime Ministers Office		
Policy / Action Plan / Strategy	Date	Status
The National Disaster Management Policy & Bill	1998	Awaiting approval
Millennium Action Programme 2003	2003	Adopted
Smart Programme on Economic Empowerment and Development	2004	Being Formulated

3.7 Research and Monitoring

The MOAC has been developing an Information Management System, which is aimed at assisting the ministry to improve information technology, facilitating better administration along with the management and dissemination of technical information amongst staff and stakeholders.

The MOAC has been undertaking some monitoring; mapping and research into the issue of land degradation, while the University of Swaziland and various other organisations have conducted studies on gully erosion and land degradation. Other organisations with monitoring activities of relevance to the UN CCD include the MNRE, the NMS along with private industry, such as the forestry and sugar industries. While there is no coordinated integration of the results from these activities, the SEA is legally responsible for analysing the current environmental situation in Swaziland with the purpose of producing Annual State of the Environment Reports. As per the Environmental Management Act part IV section 29.

The 1999 JICA Study to define a Sustainable Land Management Programme countering Land degradation in Swaziland highlights that little has been done on the rate of sedimentation in river systems or on the destruction of wetlands as a result of sedimentation and trampling. The NAP encourages further research in these areas along with intensive research on land degradation issues in general. Other topics of research include determining the erosion hazard (potential erosion) of the country, an analysis of resilient plant species and plants that may be used to rehabilitate degraded land and wetlands and effective and appropriate technologies to combat desertification. The NAP acknowledges the need to determine the effectiveness of existing soil and water conservation structures through appropriate monitoring.

In a 2000 review- (MOAC/ESC 2000) of the NAP, entitled - Review of the Swaziland National Action Programme to Combat Desertification and a Strategy for its Implementation, it was concluded that the programme presented was very broad, requiring a large research capacity and availability of funds, neither of which was considered available within Swaziland. As a result, the following areas of research were prioritised being considered most relevant to the NAP:

- (a) Review and assess of previous and on-going research activities on the general environmental situation and the conservation and desertification status in Swaziland. Important areas of research are land rehabilitation; land management, livestock management, forestry, energy resources and drought mitigation.
- (b) Review and assess available indigenous and other techniques to combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought and make recommendations for the techniques most applicable to the Swaziland situation including a capacity and capability review of the possible implementers of such techniques.
- (c) Conduct research on the role and functions of trees and other plants for land management in general and for rehabilitation of degraded land in particular. Special attention to be paid to indigenous, multi-purpose and fast growing trees and their propagation methods.
- (d) Further development of natural resource accounting with particular attention on the economic cost of erosion and land degradation to the country (Lange, 1999; Simelane, 2000).
- (e) Further investigation and documentation of indigenous knowledge systems on natural resource management in Swaziland.
- (f) Further investigation of the causes of desertification in Swaziland, in particular the socio-economic causes that lead to accelerated land degradation and also the effects of desertification on the socio-economic status of rural communities.
- (g) Comprehensive inventory describing and mapping the current status of land degradation in Swaziland.
- (h) Establishment of a resource information centre for the storage, collection and dissemination of research data on land management for use by all stakeholders.

Private sector initiatives are various listed and discussed in both the NAP and the JICA Study. These include comments on the interest of the Swaziland Sugar Association and

SAPPI Usutu on initiating programmes with a positive impact on the fight against desertification. SAPPI Usutu initiated the "Tiphilise Ngelihlatsi Project" to encourage neighbouring communities to grow commercial tree as an income-generating project whilst combating soil erosion. This project was formally launched on August 19, 1998. The Swaziland Sugar Association has been reported as playing a key role in drought relief programmes.

An erosion hazard study was carried out in the Upper Middleveld around Manzini (Mushala et al, 1994; Felix Henningson et al, 1997) applying both the USLE and SLEMSA methods. Estimates of present erosion, mainly gully erosion, were used as one single factor, the others were derived from various sources. The results of the USLE indicated a five to ten times higher mean annual soil loss prediction than the SLEMSA calculation, and showed a poor correlation with the actual erosion classes determined from the surveys. The authors concluded that both efforts to quantify the rate of erosion were unsuccessful (Felix Henningson et al, 1997). The results of erosion hazard mapping in Swaziland are of little value in realistically assessing erosion risk. This means that the validity of the erosion hazard map as a basis for planning or any other purpose is strongly reduced.

3.8 Training and Education

The Ministry of Education in Swaziland has developed a National Environmental Education Programme (NEEP). However, the NAP in considering the institutional framework for implementation makes no reference to this.

At the tertiary level, the University of Swaziland has courses in agriculture and there are specific activities directed toward addressing issues of land degradation.

3.9 Public Awareness and Exchange of Information

The First National Report to the COP acknowledges mechanisms for the dissemination of information but does not include any information on activities undertaken. Despite an initial engagement of stakeholders and creation of institutional mechanisms for facilitating awareness and participation, one of the major set backs in the governments plans, strategies, programmes or policies has been identified as the level of awareness and lack of information. The NAP acknowledges the need to increase awareness and engage the ideas and participation of local communities, the youth and other relevant organisations, however there is no evidence of implementation or realisation of these ideals. The NAP also notes that there are no field officers that can promote soil conservation in rural areas.

Arising from the awareness and participation process, an NGO UN CCD Task Force was established in 1998 as part of the NCSD to coordinate all environmental implementation activities and to improve coordination of the NAP programme implementation among CANGO members. Various members have been accredited to the NAP process, with the NGO UN CCD Task Force including the following NGOs;

- Yonge Nawe,
- the Swaziland Farmer Development Foundation,
- the Lutheran Development Service,

- the Council of Swaziland Churches,
- the Women's Resource Centre (Umtapo Wa Bomake),
- World Vision International,
- Save the Children, and
- Emanti Esive.

Yonge Nawe, as the NGO Task Force Coordinator, is responsible for disseminating UN CCD / NAP information to all Task Force members. The NGO Task Force Coordinator provides an important link, actively participating in NSCD meetings, and raising awareness around the objectives of the UN CCD among all NGOs and promoting the inclusion of practical elements of the UN CCD into project proposals and implementation.

The government, through the SEAP process, has established the Environment Education Public Awareness and Participation Committee (EEPAP), responsible for information dissemination. The committee implements its strategy through workshops, seminars, use of media, under which the SEA currently has a weekly radio allocation which is supposed to be administered in collaboration with SNTC.

A study commissioned by the NSCD on the promotion of awareness, capacity building and community participation in combating land degradation and desertification was produced for CCD (Okorie et al., 1999). The study made appropriate recommendations for the implementation of awareness raising and capacity building programmes.

Similarly, through the support of UNDP/UNSO the Government of Swaziland commissioned a study with the aim to identify current problems affecting NGOs/CBOs in implementing CCD programmes and make recommendations to improve their capacity. The report by Mpande (1998) presents an assessment of NGOs in implementing the CCD and makes recommendations to enhance NGO/CBO participation.

3.10 Regional Exchange of Information

The SADC sub-regional level developed the Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification in Southern Africa in 1997. This Sub-Regional Action Programme identified a number of specific programmes areas, including;

- Capacity development and institutional strengthening.
- Strengthening of the early warning systems/mitigation against effects of drought.
- Cooperation in sustainable management of shared natural resources and ecosystems and the development of policy/legal frameworks.
- Information collection, management and exchange.
- Development and transfer of appropriate technology to the Community Level.
- Development of alternative sources of energy.
- Socio-economic issues.

According to the provisions of the regional action plan, SADC is to establish a Multidisciplinary Scientific and Technical Consultative Committee (MSTCC), which is

expected to articulate the role of science and technology in the SRAP process and provide SADC-ELMS with guidance and advice on scientific and technical aspects of programme execution. The MSTCC is to comprise twelve distinguished professionals — one from each SADC Member State.

3.11 Financial Mechanisms

Activities under the provisions of the UN CCD are currently financed through the existing operational budget of the LUPS in the MOAC. The NAP advocates for the establishment of a broad-based National Environmental Fund (NEF), which has been proclaimed by an Act of parliament but is not yet operational as sections of the Act have not been Effectuated by the Minister. A single NEF would avoid excessive logistics and red tape, typically associated with smaller separate funds. The NAP proposed that financing of the NEF could be through taxes imposed on commercial projects associated with environmental exploitation.

The first national report details the support received from donors, such as with the JICA supported study on the state of land degradation and production of a master plan for combating land degradation. Similarly, formulation of the forest policy and legislation was funded by DANCED. The UNDP-UNSO financed preparation of the NAP, with funds aimed at building capacity for Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and NGOs. Other support, including preparations for a donor’s conference and updating of the National Report, has been received from UNCCD Secretariat.

The NAP outlines fourteen programme areas and includes four possible funding mechanisms UNDP/UNSO, the National Desertification Fund and the National Environmental Fund, Japan International Cooperation Agency, and GEF Operational Program (OP#15) on Sustainable Land Management.

3.12 Capacity

The NAP specifically addressed issues of capacity. In doing so it was acknowledged that Swaziland has a paucity of soil and water conservation experts. It further noted that these were primarily based at the MOAC headquarters with no field officers that can promote soil conservation in rural areas. Training of extension workers and veterinary officers was focussed mainly toward crop and livestock production and disease control.

The “Update of the First National Report on the Implementation of CCD” submitted to the COP in April 2002 provided detail on progress made in the development and implementation and policies in relation to the NAP and the UN CCD. The update specifically identifies three major capacity constraints;

- Lack of funding
- Lack of human capacity and / or strategies for utilising available human resources
- Delays in decision making process.

The “study to define a sustainable land management programme countering land degradation in Swaziland” included a capacity assessment of eight key organisations in Swaziland charged with responsibilities relating to land degradation. A separate study was also commissioned by the NSCD on the promotion of awareness, capacity building and

community participation in combating land degradation and desertification (Okorie et al., 1999). The study made recommendations for the implementation of programmes aimed at improving capacity building along with raising public awareness. This includes a proposal for a project on the promotion of awareness, capacity building and community participation in combating land degradation and desertification. The proposal is for a three year project, with a budget of about UD\$300,000. Project areas selected are in the Middleveld and Lowveld, dealing with eight communities. The other target is 21 public, private and NGO institutions with a strong focus on community involvement in rehabilitation programmes.

The project strategy is aiming at strengthening institutions through training programmes at different levels, including workshops, fieldtrips and training courses. The strategy for community participation will focus on community based projects, such as micro-projects, income-generating activities and school projects.

Other capacity building programmes have been directed toward improving the capacity of the NGO sector. DANCED funded a programme of capacity building through the local NGO, Yonge Nawe, aimed at establish an NGO consortium on land issues for sustainable development.

At a higher level, the government has also embarked upon a Public Sector Management Programme, which is under taking a strategic review of the entire government and individual departments as a whole.

4 S W O T A N A L Y S I S

4.1 Purpose and Method

The SWOT analysis is aimed at consolidating and interpreting the findings from the review of commitments contained in the UN CCD and Swaziland's response as Party to the Convention. The SWOT was based on consolidation and interpretation of findings from the stock-take review and assessment culminating in a consultative analysis with key stakeholders. The SWOT aids in identifying gaps, by looking at strengths and weaknesses in existing structures, policies and approaches in relation to the Conventions obligations and commitments.

As is customary the SWOT makes a distinction between internal and external factors. These may guide or restrict the development of capacity. The nature of the Conventions means that internal factors reside largely in government structures and processes, whilst external factors refer primarily to matters outside of the government (for example donor policies and funding allocations).

The purpose of the SWOT is to engage stakeholders and assist in identifying gaps by looking at strengths and weaknesses in existing structures, policies and approaches in relation to the Conventions obligations and commitments. The SWOT was facilitated at the NCSA stakeholder workshop. Thirty-two key stakeholders participated in the workshop. Participants were divided into three groups under each of the UN Conventions. A fourth group included each of the Conventions Focal Points and the NCSA Project Coordinator. A plenary session was subsequently used to report the findings of each of the groups and to explore issues raised therein.

The SWOT was carried out using the headings derived from the review and analysis phases. These identify and outline the following key areas of obligations upon countries that are Party to the UN Conventions.

- Reporting Requirements
- Policy and Legislation
- Research and Monitoring
- Training and Education
- Public Awareness & Exchange of Information
- Financial Mechanisms
- Capacity

The results from the SWOT analysis were used to identify weaknesses, interpreted as capacity constraints, from which the specific capacity needs and priorities were identified. This was facilitated through a Root Cause Analysis. Time did not permit detail exploration during the stakeholder workshop. Follow-up interviews with key stakeholders and internal working sessions were therefore used to determine the cause of the identified constraints. These were further explored to derive appropriate interventions and activities that would lead to overcoming these.

4.2 Overview of Reporting Requirements

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN CCD signed • Government commitment to focal points, steering committee established • Capacity exists within Government Departments Parastatals and NGOs • NAP prepared and promulgated • Other studies implemented • Individual commitment evident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors constraining access and utilisation of existing capacity • Lack of financial resources / independence • Donor dependency for reporting • No clearly defined responsibility
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention provisions open new avenues for capacity enhancement in the international arena of CD • COP experiential learning through exposure and contact with counterparts of other member states • Donor funding regime expanded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift in donor allocations / priorities to other National needs e.g. HIV/AIDS and Poverty Alleviation programs.

Preparation of the NAP, along with numerous other reports, action plans and strategies reveal that the country had sufficient capacity to ensure reporting under the UN CCD. A review of these reports, along with the inputs of the stakeholder workshop, reveals that while capacity exists other factors are preventing the mobilisation of this capacity. However, none of these reports specifically articulate just what those other factors are. These will be borne out in the following sections

The NAP has been prepared with external financial support from UNDP. While the SEA has overall responsibility for the national commitments under the UN Conventions, and a Focal Point has been appointed under the LUPS of the MOAC, none of these organisations currently have any dedicated funded allocated to cover reporting and meeting activities. The existing description of responsibilities within these organisations does not cover obligations as national focal points and coordinators. This means that any activities undertaken in fulfilment of the national responsibilities are over and above the incumbents normal responsibilities. The development of the new business plan for the SEA has addressed this issue in part, although it is not clear that any specific financial commitments or allocations have been made over and above the commitment of time.

These lack of financial resources and clearly defined terms of reference means that formulation of the NAP and other reporting requirements under the UN Conventions are dependent upon extra-ordinary budget allocations or more typically external financing through the conventions financial mechanisms or donor agencies. The lack of incorporation of responsibilities into the every day functions of the Focal Points also means that while they may have the technical capacity they are not afforded the time to facilitate the preparation of reports and so rely heavily on external consultants. There are a number of consultants within Swaziland with the necessary expertise to facilitate such reporting obligations, however finding relevant information and inputs is a problem as no central depository exists for accessing such information.

4.3 Overview of Policy and Legislation

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong comprehensive policy framework exists as base for further development • Adoption of the National Development Strategy acknowledges political will • Adoption of the NAP/SEAP acknowledges Ministerial Commitment. • Pre-independence legislative framework being further developed into holistic framework • Production of a hand book on Land use Planning to assist and rationalize education and awareness programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of decentralised, 'bottom-up' project • Not enough emphasis on rural community empowerment • Lack of co-ordination in land management planning and design of programmes • Lack of holistic approach in land management planning and implementation • Lack of follow up on successful projects and re-integration to planning cycles
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration with regional frameworks improves capacity and experiential learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No soil /land management act of parliament for Sustainable Land Management

It is difficult to decipher just how many of these legislative and policy initiatives have been driven by the provisions and commitments arising from the UN CCD. The continued development of such policies within Swaziland, along with the signing of the UN Conventions themselves, reflects the countries overall commitment to the principles of sustainable development. It needs to be acknowledged that the process of policy formulation is an iterative and ongoing one. Policies take time to develop and longer still

to enact into legislative measures. This is borne out by the status of legislation presented in Table 2. Swaziland has a long history of measures aimed at addressing issues envisaged under the UN CCD. The development of recent initiatives, such as the NDS and the SEAP, shows a commitment to integrating historically separate policies to adopt an holistic integrated approach to sustainable development.

The NAP highlights that although there are extensive policies and regulations regarding the use of natural resources and prevention of land degradation in the country, and despite the development of the NDS, a number of problems exist. These include duplication, poor implementation and lack of enforcement of existing policies. In addition, there is reportedly little coordination among existing structures and institutions. This is resulting in a failure to optimally utilise the country’s available land management planning capability.

Despite the development and adoption of the NDS the NAP highlights the need to ensure an holistic approach to land use planning. The NDS and subsequent policies are to facilitate such an approach by providing an holistic integrated framework. The weakness would therefore appear to be a question of implementation and realisation of the intention behind the policy.

4.4 Overview of Research and Monitoring

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of research into UN CCD issues extensive • Research capacity exists • High number of tertiary qualified government staff • Individual commitment evident • University of Swaziland strong agricultural academic base • Institutional framework in place • NGO willingness to participate • Strong community structures at regional level • Community willingness to participate in soil rehabilitation evident and presents further opportunities if projects seen as benefiting them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion WRT to UNISWA and coordination of research & monitoring • Funding allocations for research • No integration mechanisms for funding • Lack of coordinated approach • Royal Swaziland Research Council • NGOs lack capacity • Reliance upon government structures • No follow-up community programs • No integration into planning to maximise effort at National Level.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional academic networks & initiatives are in place and working • International research collaboration evident and presents future opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under resourced data base of current information • Outdated baseline information • Disaster prediction and management compromised by out dated data and systems

A review of academic literature and government archives highlights a long history of research into land degradation and issues covered by the UN CCD. The organisational responsibilities for carrying out research into land degradation issues are relatively well

defined although there is some confusion relating to responsibilities and coordination among stakeholder

The NGO sector is acknowledged as a willing collaborator in undertaking research, and has established good contacts with local community groups. However, a number of studies examining the capacity of these groups have raised questions around their capacity to implement effectively. These relate primarily to financial and human resources.

The NAP also acknowledges numerous instances in which project implementation and research initiatives have been hampered by a lack of community participation and willingness. Often communities will only participate under direct instruction from tradition structures. These instances highlight the need to recognise the constraints faced by local communities. For example, allocation of projects at inconvenient times for community members is an additional factor causing project implementation delays. During harvesting periods for example, there is a minimal surplus of labour available to carry out the project duties and operations. Additional costs, be they time, financial or opportunity costs, need to be acknowledged in terms of engaging community involvement.

The Royal Swaziland National Research Council should provide a mechanism for developing research themes and supporting research in key areas of national importance. The Council does not function effectively at the moment and is failing to provide the leadership needed to address these issues.

4.5 Overview of Training and Education

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAP approved • Tertiary education institutions can form an important mass training and education conduit • Size of the country mitigates easy access to all communities • Media coverage good and reaches most of the country and populace • Citizens rate education as a priority for selves and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No regional experts / extension focused on land degradation and land management • Lack of training materials and aids to assist in information dissemination • Lack integration of traditional knowledge and practices into formal programs • No formal community education structures at (Tinkhundla) level to act as entry points for programmes to communities • No structured national programme that can bind and manage programs at all sectoral levels
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship for tertiary and post graduate studies available through Government programs • NGOs have capacity to contribute towards assisting education and training programs through the mobilization of CANGO Members • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population illiterate to the affects of land degradation on there land based economy

In acknowledging the need to improve environmental education measures, Swaziland has developed a National Environmental Education Programme (NEEP). Implemented under the auspices of the SNTC the NEEP is aimed at integrating environmental issues into educational structures and increasing awareness around environmental issues and how best to deal with them. Previous studies acknowledge a general lack of training programmes to encourage rural communities to participate through the project formulation and implementation stages. This is recognised as being due to a shortage of technical back up for communities and inadequately experienced supervisory personnel.

More formal structures, such as the University of Swaziland, have incorporated issues of land degradation into appropriate curricula. In addition, the LUPS has supported staff through broader government initiatives with further training and development—e.g. EU small dams project trained 2 officers in soil and water engineering. However, there is no structured training and skills development strategy within many of the government departments, NGOs or indeed at national level. The Public Sector Management Programme may address some of these needs.

The NAP has acknowledged the lack of regional extensionists and experts to address the needs of local communities and field activities as being a key constraint.

4.6 Overview of Public Awareness and Exchange of Information

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness campaigns • Tinkhudla (constituencies) system • Centralised under the MOAC Land Use Section • Establishment of the Swazi GIS facility enhances information capacity . • Communities receptive to information exchange and awareness programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of dedicated funding to address convention obligations • Lack of community involvement in planning, development & implementation of Public Awareness and Information initiatives • Small NGO activities often unstructured and impacts are dissipated • No information basis evident for a National A and E programme • Poor coordinating & network system often replication and confused messages to recipients • No formal regional networks initiatives such as Ubombo Community Radio should be replicated. • No sound framework for integration of National campaigns • Ad hoc research & advocacy often by NGO sector has limited impact and contributes minimally to nation needs
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nation broadcaster able to reach most of communities through media coverage • Two language literacy enhances awareness programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor funded programs and campaigns could be curtailed or withdrawn • HIV/AIDS will impact on communities capacity to respond to programs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOAC strategically positioned at regional level to implement and facilitate programs • Some NGOs are strategically placed in rural areas to assist and coordinate mutual programs 	
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Public awareness and involvement is considered one of the fundamental tenants of the UN CCD. The lack of public awareness around issues of land degradation is one of the greatest threats to combating desertification. Despite numerous initiatives, through government departments and NGOs, the lack of committed funds has meant many of these have had to stop. The number of different agencies involved in education and awareness initiatives has also resulted in a large degree of uncertainty around responsibilities. Many have also failed to integrate into a nationally cohesive approach within national or regional umbrella programmes and policies.

Other serious constraints among the NGO sector were observed in the lack of adequate information base development and the absence of strategic planning. The small size of the country means that the area of outreach is relatively small. The centralised structure of responsibilities under the MOAC LUPS with respect to the UN CCD and the existence of CANGO should provide an effective mechanism to streamline activities. However it has also been reported that coordination amongst NGOs and with government “remains a terrain of bitter struggle and competition for dominance”.

4.7 Overview of Financial Mechanism

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environment Fund proclaimed with seed capital of E2million • Government financial institutional mechanism in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEF not operational as sections not effected • Project funds used to cover human resources from government • Heavily reliant upon extension services who have limited resource allocation • Reliance upon government funding during a period of recession.
4.7.1.1.1 Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International funding mechanisms well established over time need to capitalise on this relationship • Donor willingness to cooperate on well defined and motivated projects within CCD Mandated areas for funding e.g. GEF OPS #15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate priorities as National needs become more pressing e.g. HIV/AIDS and Poverty Alleviation. • Donor reliance infringes on independence of choice

Most reports, studies and reviews document a lack of adequate funding as being one of the most significant factors in preventing successful implementation and realisation of the objectives of the UN CCD. The NAP and reports to the COP for funding and implementation of land degradation related projects as the critical problem faced by most organisations. Limited funding is available from government sources, and day-to-day activities of the focal point are financed through existing budgets to the LUPS. The most

critical problem for government departments exists in obtaining funding for projects and financial assistance for management and implementation. The existing government budget is limited and considered insufficient for the implementation of any significant land management or rehabilitation projects.

An Act of Cabinet has established a National Environment Fund, but this fund is not yet operational as sections of the Act have not been affected by the Minister. The intention is that seed finances will be provided by government with supplementary funding to be sourced from international donor agencies. GEF OP# 15 is possibility for funding for sustainable land management programs

Concern has been raised over the sustainability of funding for NGOs (Mpande, 1998). Given the independence and autonomy of NGO structures government and external review processes have little insight on the financial status and capacity of individual NGOs.

Reviews of projects implemented in relation to the UN CCD reveal that a majority of funding is used to cover human resources rather than implementation of project activities in the field and infrastructures. This is considered similar to the need to ensure policies are translated to implementation of activities on the ground. Projects are often reactive and not proactive in the prevention of land degradation.

4.8 Overview of Capacity Findings

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity exists with in the Government Institutional arrangements • Training programmes formulated • International tertiary study support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under utilisation of existing capacity • Approach typically examines problems, not cause • No strategy to develop capacity on a sectoral basis • Strategic plan to overcome capacity problems •
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human resource base young and educated • Institutions and programs exist for capacity enhancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain drain Affecting a already small pool of human recourses • Continuance of poor land management practice • Complicate land tenure arrangement especially on Swazi Nation Land makes change in land use practice complicated

Although the definition of capacity within this report includes systemic, organisational and individual considerations those under the UN CCD typically refer to individual capacity. A number of studies have been implemented examining capacity issues. Successful realisation of the objectives behind the UN Conventions will be undermined if countries Party to the conventions do not have the required capacity to implement/monitor and develop project. The range of expertise required for drought mitigation and control of desertification is very broad. Given the size of the country there is a limited ability to

absorb a large number of experts. This has invariably led to relatively narrow employed personnel base.

Despite this the country is acknowledged as having the technical capacity to meet the objectives of the UN CCD. The limited number of individuals with such capacity often presents a problem. Individual staff members are often placed under heavy burdens required to provide inputs to government, as well as NGO and community initiatives.

Although there have been numerous initiatives to examine capacity constraints within Swaziland there still remains a lack of a clearly defined national strategy for over-coming these. Many government departments lack the capacity to absorb special or additional projects outside their normal operation activities, such as those implemented under the UN CCD Convention. Most departments are under staffed and experiencing heavy workloads, which make it difficult to subsequently absorb additional responsibilities associated with project management and implementation.

4.9 Overview of Findings from the SWOT

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong post-independence governance • Strong commitment to principles of sustainable development • Signatory to all UN Conventions – CCD, FCCC and CBD • Institutional framework strong & clearly defined • Community structures strong and sustaining popular support • Comprehensive Policy framework in place to support initiatives and strategies • Size of Kingdom mitigates well for initiatives and programs • Technical capacity available for preparation of NAPs • Public awareness and educational system strong • Tertiary level syllabus available • Active awareness programme • Capacity exists within areas of expertise under the CCD • Individual commitment • Action plans, articulate clear priorities with respect to financial and human resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short post-independent history • Policy – institutional linkages poorly defined • Organisational structures poorly articulated • Lack of specific mandates relating to Conventions • Size of Kingdom • Financial commitment • Implementation slow • No integrated research & monitoring strategy • Lack of institutional linkages • Reliance on consultants for reporting • Policy & legislation difficult to apply • Link between policy development & economic planning • Coordination of research • Research requests going to wrong institution / division or department • Lack of finance – for training of communities in particular • Communication and linkages
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN Conventions • Strong international & regional policy environment • Non-enforceable multi-lateral agreements • SADC institutional and policy framework • Financial – global funds, donor willingness • Establishment of a single international conventions / agreements unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enforceability of multi-lateral agreements • Non-compliance with Conventions • Poor performance • Lack of objective self analysis & criticism • Motivation coordination & responsibility • Donor dependency - willingness of donors decreased over past 10yrs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donors not finding proper government channels to facilitate donor funding• Donor time frames and lack of clarity
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5 CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS

The SWOT analysis reveals some interesting observations. While it is important to acknowledge the strengths, the aim of the assignment is specifically to focus on *capacity constraints and priorities* in meeting the binding commitments under the UN Conventions. For this reason this section examines in more detail the weaknesses. These are interpreted for the purpose of this report as representing capacity constraints for which priority interventions are needed to overcome if the intention of the UN CCD is to be realised.

General consideration reveals that reporting requirements have been relatively well addressed. The obligations to report to the various COPs are usually met through discrete projects, variously funded nationally and through donor support. From review of the information prepared thus far for the COPs, it would appear that there is sufficient capacity nationally to address most of the reporting requirements. These are facilitated by the clearly articulated requirements under the provisions of the Conventions.

The other categories of commitments outlined above have received less attention in terms of the national response. These often represent more subtle interventions, activities or programmes that are more diffuse and difficult to evaluate and immediately identify. The findings from the SWOT have been consolidated to facilitate examination of some of the systemic, institutional and individual capacity requirements considered necessary to fulfil the commitments contained within the UN CCD. To reiterate, these can be defined as;

Systemic Capacity: refers to organisational concerns in creating “enabling environments”. This includes policies and plans, economic, regulatory and accountability frameworks within which institutions and individuals operate, the relationships that exist, both formally and informally, between institutions and the distribution of institutional responsibilities.

Organisational Capacity: refers to institutional levels, focusing on the overall performance and functional capabilities of an organisation, access to finances, information, technology, infrastructure and other resources, its organisational structure and its ability to adapt to change.

Individual Capacity: refers to specific attributes enabling individuals to perform functions, make decisions and ensure these are implemented in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner. Common definitions include human resources, ecological and geographical conditions, scientific and technological capacities, levels of education, formal and informal skills development programmes, levels of responsibility, participation and accountability in decision making, understanding of roles and functions, incentives, salary structures, motivation and morale.

5.1 Systemic Capacity

Many of the provisions under the Convention UNCCD require broad interventions at the systemic level. It needs to be acknowledged from the outset that the realisation of these often require long time frames and involve the successful implementation of national policies that address broader issues, such as the overall performance of the national economy poverty alleviation improved land management.

Swaziland has demonstrated its commitment to the principles of sustainable development as envisaged under the UN Conventions. This commitment has been translated into a strong and comprehensive legislative framework. Much of this has been developed prior to ratification of the UN Conventions. Despite the progress towards an integrated and holistic approach to environmentally sustainable development there still remains a need to ensure harmonisation and integration of this body of legislation. Such harmonisation is needed to ensure that the intentions behind the legislation is realised.

The lack of synchronization of national policy, legal and regulatory frame-works leads to confusion between sectors and between national, regional and local levels. In order to achieve a level of harmonisation there needs to be an iterative process of implementation and access to policy making structures to ensure appropriate revisions following the review and evaluation of project subsequent to completion.

The development of a political understanding the objectives of the Convention and how such broad policies inform the obligations contained therein will assist in creating an enabling environment. This process requires sensitisation of appropriate institutions and individuals. Once this has been accomplished there is a need to ensure that this information, awareness and understanding is retained within the systemic infrastructure.

Once engendered with a sense of the Conventions obligations and the Kingdoms response with respect to realisation of the goals of sustainable development, there must be a political will to ensure that information is acquired and utilised. This will overcome any of the existing capacity constraints, for example those associated with a lack of monitoring equipment, and will engender a need for experts trained in their use, providing operational mechanisms to facilitate monitoring and evaluation.

The political environment in Swaziland, as with many developing countries, is facing a myriad challenges. Issues of land degradation and specifically the commitments of the UN CCD are but one and must “compete” with other pressing issues, such as those of HIV/AIDS and poverty alleviation. Although inter-related the political mechanisms typically do not appreciate the linkages, which are to integrate into policy and legislative measures.

While a comprehensive policy framework is beginning to provide an appropriate environment for engaging issues of sustainable development there is a noticeable lack of policy relating to development and implementation of incentive systems and market instruments to ensure the use of appropriate land use and technology, the constitution however emphasises appropriate land use.

The institutional and policy framework highlights the need to create a stronger enabling environment to support the devolution of responsibilities outlined under the Convention to regional and community level structures. This would fulfil obligations under the

Convention for a participatory approach and involvement of local communities, recognising that the only way to ensure success will be to implement and effect locally based interventions. There are a number of acknowledged shortcomings among the NGOs such as working in isolation with specific goals and objectives often with out understanding the bigger picture.

Awareness among decisions and policy makers, with the requisite political will and commitment is needed for a legislative framework that can accommodate and facilitate financial allocations from government budgets. Without an appropriate legislative or strategic framework to ensure the provisions of the Convention are translated into action at a national level governments are unable allocate funds. In the absence of such recognition any rehabilitation and mitigation programmes will typically be supported only through sources of funding external to the national budget. Sourcing this funding requires specialised expertise, appropriate contacts and time to dedicate to the preparation of proposals

There are a number of institutions with responsibilities for and currently undertaking numerous research and monitoring programmes. These include government departments, NGOs and academic structures as well as private industry. There is no coordinated mechanism to ensure these are integrated with a common purpose. As a result there is also no effective mechanism for evaluating the success of such initiatives and ensuring that lessons learnt are incorporated into the institutional memory. With no effective collating and dissemination of the results from such projects the results are not effectively mobilized in support of policy and decision-making. Many projects are too technical in design while many “re-invent the wheel” unaware of or simply ignoring the results of previous initiatives

Typically there is a need to ensure greater planning prior to implementation of projects. There needs to be a mechanism to ensure that specific action plans are defined, clarifying relationships between project and the broader problems of desertification and land degradation. Project proposals are often generally formulated and do not integrate with other ongoing activities in Swaziland. There is a need to ensure that lessons are learnt, and critical areas identified.

Financing for activities under the UN CCD is currently facilitated through national government structures. Funding is limited and most compete in the national allocation. Another recurring and commonly acknowledged constraint is the bureaucracy associated with national procurement processes

Proclamation of the SEA as a separate corporate entity may alleviate some of these problems. As a separate corporate entity the SEA, as the coordinator for the UN Conventions, will have autonomy and control its own budget allocations and develop its own procurement processes. In addition, the government has established the National Environment Fund. While the Cabinet has proclaimed the fund it has yet to come into effect. In addition to government sources of funding there needs to be a legal, institutional and individual ability along with appropriate mechanisms by which funding can be accessed to provide support in respect to the Convention.

5.2 Organisational Capacity

The organisational responsibilities for the UN CCD in Swaziland are well defined. The Focal Point under the MOAC LUPS is in a strong position to incorporate the provisions of the Convention into the implementation of existing land care and management initiatives. This is acknowledged by the Focal Point who sees the Ministry's activities as being inline with those envisaged under the UN CCD.

The commitment of the Focal Point, and the MOAC in general, is undermined by a lack of financial resources, sufficient staff and time. Although nominated and accepting the role and responsibilities of Focal Point under the UN CCD the existing organisational framework does not make provisions for the additional responsibilities therein, and therefore rely on external consults and funding.

The CCD Coordinating Unit consists of one part time individual who is wholly responsible for steering the NAP implementation. Up to now, the CCD Coordinating Unit has received financial support from UNSO with very little effort required to source and secure that funding (some US\$250 000). Implementation of the NAP will require a larger staff compliment to administer and coordinate the various facets of the process. Shifts in availability of funding will require necessary capacity to source and obtain alternative funding.

The NAP is envisaged under the Convention as an ongoing and dynamic process, and has already under gone one review and revision There is an obvious and apparent need to formalise national bodies responsible for coordination of NAPs and to ensure their continued evaluation of the NAPs implementation. According to its members the national steering committee functioned well during the initial phases, but problems have been in maintaining enthusiasm and commitment.

While the NAP considers the national steering committee representative of all stakeholders, it states that it "would be false to hope that their participation in committee deliberations would be sustained over a long time without remunerative incentives". As such the recommendation of the NAP is the establishment of a remunerative facility, "on the lines of sitting allowances to encourage and sustain the momentum among the NSCD members irrespective of the parent organisation where they are drawn." Such financial commitment will place additional obligations upon already stretch resources. The implementation of such a proposal should be taken with due consideration.

Activities with relevance to the UN CCD are currently found under a wide range of different ministries and organisations. There is a need for a more clearly defined organisational mandate. Co-ordination, co-operation, integration and partnership between all stakeholders needs to be improved in order to develop the capability for holistic planning and implementation of land degradation rehabilitation and mitigation programmes.

To ensure this is achieved there is a need to commit financial resources and ensure suitably skilled staff are mandated with the appropriate responsibilities. To be effective, individual institutions need clearly defined lines of responsibilities, mandates, mission statements and organisational visions and with corresponding levels and acknowledged

accountability. The development of such capacity will in turn support negotiating skills within regional and international fora.

Explicit land use and management policies and incentive measures to facilitate private ownership involvement and participation in national actions are required as it is often difficult to influence control over privately owned land.

The small size of the country is reflected in the structure of its organisations. Organisations, be they government, NGO or industry typically have a limited staff compliment and narrow management structures. This results in a lot of responsibility being placed on limited number of individuals. It also means that there is limited institutional memory or redundancy. Few individuals within the organisation capture expertise and experience. Many departments and organisations have little redundancy, with a single expert for a given department. This means that if that person is to leave they take with them all of the acquired knowledge and experience.

There is a need to stimulate and support national research initiatives that will strengthen the national position, enhance capacity and improve public awareness and communication.

This, along with the investment required in infrastructure to support research and monitoring measures is obviously dependent upon financial resources. These in turn are often dependent upon political support and commitment. Although the Maputo Declaration Commits SADC Member to a annual 10% increase in expenditure on Agricultural Development (CAADP/NEPAD)

One of the primary constraints to realisation of the Conventions objective is the lack of access to financial resources to support stakeholders, research, monitoring and increased awareness.

Collaborative mechanisms are needed to facilitate the sharing of information and facilitating partnerships between government and industry. Although the Ministry of Planning and Finance is mandated with keeping a registrar of projects and their progress, the dissemination of this information is not proving effective. There is a need to identify appropriate mechanisms to streamline the reporting mechanisms. A central information management system would also facilitate review of projects and collective integration into the policy and decision-making process.

In addition to these, under the UN CCD there is a need to develop the necessary scientific and technical infrastructure to monitor and detect changes in the baseline condition. This in turn should assist in providing quantitative and qualitative information to be used for informing policy making and implementation of appropriate interventions.

There is a clearly recognised need to establish and provide support for a dedicated unit who can create awareness around and promote issues and projects pertaining to Swaziland's priorities in relation land degradation. Such an institution would also facilitate the development of an enabling environment by increasing awareness and linkages between government and the private sector.

5.3 Individual Capacity

The relatively small size in terms of Swaziland's neighbours affords the country many advantages such as easy access. However it also imposes a number of constraints. A broad range of expertise is required to address the effects of land degradation. The relatively small size of the Kingdom means that the country can only support a limited number full time employed professionals due to spatial, financial and institutional constraints. As such it is important to identify develop and consolidate a critical mass of scientists and practitioners. There is already an acknowledged need for specialists such as soil chemists, microbiologists, physicists, remote sensing and survey and land use planning. Development of regional linkages and programmes, with concomitant financial support from national structures would assist in enhancing the capacity and commitment as well as developing national research programmes.

With the small size poor remuneration offered in Swaziland there is a need to ensure the retention of staff. The government has supported the development of staff through sponsoring of tertiary studies, often with assistance of external financial support through the institutions themselves or donor programmes. However, staff turnover is considered relatively high with many staff soon leaving to take advantage of the better salaries within the private sector or neighbouring countries.

Swaziland has a strong cultural tradition with well-defined community structures that are well respected by both the authorities and the general population. As such there are clearly defined mechanisms and structures for engaging in national debate and national action. However, low levels of individual awareness and knowledge limit the ability for discussion, decision-making and action.

The first JICA funded (September 2003) study provides examples of a lack of willingness among community members and local resource users to participate in the design and implementation of projects. This is often linked to low levels of awareness relating to project activities compounded by an inability to participate due to lack of training and understanding of the problem and solution. Another identified concern relates to broader social issues within the community. Chieftaincy and land disputes have brought several land management programmes and rehabilitation projects to a standstill. Other issues with a lack of inter-community co-operation and community isolation have been problematic in the implementation of land management and rehabilitation programmes. For example, communities have reportedly cut or removed paddock fences erected to restrict cattle movement in the project areas of their neighbouring community. These issues relate to broader social context associated with national communal land, the lack of recognised and defined title and failure to properly engage communities in the development of projects.

Problems with a lack of awareness of the impact of land degradation and need for enhancement at higher levels, where there is a need to garner political support to ensure the issues are successfully addressed, are sometimes lacking. Often the higher political levels do not have the technical expertise to be able to properly address the issues. Briefing reports from Focal Points and delegates from the COPs are subsequently and necessarily non-technical and general in nature. This means that much of the information from these meetings, which is technical in nature, is lost. In turn, this can undermine the efforts of those responsible leading to low morale.

In general, organisations responsible for issues pertaining to land degradation are well staffed. Problems with staff turnover and retention are common to most government organisations in Swaziland. Reasons for this were indicated above. With respect to organisational management, the Focal Point lacks the specific mandate included in their job descriptions covering day-to-day activities. This can lead to time constraints in addressing issues and activities under the Convention. Given the harmony on synergy between the activities of the LUPS and MOAC with those of the UN CCD this is not considered a major problem. Constraints arise from the pressures of additional projects under the auspices of the UN CCD. These place an additional burden and not being included in the job description mean that they are essentially considered additional tasks e.g. reporting or responding to communication with the secretariat.

The consensus seems to be that sufficient capacity exists at the individual level, with respect to the technical skills required to meet the national commitments under the UN CCD. The problem lies in the mobilisation of this capacity, activating and overcoming the problems of dormancy. While general staff training and qualifications are of a high standard, due mainly to substantial donor support and past capacity development programmes, the demands being placed on the departments mean that staffing levels are generally inadequate. As a result most departments report problems with being overstretched. Government employees face frustrations common to many government services, those being bureaucracy, lack of resources and time delays when trying to implement projects. These issues are compounded by typically poor remuneration making it difficult to retain staff within the government. Such problems are reportedly being worsened by the “brain drain” with trained personal opting for higher paying employment in neighbouring countries. Or the private sector for agriculturist and engineers

Examination of the root causes of many of the constraints and issues raised highlight the main constraints as being that of sufficient time. Often staff do not have sufficient time to carry out all of their requisite tasks, let alone the additional tasks required under the national commitments of the UN CCD. This is particularly true of the time required to prepare reports for the COP and CAMMS. As a result national reports are typically prepared by consultants employed on a project basis specifically to facilitate the collection and collation of information pertaining to the activities in fulfilment of the national commitments.

Many institutions experience bottlenecks and constraints due to the lack of clearly defined organisational structures at the lower levels of line ministries. Tasks and responsibilities additional to the normal day-to-day workings, and deployment outside of these, cause bottlenecks and ineffective utilisation of resources. Often managers have no choice, given the limited number of staff, and this can result in de-motivation and lack of accountability. The situation with the LUPS of the MOAC appears to be avoided due to the close relationship between the day-to-day tasks and the objectives of the UN CCD. There remains a need to ensure that all employees are familiar with the mission statement and mandate of the organisational unit within which they operate.

In order to mobilise and capitalise on existing individual capacity there is a need to ensure that sufficient resources are available. Individuals need the requisite institutional framework and support mechanisms. This includes ensuring sufficient equipment and technology to facilitate monitoring as well as engagement of stakeholders.

Training of community members in planning of activities and carrying out of rehabilitation works is essential for any successful implementation. The role that Traditional Authorities can play in the prevention of land degradation using traditional laws and practices must be recognised and supported, this applies to land management and improvement programs. Considering that the Chiefs and their councils administrate the land tenure arrangements on Swazi Nation Land.

6 ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

6.1 Purpose and Method

Although time constraints at the workshop prevented a facilitated participatory process the findings of the review phase and the inputs from the stakeholder working groups were interrogated further using a root-cause analysis to identify the underlying, or root, cause.

The causal factors identified through this process will be used in the next chapter to define the key capacity constraints, from which capacity needs will emerge. These will be addressed through the formulation of specific interventions, actions and strategies to overcome these and realise the objectives of the Conventions within the context of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Human resource is often cited as a common generic constraint. Swaziland has and needs well-trained staff, problems more associated with motivation, stemming from a lack of time and staff retention, stemming from poor working conditions.

Lack of finances is often cited as another common problem. The reality is that funds exist. Money is available at the national level as well as through support from international structures. The problem is that there are competing factors all vying for the same funds, which are limited. Issues of land degradation have to compete for funding against other issues, all of which have just as deserving and as important. The problem can therefore be defined as a problem of accessing funds, and on prioritizing projects /activities.

The lack of available funds for implementing land degradation projects is reported to have reduced the motivation and commitment of/ to the NSCD and the NAP process as a whole.

One of weaknesses revealed in the NSCD was involvement of “local level actors”. Local level committees were established as part of coordinating system. Lack of funding prevented really being able to test these structures.

To ensure realisation of the intention behind the various policies need to ensure that the appropriate government levels have the right levels of awareness of the issues. Need to ensure access to these people in senior government and to push the agenda, need a champion!

Although cabinet approves policies e.g. NAP they don't facilitate its implementation

6.2 Conclusions Findings and Outputs

From the preceding chapters the main constraints and priorities appear to relate to the need to;

- improve availability and access to limited competitive funding

- enhance and engage existing capacity more effectively with view to strengthening motivation
- resolve institutional ambiguities
- strengthen policy linkages with institutions
- improve collation and feedback mechanism with respect to project success and failure, lessons learnt.
- increase awareness among local communities with a view to inculcating a positive, engaging attitude
- increase awareness among political structures with a view to garnering

These will be interrogated further using a logical framework analysis in the following chapter. This will serve to develop specific activities and interventions to overcome these constraints.

7 PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED FOR BUILDING CAPACITY

7.1 Logical Framework Analysis

7.1.1 Goal and Purpose

The objective of this assignment is to identify national capacity constraints and priorities to meet binding commitments contained in the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification. The use of a Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) provides a method for the synthesis of the review phase and the findings from the SWOT analysis. The LFA allows these to be structured in a way that will assist the NCSA Project Management Group in formulating a strategy and action plan to ensure Swaziland has the capacity to meet its commitments to global environmental management.

7.1.2 Findings

Based on the findings of the review phase and SWOT analysis we propose a number of specific outputs. These are expected products to be achieved through the mobilisation of selected strategic interventions. The Outputs can also be seen as objectives. Achieving these Outputs will ensure the realisation of the purpose of the NCSA; ensuring that Swaziland has the capacity to meet its commitments to global environmental management under the UN Conventions.

These Outputs and the activities and interventions therein are considered preliminary. They are presented here for the purpose of further discussion. Inputs received from the NCSA PMG and stakeholders will be incorporated in the final draft, which will be presented in the format below.

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	MEASURABLE INDICATORS	IMPORTANT ASSUMPTIONS
Goal: to identify national capacity constraints and priorities to meet binding commitments contained in the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity, climate change and desertification				

Purpose: to determine how best to develop this capacity to meet Swaziland's commitment to global environmental management through the production of a strategy and action plan				
Objective 1:				
Objective 2:				

7.1.3 Outputs

The outputs are as follows:

1. ***The Kingdom of Swaziland with the institutional arrangements to facilitate its commitments and obligations under the UN CCD***

The LUPS in the MOAC plays a central role in land management and degradation issues in Swaziland and has been mandated with the Focal Point responsible for the national commitments under the UN CCD. However, substantial collaboration between all government departments is required, especially with the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services, the Department of Agriculture, the land related departments in the MNRE and the SEA. The capacity exists within the MOAC to facilitate activities and realize the objectives of the UN CCD under its normal operations and activities. Indeed, the objectives of the UN CCD are closely aligned with the ministries own mandate and objectives.

The SWOT and analysis of constraints has highlighted a need to clearly articulate responsibilities and resolve discrepancies between organizational responsibilities and mandates. There is a need to facilitate co-ordination of planning and information sharing between Government departments, NGOs, donors and research bodies to reduce duplication and maximise benefits derived from these collective efforts. This objective will be realized through the following activities.

Output 1 Activities

- Review and articulation of organisational mandates, mission statements;
- Integration of specific reference into the job descriptions of Focal Points;
- Establishment of central clearing house mechanism for the collation and dissemination of information relating to the UN CCD;
- Establishment of a Secretariat for Conventions within the government structure eg public policy coordination unit in the PM office

The creation of a secretariat within government structures for administration and management of the national commitments under the UN Conventions would provide a point of contact. Although the creation of additional structures should be considered with caution, innovative approaches could be pursued. The secretariat could function as a “virtual office” to which Focal Points spend a short period. Administrative staff could support the office. This would free up time for the Focal Points. Would also provide sufficient resources to collate and track progress relating to relevant policies, projects and legislation. It is important that any such structure is able to reach the grassroots level which is a fundamental part of the UN CCD

2. *The Kingdom of Swaziland with the capacity to meet its Reporting Requirements under the UN CCD.*

Swaziland has demonstrated its ability to meet its reporting commitments under the UN CCD. To date this has been supported through donors and facilitated by national stakeholders. In strengthening the national capacity activities will be focused on increasing autonomy and sustainability of reporting measures. This output will be served by the following activities.

Output 2 Activities

- Preparation and distribution of quarterly reports by Focal Points. These should detail activities undertaken relating to the UN CCD, update progress on legislative measures, policy development, stakeholder engagement and other activities. This will assist in preparing reports for the COP.
- Development of standard formatting for local reporting.
- Development of an appropriate information management system for tracking project progress, stakeholder activities, policy measures etc.

3. *The Kingdom of Swaziland with a policy and legislative framework to support and fully realize the ideals and intentions of the UN CCD.*

The policy and legislative framework is an evolving body of legislation. Measures need to be put in place to ensure that this is constantly revised and updated. Furthermore the Focal Point needs a mechanism to keep track of changes in the legislative environment that may be of specific relevance to the UN CCD and its reporting through the COP. Such revisions should be informed by the outcomes of specific projects. In order to achieve this there need to be appropriate feedback and monitoring mechanisms. This will be achieved through the following activities.

Output 3 Activities

- Establishment of a Secretariat mandated with monitoring, evaluation and feedback into the legislative framework of UN CCD related activities.
- A central clearing house mechanism for central government, specifically relating to the UN Conventions. This could be and should be developed in line with existing structures, capacitating them as required to ensure their operational efficiency.
- Act as a clearing house for fund raising activities

4. *The Kingdom of Swaziland with the capacity to ensure research and monitoring in the area of land degradation, mitigation and rehabilitation.*

Structures exist for the facilitation and coordination of research in Swaziland. These need to be capacitated to make them more effective in terms of providing leadership in areas of research. This would help to strengthen the information basis upon which to inform policy

decisions and revisions. This will be dependant upon appropriate, sustained financing mechanisms and a coordinated focussed definition of the national priorities.

Output 4 Activities

- Finalization of research strategy into land management and degradation rehabilitation and mitigation measures;
- Rehabilitation of the Royal Swaziland Research Council;
- Provision of funding for research into land degradation through the NEF
- Suitable course modules on soil and water conservation at the Tinkhundla centres and chiefdoms. Implemented by extension officer and approved parties

5. *The Kingdom of Swaziland with a population fully aware of the causes and implications of land degradation as well as the appropriate rehabilitation and mitigation measures.*

The effects of land degradation are increasingly manifest across Swaziland resulting in increasing recognition among communities as to the effects of drought and land degradation. There exists a certain level of awareness among communities, facilitated by government and NGO programmes. There needs to be a coordinated effort at disseminating information with the aim of increasing awareness. This should be structured around information pertaining to the causes of land degradation but more importantly appropriate technologies to mitigate and rehabilitate the effects of land degradation. This will be achieved through the following activities.

Output 5 Activities

- Strengthening school curricula and adult education programmes for environmental protection and land management planning.
- Coordination of effective dissemination of information relevant to awareness raising and enhancing technical competence.
- NGO/CBO stakeholder analysis, in order to clearly identify all stakeholders, with emphasis on the rural local institutions.
- Establishment of internet based clearing house mechanism under the auspices of the Convention Secretariat to facilitate the dissemination of information.
- Capacity building of communities, NGOs and other implementing agencies through technical workshops and practical training.
- Promotion and empowerment of community action groups to enhance participation in community planning and decision making.
- Promotion of the interaction and coordination between all stakeholders, in particular at Tinkhundla and community levels.
- Promotion strategy that re-instigates and invigorates use of radio and other media.

- Identify key land user such as Tibiyo and Private land and ensure involvement in planning , implementing and monitoring of land management programs.
6. ***The Kingdom of Swaziland with the financial capacity to fulfill its obligations and commitments under the UN Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Desertification.***

This output will be served by activities mobilization and commitment of financial resources adequate to sustain activities in-line with the commitments assumed by the UN Conventions and in the realization of sustainable development objectives.

Output 6 Activities

- Specific line budget for UN Conventions.
- Financing and funding manuals prepared by the Secretariat to assist stakeholders in accessing financial mechanisms in support of UN CCD related activities.
- Fund/s established to support activities under each of the Conventions.
- Financial mechanisms – tax incentives to mobilise private sector.
- Financial incentives for development of sustainable rural projects.

7. ***The Kingdom of Swaziland with the capacity to meets its obligations and commitments to global environmental management under the UN CCD.***

Swaziland’s most valuable resource is its human capital. Measures are needed to ensure that Swaziland continues to develop appropriate capacity in strategic areas of need. In order to achieve this there is a need to acknowledge beyond identifying the problems to addressing the root cause of these problems. This output will be served by the following activities.

Output 7 Activities

- Financial commitment toward implementation of recommendations to meet convention obligations.
- Development of a capacity enhancement programme, defined by clear objectives with specific monitoring and evaluation criteria.
- Regional skill database development.

8 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYNERGISTIC AND CROSS-CUTTING CAPACITY BUILDING APPROACHES AND PROJECTS

Overlap in terms of the obligations and requirements under the Conventions have prompted the Secretaries of the UN Conventions (FCCC, CBD and CCD) to make several recommendations, conclusions and decisions to increase mutual understanding and coordination. Despite these there remains a need to develop and enhance synergies

between the instruments in terms of their implementation at local, national, regional and global levels.

It should be acknowledged that each of the conventions constitutes a separate agreement, with specific commitments and obligations upon Parties. While there is room for harmonisation and improved synergy with respect to implementation there are also requirements specific to the individual Conventions. These differences reflect as much about the nature of the Convention as it does the global politics governing its formation.

Given the limited resources within Swaziland, identification of opportunities to exploit and maximise the derived benefit from synergies among the Conventions will enhance the efficacy with which the Kingdom responds to the Convention and utilisation of limiting resources.

Elements common to each of the Conventions derived from the review phase and opportunities for linkages between these are described in the table below. Using the Logical Framework Analysis the final report will draw together the cross cutting issues identified from each of the Thematic reports. These will be used to identify priority capacity strengths and constraints with a view to implementing measurable interventions in the most efficient manner.

Joint components	Linked approach	Assessment tools	Possible outcomes
Stocktaking, assessment of existing data, documents, strategies and policies	Data and information management	Enabling activities Inter-linkages Case studies	Collaborative data collection, storage, management and exchange
Steering committees, coordination bodies (NFP and line agencies)	Information exchange, inter-agency collaboration, joint planning	Enabling activities Inter-linkages Case studies	Inter-agency committees, NCSD
Prioritization of activities; complementarily; mainstreaming into existing policies	Strategic planning and knowledge management	Enabling activities Inter-linkages Case studies	Policy coordination, joint preparation for negotiation, ratification; integrated implementation strategies
Multi-stakeholder participation	Participatory assessments, joint planning procedures	Enabling activities Inter-linkages Case studies	Strengthened ownership, information and experience sharing across levels (national & local)
Awareness raising	Targeting high-level decision makers and the general public	Enabling activities Inter-linkages Case studies	CCC, CCD and CBD linked to sustainable development

			strategies for politicians and in curricula
Outreach	Joint outreach programmes	Enabling activities Inter-linkages Case studies	Linking Rio-Conventions to sustainable development strategy in public awareness

9 CONCLUSIONS

As a signatory to the UN CCD, Swaziland has assumed certain commitments and obligations in the area of global environmental management. These can be considered in the following areas:

reporting requirements, public awareness and exchange of information,
policy and legislative, financial mechanisms,
research and monitoring, capacity.
training and education,

While the UN CCD calls upon Parties to the Convention to undertake certain activities it should be acknowledged that none of these are enforceable. The UN Conventions all recognise differentiated abilities among signatories. The UN CCD is also more specific in articulating the requirements and expectations in certain areas. For example, the reporting requirements are clearly articulated, providing Parties with a standardised format for the preparation of NAPs. In other areas the UN CCD is less specific on what it requires from signatories. This in itself imposes certain constraints upon individual countries, particularly those with limited resources to apply to the specifics of the Convention.

Swaziland has demonstrated its commitment to the principles contained within the UN CCD. The institutional arrangements have been resolved and clearly defined. The MOACs LUPS has incorporated responsibility for the UN CCD within its day-to-day responsibilities. The mandate of the Ministry is closely aligned to those of the UN CCD.

Reporting requirements under the Convention have been met and in doing so Swaziland has highlighted the presence of sufficient technical capacity in the area of land degradation. Most programmes still rely heavily on donor funding and the establishment of independent project offices. These are typically separate entities with separate offices, accounting and procurement procedures and resources. While often including project coordinators these projects usually have seconded government staff.

Swaziland has a plethora and long history of policy and legislation addressing instruments of environmental management and land degradation but none on land management. Recent initiatives have attempted to integrate these individual measures into more holistic policies. Such measures take time to realise and require an iterative process to ensure they fully integrate successfully. It is difficult to report on policy measures without a clearly structured framework. The same can be said of the measures taken to address awareness, education, research and monitoring.

There are numerous initiatives in all of these areas. The collation and synthesis for the purpose of reporting is time consuming and laborious. It often involves a repetitive process of re-starting and reviewing with each reporting period. Without a clearly defined indication of what is required this can be a vague and poorly directed process. _

In order to effectively monitor compliance with the provisions of the UN CCD there is increasing evidence of the need for a specific unit, shared between the other conventions. While the SEA has national responsibility for the UN Conventions, and has mandated the LUPS in the MOAC with the National Focal Point, the requirements of the UN CCD are increasingly demanding. With government departments under-staffed and having little time to fulfil their duties the inclusion of additional responsibilities can over-burden incumbents. A central body with responsibility for archiving project documentation and projects should be encouraged. This would alleviate the pressure upon the Focal Points and allow them to serve in their appropriate capacity, as technical advisors.

A central institution would also facilitate co-ordination between the various different Conventions and in doing so more effectively maximise the countries limited resources. A central institution would also provide a single focus for collation and dissemination of information relating to environmental management. This would serve the goal of an integrated and holistic approach. It would also facilitate and streamline public awareness and education campaigns, improve access to information and strengthen links with stakeholders.

The formation of new institutions should always be viewed with caution, particularly when financial resources are limited and such an institution potentially represents an additional burden upon government resources. However, innovative mechanisms exist such as outsourcing centralization and restructuring, these should be investigated and employed. These will be elucidated in the next report based on the findings of all three Thematic Assessments.

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Annex 1 Text of the UN Convention on Combating Desertification

**UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

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**CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA**

Preamble

The Parties to this Convention;

Affirming that human beings in affected or threatened areas are at the centre of concerns to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

Reflecting the urgent concern of the international community, including States and international organizations, about the adverse impacts of desertification and drought

Aware that arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas together account for a significant proportion of the Earth's land area and are the habitat and source of livelihood for a large segment of its population

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action of the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought

Noting the high concentration of developing countries, notably the least developed countries, among those experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, and the particularly tragic consequences of these phenomena in Africa, Noting also that desertification is caused by complex interactions among physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors

Considering the impact of trade and relevant aspects of international economic relations on the ability of affected countries to combat desertification adequately

Conscious that sustainable economic growth, social development and poverty eradication are priorities of affected developing countries, particularly in Africa, and are essential to meeting sustainability objectives

Mindful that desertification and drought affect sustainable development through their interrelationships with important social problems such as poverty poor health and nutrition, lack of food security, and those arising from migration, displacement of persons and demographic dynamics

Appreciating the significance of the past efforts and experience of States and international organizations in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, particularly in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification which was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977,

Realizing that, despite efforts in the past, progress in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought has not met expectations and that a new and more effective approach is needed at all levels within the framework of sustainable development

Recognizing the validity and relevance of decisions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly of Agenda 21 and its chapter 12, which provide a basis for combating desertification

Reaffirming in this light the commitments of developed countries as contained in paragraph 13 of chapter 33 of Agenda 21

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/188, particularly the priority in it prescribed for Africa, and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, decisions and programmes on desertification and drought, as well as relevant declarations by African countries and those from other regions

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which states in its Principle 2, that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction

Recognizing that national Governments play a critical role in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and that progress in that respect depends on local implementation of action programmes in affected areas

Recognizing also the importance and necessity of international cooperation and partnership in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought

Recognizing further the importance of the provision to affected developing countries, particularly in Africa, of effective means, inter alia substantial financial resources, including new and additional funding, and access to technology, without which it will be difficult for them to implement fully their commitments under this Convention

Expressing concern over the impact of desertification and drought on affected countries in Central Asia and the Transcaucasus

Stressing the important role played by women in regions affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly in rural areas of developing countries, and the importance of ensuring the full participation of both men and women at all levels in programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

Emphasizing the special role of non-governmental organizations and other major groups in programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought,

Bearing in mind the relationship between desertification and other environmental problems of global dimension facing the international and national communities

Bearing also in mind the contribution that combating desertification can make to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other related environmental conventions

Believing that strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought will be most effective if they are based on sound systematic observation and rigorous scientific knowledge and if they are continuously reevaluated

Recognizing the urgent need to improve the effectiveness and coordination of international cooperation to facilitate the implementation of national plans and priorities

Determined to take appropriate action in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought for the benefit of present and future generations

Have agreed as follows:

PART I INTRODUCTION

Article 1 - Use of Terms

For the purposes of this Convention:

- (a) "desertification" means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities
- (b) "combating desertification" includes activities which are part of the integrated development of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas for sustainable development which are aimed at:
 - (i) prevention and/or reduction of land degradation
 - (ii) rehabilitation of partly degraded land; and (iii) reclamation of desertified land;
- (c) "drought" means the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems
- (d) "mitigating the effects of drought" means activities related to the prediction of drought and intended to reduce the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought as it relates to combating desertification
- (e) "land" means the terrestrial bio-productive system that comprises soil, vegetation, other biota, and the ecological and hydrological processes that operate within the system
- (f) "land degradation" means reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns, such as:
 - (i) soil erosion caused by wind and/or water

- (ii) deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil; and
- (iii) long-term loss of natural vegetation
- (g) "arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas" means areas, other than polar and sub-polar regions, in which the ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration falls within the range from 0.05 to 0.65
- (h) "affected areas" means arid, semi-arid and/or dry sub-humid areas affected or threatened by desertification
- (i) "affected countries" means countries whose lands include, in whole or in part, affected areas
- (j) "regional economic integration organization" means an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region which has competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention and has been duly authorized, in accordance with its internal procedures, to sign ratify, accept, approve or accede to this Convention
- (k) "developed country Parties" means developed country Parties and regional economic integration organizations constituted by developed countries.

Article 2 - Objective

1. The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.
2. Achieving this objective will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.

Article 3 - Principles

In order to achieve the objective of this Convention and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided, inter alia, by the following:

- (a) the Parties should ensure that decisions on the design and implementation of programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought are taken with the participation of populations and local communities and that an enabling environment is created at higher levels to facilitate action at national and local levels
- (b) the Parties should, in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership, improve cooperation and coordination at subregional regional and international levels, and better focus financial, human organizational and technical resources where they are needed
- (c) the Parties should develop, in a spirit of partnership, cooperation among all levels of government, communities, non-governmental organizations and landholders to establish a better understanding of the nature and value of land and scarce water resources in

affected areas and to work towards their sustainable use; and (d) the Parties should take into full consideration the special needs and circumstances of affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them.

PART II GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 4 - General obligations

1. The Parties shall implement their obligations under this Convention individually or jointly, either through existing or prospective bilateral and multilateral arrangements or a combination thereof, as appropriate, emphasizing the need to coordinate efforts and develop a coherent long-term strategy at all levels.

2. In pursuing the objective of this Convention, the Parties shall:

(a) adopt an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought

(b) give due attention, within the relevant international and regional bodies, to the situation of affected developing country Parties with regard to international trade, marketing arrangements and debt with a view to establishing an enabling international economic environment conducive to the promotion of sustainable development

(c) integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

(d) promote cooperation among affected country Parties in the fields of environmental protection and the conservation of land and water resources, as they relate to desertification and drought

(e) strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation

(f) cooperate within relevant intergovernmental organizations

(g) determine institutional mechanisms, if appropriate, keeping in mind the need to avoid duplication; and

(h) promote the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements that mobilize and channel substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

3. Affected developing country Parties are eligible for assistance in the implementation of the Convention.

Article 5 - Obligations of affected country Parties

In addition to their obligations pursuant to Article 4, affected country Parties undertake to:

(a) give due priority to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, and allocate adequate resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities

(b) establish strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

(c) address the underlying causes of desertification and pay special attention to the socio-economic factors contributing to desertification processes

(d) promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of nongovernmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought; and (e) provide an enabling environment by strengthening, as appropriate relevant existing legislation and, where they do not exist, enacting new laws and establishing long-term policies and action programmes.

Article 6 - Obligations of developed country Parties

In addition to their general obligations pursuant to Article 4, developed country Parties undertake to:

(a) actively support, as agreed, individually or jointly, the efforts of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and the least developed countries, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

(b) provide substantial financial resources and other forms of support to assist affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, effectively to develop and implement their own long-term plans and strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

(c) promote the mobilization of new and additional funding pursuant to Article 20, paragraph 2 (b)

(d) encourage the mobilization of funding from the private sector and other non-governmental sources; and

(e) promote and facilitate access by affected country Parties particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

Article 7 - Priority for Africa

In implementing this Convention, the Parties shall give priority to affected African country Parties, in the light of the particular situation prevailing in that region, while not neglecting affected developing country Parties in other regions.

Article 8 - Relationship with other conventions

1. The Parties shall encourage the coordination of activities carried out under this Convention and, if they are Parties to them, under other relevant international agreements, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to derive maximum benefit from activities under each agreement while avoiding duplication of effort. The Parties shall encourage the conduct of joint programmes particularly in the fields of research, training, systematic observation and information collection and exchange, to the extent that such activities may contribute to achieving the objectives of the agreements concerned.

2. The provisions of this Convention shall not affect the rights and obligations of any Party deriving from a bilateral, regional or international agreement into which it has entered prior to the entry into force of this Convention for it.

**PART III ACTION PROGRAMMES, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION AND SUPPORTING MEASURES**

Section 1: Action programmes

Article 9 - Basic approach

1. In carrying out their obligations pursuant to Article 5, affected developing country Parties and any other affected country Party in the framework of its regional implementation annex or, otherwise, that has notified the Permanent Secretariat in writing of its intention to prepare a national action programme, shall, as appropriate, prepare, make public and implement national action programmes, utilizing and building, to the extent possible, on existing relevant successful plans and programmes, and subregional and regional action programmes, as the central element of the strategy to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Such programmes shall be updated through a continuing participatory process on the basis of lessons from field action, as well as the results of research. The preparation of national action programmes shall be closely interlinked with other efforts to formulate national policies for sustainable development.

2. In the provision by developed country Parties of different forms of assistance under the terms of Article 6, priority shall be given to supporting as agreed, national, subregional and regional action programmes of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, either directly or through relevant multilateral organizations or both.

3. The Parties shall encourage organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community and non-governmental organizations in a position to cooperate, in accordance with their mandates and capabilities, to support the elaboration, implementation and follow-up of action programmes.

Article 10 - National action programmes

1. The purpose of national action programmes is to identify the factors contributing to desertification and practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

2. National action programmes shall specify the respective roles of government, local communities and land users and the resources available and needed. They shall, inter alia:

(a) incorporate long-term strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, emphasize implementation and be integrated with national policies for sustainable development

(b) allow for modifications to be made in response to changing circumstances and be sufficiently flexible at the local level to cope with different socio-economic, biological and geo-physical conditions

(c) give particular attention to the implementation of preventive measures for lands that are not yet degraded or which are only slightly degraded

(d) enhance national climatological, meteorological and hydrological capabilities and the means to provide for drought early warning;

(e) promote policies and strengthen institutional frameworks which develop cooperation and coordination, 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

(f) provide for effective participation at the local, national and regional levels of non-governmental organizations and local populations, both women and men, particularly resource users including farmers and pastoralists and their representative organizations, in policy planning, decision-making, and implementation and review of national action programmes; and

(g) require regular review of, and progress reports on, their implementation.

3. National action programmes may include, inter alia, some or all of the following measures to prepare for and mitigate the effects of drought:

(a) establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of early warning systems, including local and national facilities and joint systems at the subregional and regional levels, and mechanisms for assisting environmentally displaced persons

(b) strengthening of drought preparedness and management, including drought contingency plans at the local, national, subregional and regional levels, which take into consideration seasonal to interannual climate predictions

(c) establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of food security systems, including storage and marketing facilities, particularly in rural areas

(d) establishment of alternative livelihood projects that could provide incomes in drought prone areas; and

(e) development of sustainable irrigation programmes for both crops and livestock.

4. Taking into account the circumstances and requirements specific to each affected country Party, national action programmes include, as appropriate inter alia, measures in some or all of the following priority fields as they relate to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in affected areas and to their populations: promotion of alternative livelihoods and improvement of national economic environments with a view to strengthening programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and at ensuring food security demographic dynamics; sustainable management of natural resources; sustainable agricultural practices; development and efficient use of various energy sources institutional and legal frameworks; strengthening of capabilities for assessment and systematic observation, including hydrological and meteorological services and capacity building, education and public awareness.

Article 11 - Subregional and Regional Action Programmes

Affected country Parties shall consult and cooperate to prepare, as appropriate, in accordance with relevant regional implementation annexes subregional and/or regional action programmes to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes. The provisions of Article 10 shall apply mutatis mutandis to subregional and regional programmes. Such cooperation may include agreed joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources, scientific and technical cooperation, and strengthening of relevant institutions.

Article 12 - International Cooperation

Affected country Parties, in collaboration with other Parties and the international community, should cooperate to ensure the promotion of an enabling international environment in the implementation of the Convention. Such cooperation should also cover fields of technology transfer as well as scientific research and development, information collection and dissemination and financial resources.

Article 13 - Support for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes

1. Measures to support action programmes pursuant to Article 9 include inter alia:

(a) financial cooperation to provide predictability for action programmes allowing for necessary long-term planning

(b) elaboration and use of cooperation mechanisms which better enable support at the local level, including action through non-governmental organizations, in order to promote the replicability of successful pilot programme activities where relevant

(c) increased flexibility in project design, funding and implementation in keeping with the experimental, iterative approach indicated for participatory action at the local community level; and

(d) as appropriate, administrative and budgetary procedures that increase the efficiency of cooperation and of support programmes.

2. In providing such support to affected developing country Parties priority shall be given to African country Parties and to least developed country Parties.

Article 14 - Coordination in the elaboration and implementation of action programmes

1. The Parties shall work closely together, directly and through relevant intergovernmental organizations, in the elaboration and implementation of action programmes.

2. The Parties shall develop operational mechanisms, particularly at the national and field levels, to ensure the fullest possible coordination among developed country Parties, developing country Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in order to avoid duplication, harmonize interventions and approaches, and maximize the impact of assistance. In affected developing country Parties, priority will be given to coordinating activities related to international cooperation in order to maximize the efficient use of resources, to ensure responsive assistance, and to facilitate the implementation of national action programmes and priorities under this Convention.

Article 15 - Regional implementation annexes

Elements for incorporation in action programmes shall be selected and adapted to the socio-economic, geographical and climatic factors applicable to affected country Parties or regions, as well as to their level of development. Guidelines for the preparation of action programmes and their exact focus and content for particular subregions and regions are set out in the regional implementation annexes. Section 2: Scientific and technical cooperation

Article 16 - Information collection, analysis and exchange

The Parties agree, according to their respective capabilities, to integrate and coordinate the collection, analysis and exchange of relevant short term and long term data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and to understand better and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification. This would help accomplish inter alia, early warning and advance planning for periods of adverse climatic variation in a form suited for practical application by users at all levels including especially local populations. To this end, they shall, as appropriate:

- (a) facilitate and strengthen the functioning of the global network of institutions and facilities for the collection, analysis and exchange of information, as well as for systematic observation at all levels which shall, inter alia:
 - (i) aim to use compatible standards and systems
 - (ii) encompass relevant data and stations, including in remote areas
 - (iii) use and disseminate modern technology for data collection transmission and assessment on land degradation; and (iv) link national, subregional and regional data and information centres more closely with global information sources
- (b) ensure that the collection, analysis and exchange of information address the needs of local communities and those of decision makers with a view to resolving specific problems, and that local communities are involved in these activities
- (c) support and further develop bilateral and multilateral programmes and projects aimed at defining, conducting, assessing and financing the collection, analysis and exchange of data and information, including inter alia, integrated sets of physical, biological, social and economic indicators
- (d) make full use of the expertise of competent intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, particularly to disseminate relevant information and experiences among target groups in different regions
- (e) give full weight to the collection, analysis and exchange of socioeconomic data, and their integration with physical and biological data
- (f) exchange and make fully, openly and promptly available information from all publicly available sources relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought; and (g) subject to their respective national legislation and/or policies exchange information on local and traditional knowledge, ensuring adequate protection for it and providing appropriate return from the benefits derived from it, on an equitable basis and on mutually agreed terms, to the local populations concerned.

Article 17 - Research and development

1. The Parties undertake, according to their respective capabilities, to promote technical and scientific cooperation in the fields of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought through appropriate national, subregional, regional and international institutions. To this end they shall support research activities that:

- (a) contribute to increased knowledge of the processes leading to desertification and drought and the impact of, and distinction between, causal factors, both natural and human, with a view to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

and achieving improved productivity as well as sustainable use and management of resources

(b) respond to well defined objectives, address the specific needs of local populations and lead to the identification and implementation of solutions that improve the living standards of people in affected areas

(c) protect, integrate, enhance and validate traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices, ensuring, subject to their respective national legislation and/or policies, that the owners of that knowledge will directly benefit on an equitable basis and on mutually agreed terms from any commercial utilization of it or from any technological development derived from that knowledge

(d) develop and strengthen national, subregional and regional research capabilities in affected developing country Parties, particularly in Africa, including the development of local skills and the strengthening of appropriate capacities, especially in countries with a weak research base, giving particular attention to multidisciplinary and participative socio-economic research

(e) take into account, where relevant, the relationship between poverty migration caused by environmental factors, and desertification

(f) promote the conduct of joint research programmes between national subregional, regional and international research organizations, in both the public and private sectors, for the development of improved affordable and accessible technologies for sustainable development through effective participation of local populations and communities and

(g) enhance the availability of water resources in affected areas, by means of, inter alia, cloud-seeding.

2. Research priorities for particular regions and subregions, reflecting different local conditions, should be included in action programmes. The Conference of the Parties shall review research priorities periodically on the advice of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Article 18 - Transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology

1. The Parties undertake, as mutually agreed and in accordance with their respective national legislation and/or policies, to promote, finance and/or facilitate the financing of the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas. Such cooperation shall be conducted bilaterally or multilaterally, as appropriate, making full use of the expertise of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Parties shall, in particular:

(a) fully utilize relevant existing national, subregional, regional and international information systems and clearing-houses for the dissemination of information on available technologies, their sources their environmental risks and the broad terms under which they may be acquired

(b) facilitate access, in particular by affected developing country Parties, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into

account the need to protect intellectual property rights, to technologies most suitable to practical application for specific needs of local populations paying special attention to the social, cultural, economic and environmental impact of such technology

(c) facilitate technology cooperation among affected country Parties through financial assistance or other appropriate means

(d) extend technology cooperation with affected developing country Parties, including, where relevant, joint ventures, especially to sectors which foster alternative livelihoods; and (e) take appropriate measures to create domestic market conditions and incentives, fiscal or otherwise, conducive to the development transfer, acquisition and adaptation of suitable technology knowledge, know-how and practices, including measures to ensure adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights.

2. The Parties shall, according to their respective capabilities, and subject to their respective national legislation and/or policies, protect promote and use in particular relevant traditional and local technology knowledge, know-how and practices and, to that end, they undertake to:

(a) make inventories of such technology, knowledge, know-how and practices and their potential uses with the participation of local populations and disseminate such information, where appropriate, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

(b) ensure that such technology, knowledge, know-how and practices are adequately protected and that local populations benefit directly, on an equitable basis and as mutually agreed, from any commercial utilization of them or from any technological development derived therefrom

(c) encourage and actively support the improvement and dissemination of such technology, knowledge, know-how and practices or of the development of new technology based on them; and

(d) facilitate, as appropriate, the adaptation of such technology knowledge, know-how and practices to wide use and integrate them with modern technology, as appropriate.

Section 3: Supporting measures

Article 19 - Capacity building, education and public awareness

1. The Parties recognize the significance of capacity building -- that is to say, institution building, training and development of relevant local and national capacities -- in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. They shall promote, as appropriate, capacity-building:

(a) through the full participation at all levels of local people particularly at the local level, especially women and youth, with the cooperation of non-governmental and local organizations

(b) by strengthening training and research capacity at the national level in the field of desertification and drought

(c) by establishing and/or strengthening support and extension services to disseminate relevant technology methods and techniques more effectively, and by training field

agents and members of rural organizations in participatory approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources

(d) by fostering the use and dissemination of the knowledge, know-how and practices of local people in technical cooperation programmes wherever possible

(e) by adapting, where necessary, relevant environmentally sound technology and traditional methods of agriculture and pastoralism to modern socio-economic conditions

(f) by providing appropriate training and technology in the use of alternative energy sources, particularly renewable energy resources aimed particularly at reducing dependence on wood for fuel

(g) through cooperation, as mutually agreed, to strengthen the capacity of affected developing country Parties to develop and implement programmes in the field of collection, analysis and exchange of information pursuant to Article 16

(h) through innovative ways of promoting alternative livelihoods including training in new skills

(i) by training of decision makers, managers, and personnel who are responsible for the collection and analysis of data for the dissemination and use of early warning information on drought conditions and for food production;

(j) through more effective operation of existing national institutions and legal frameworks and, where necessary, creation of new ones, along with strengthening of strategic planning and management; and (k) by means of exchange visitor programmes to enhance capacity building in affected country Parties through a long-term, interactive process of learning and study.

2. Affected developing country Parties shall conduct, in cooperation with other Parties and competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as appropriate, an interdisciplinary review of available capacity and facilities at the local and national levels, and the potential for strengthening them.

3. The Parties shall cooperate with each other and through competent intergovernmental organizations, as well as with non-governmental organizations in undertaking and supporting public awareness and educational programmes in both affected and, where relevant, unaffected country Parties to promote understanding of the causes and effects of desertification and drought and of the importance of meeting the objective of this Convention. To that end, they shall:

(a) organize awareness campaigns for the general public

(b) promote, on a permanent basis, access by the public to relevant information, and wide public participation in education and awareness activities

(c) encourage the establishment of associations that contribute to public awareness

(d) develop and exchange educational and public awareness material, where possible in local languages, exchange and second experts to train personnel of affected developing country Parties in carrying out relevant education and awareness programmes, and fully utilize relevant educational material available in competent international bodies

(e) assess educational needs in affected areas, elaborate appropriate school curricula and expand, as needed, educational and adult literacy programmes and opportunities for all, in particular for girls and women, on the identification, conservation and sustainable use and management of the natural resources of affected areas; and (f) develop interdisciplinary participatory programmes integrating desertification and drought awareness into educational systems and in non-formal, adult, distance and practical educational programmes.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall establish and/or strengthen networks of regional education and training centres to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. These networks shall be coordinated by an institution created or designated for that purpose, in order to train scientific technical and management personnel and to strengthen existing institutions responsible for education and training in affected country Parties, where appropriate, with a view to harmonizing programmes and to organizing exchanges of experience among them. These networks shall cooperate closely with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to avoid duplication of effort.

Article 20 - Financial resources

1. Given the central importance of financing to the achievement of the objective of the Convention, the Parties, taking into account their capabilities shall make every effort to ensure that adequate financial resources are available for programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

2. In this connection, developed country Parties, while giving priority to affected African country Parties without neglecting affected developing country Parties in other regions, in accordance with Article 7, undertake to:

(a) mobilize substantial financial resources, including grants and concessional loans, in order to support the implementation of programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

(b) promote the mobilization of adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility of the agreed incremental costs of those activities concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Instrument establishing the Global Environment Facility

(c) facilitate through international cooperation the transfer of technology, knowledge and know-how; and (d) explore, in cooperation with affected developing country Parties innovative methods and incentives for mobilizing and channelling resources, including those of foundations, non-governmental organizations and other private sector entities, particularly debt swaps and other innovative means which increase financing by reducing the external debt burden of affected developing country Parties particularly those in Africa.

3. Affected developing country Parties, taking into account their capabilities, undertake to mobilize adequate financial resources for the implementation of their national action programmes.

4. In mobilizing financial resources, the Parties shall seek full use and continued qualitative improvement of all national, bilateral and multilateral funding sources and mechanisms, using consortia, joint programmes and parallel financing, and shall seek to involve private sector funding sources and mechanisms, including those of non-governmental organizations. To this end, the Parties shall fully utilize the operational mechanisms developed pursuant to Article 14.

5. In order to mobilize the financial resources necessary for affected developing country Parties to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, the Parties shall:

(a) rationalize and strengthen the management of resources already allocated for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought by using them more effectively and efficiently, assessing their successes and shortcomings, removing hindrances to their effective use and, where necessary, reorienting programmes in light of the integrated long-term approach adopted pursuant to this Convention

(b) give due priority and attention within the governing bodies of multilateral financial institutions, facilities and funds, including regional development banks and funds, to supporting affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, in activities which advance implementation of the Convention, notably action programmes they undertake in the framework of regional implementation annexes; and

(c) examine ways in which regional and subregional cooperation can be strengthened to support efforts undertaken at the national level.

6. Other Parties are encouraged to provide, on a voluntary basis, knowledge, know-how and techniques related to desertification and/or financial resources to affected developing country Parties.

7. The full implementation by affected developing country Parties particularly those in Africa, of their obligations under the Convention will be greatly assisted by the fulfilment by developed country Parties of their obligations under the Convention, including in particular those regarding financial resources and transfer of technology. In fulfilling their obligations developed country Parties should take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first priorities of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa.

Article 21 - Financial mechanisms

1. The Conference of the Parties shall promote the availability of financial mechanisms and shall encourage such mechanisms to seek to maximize the availability of funding for affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, to implement the Convention. To this end, the Conference of the Parties shall consider for adoption *inter alia* approaches and policies that:

(a) facilitate the provision of necessary funding at the national subregional, regional and global levels for activities pursuant to relevant provisions of the Convention

(b) promote multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements and their assessment, consistent with Article 20;

(c) provide on a regular basis, to interested Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, information on available sources of funds and on funding patterns in order to facilitate coordination among them

(d) facilitate the establishment, as appropriate, of mechanisms, such as national desertification funds, including those involving the participation of non-governmental organizations, to channel financial resources rapidly and efficiently to the local level in affected developing country Parties; and

(e) strengthen existing funds and financial mechanisms at the subregional and regional levels, particularly in Africa, to support more effectively the implementation of the Convention.

2. The Conference of the Parties shall also encourage the provision through various mechanisms within the United Nations system and through multilateral financial institutions, of support at the national, subregional and regional levels to activities that enable developing country Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention.

3. Affected developing country Parties shall utilize, and where necessary, establish and/or strengthen, national coordinating mechanisms integrated in national development programmes, that would ensure the efficient use of all available financial resources. They shall also utilize participatory processes involving non-governmental organizations, local groups and the private sector, in raising funds, in elaborating as well as implementing programmes and in assuring access to funding by groups at the local level. These actions can be enhanced by improved coordination and flexible programming on the part of those providing assistance.

4. In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, a Global Mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties, is hereby established. This Global Mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties and be accountable to it.

5. The Conference of the Parties shall identify, at its first ordinary session, an organization to house the Global Mechanism. The Conference of the Parties and the organization it has identified shall agree upon modalities for this Global Mechanism to ensure inter alia that such Mechanism:

(a) identifies and draws up an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention

(b) provides advice, on request, to Parties on innovative methods of financing and sources of financial assistance and on improving the coordination of cooperation activities at the national level;

(c) provides interested Parties and relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations with information on available sources of funds and on funding patterns in order to facilitate coordination among them; and (d) reports to the Conference of the Parties, beginning at its second ordinary session, on its activities.

6. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first session, make appropriate arrangements with the organization it has identified to house the Global Mechanism for the administrative operations of such Mechanism, drawing to the extent possible on existing budgetary and human resources.

7. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its third ordinary session review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism accountable to it pursuant to paragraph 4, taking into account the provisions of Article

7. On the basis of this review, it shall consider and take appropriate action.

PART IV INSTITUTIONS

Article 22 - Conference of the Parties

1. A Conference of the Parties is hereby established.

2. The Conference of the Parties is the supreme body of the Convention. It shall make, within its mandate, the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation. In particular, it shall:

(a) regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements in the light of the experience gained at the national, subregional, regional and international levels and on the basis of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge

(b) promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, and determine the form and timetable for transmitting the information to be submitted pursuant to Article 26, review the reports and make recommendations on them

(c) establish such subsidiary bodies as are deemed necessary for the implementation of the Convention

(d) review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them;

(e) agree upon and adopt, by consensus, rules of procedure and financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies

(f) adopt amendments to the Convention pursuant to Articles 30 and 31

(g) approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and undertake necessary arrangements for their financing

(h) as appropriate, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental

(i) promote and strengthen the relationship with other relevant conventions while avoiding duplication of effort; and (j) exercise such other functions as may be necessary for the achievement of the objective of the Convention.

3. The Conference of the Parties shall, at its first session, adopt its own rules of procedure, by consensus, which shall include decision-making procedures for matters not already covered by decision-making procedures stipulated in the Convention. Such

procedures may include specified majorities required for the adoption of particular decisions.

4. The first session of the Conference of the Parties shall be convened by the interim secretariat referred to in Article 35 and shall take place not later than one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, the second, third and fourth ordinary sessions shall be held yearly, and thereafter, ordinary sessions shall be held every two years.

5. Extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties shall be held at such other times as may be decided either by the Conference of the Parties in ordinary session or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within three months of the request being communicated to the Parties by the Permanent Secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

6. At each ordinary session, the Conference of the Parties shall elect a Bureau. The structure and functions of the Bureau shall be determined in the rules of procedure. In appointing the Bureau, due regard shall be paid to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa.

7. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and any State member thereof or observers thereto not Party to the Convention, may be represented at sessions of the Conference of the Parties as observers. Any body or agency whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object. The admission and participation of observers shall be subject to the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

8. The Conference of the Parties may request competent national and international organizations which have relevant expertise to provide it with information relevant to Article 16, paragraph (g), Article 17, paragraph 1 (c) and Article 18, paragraph 2(b).

Article 23 - Permanent Secretariat

1. A Permanent Secretariat is hereby established.

2. The functions of the Permanent Secretariat shall be:

(a) to make arrangements for sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies established under the Convention and to provide them with services as required

(b) to compile and transmit reports submitted to it

(c) to facilitate assistance to affected developing country Parties, on request, particularly those in Africa, in the compilation and communication of information required under the Convention

(d) to coordinate its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions

(e) to enter, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions

(f) to prepare reports on the execution of its functions under this Convention and present them to the Conference of the Parties; and (g) to perform such other secretariat functions as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.

3. The Conference of the Parties, at its first session, shall designate a Permanent Secretariat and make arrangements for its functioning.

Article 24 - Committee on Science and Technology

1. A Committee on Science and Technology is hereby established as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to provide it with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. The Committee shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties and shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. It shall be composed of government representatives competent in the relevant fields of expertise. The Conference of the Parties shall decide, at its first session on the terms of reference of the Committee.

2. The Conference of the Parties shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. The roster shall be based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation.

3. The Conference of the Parties may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. These panels shall be composed of experts whose names are taken from the roster, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation. These experts shall have scientific backgrounds and field experience and shall be appointed by the Conference of the Parties on the recommendation of the Committee. The Conference of the Parties shall decide on the terms of reference and the modalities of work of these panels.

Article 25 - Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

1. The Committee on Science and Technology shall, under the supervision of the Conference of the Parties, make provision for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of the relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network. Such a network shall support the implementation of the Convention.

2. On the basis of the results of the survey and evaluation referred to in paragraph 1, the Committee on Science and Technology shall make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to facilitate and strengthen networking of the units at the local, national and other levels with a view to ensuring that the thematic needs set out in Articles 16 to 19 are addressed.

3. Taking into account these recommendations, the Conference of the Parties shall:

(a) identify those national, subregional, regional and international units that are most appropriate for networking, and recommend operational procedures, and a time frame, for them; and (b) identify the units best suited to facilitating and strengthening such networking at all levels.

PART V PROCEDURES

Article 26 - Communication of information

1. Each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the timetable for submission and the format of such reports.
2. Affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to Article 5 and of any relevant information on their implementation.
3. Affected country Parties which implement action programmes pursuant to Articles 9 to 15 shall provide a detailed description of the programmes and of their implementation.
4. Any group of affected country Parties may make a joint communication on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in the framework of action programmes.
5. Developed country Parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention.
6. Information communicated pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 4 shall be transmitted by the Permanent Secretariat as soon as possible to the Conference of the Parties and to any relevant subsidiary body.
7. The Conference of the Parties shall facilitate the provision to affected developing countries, particularly those in Africa, on request, of technical and financial support in compiling and communicating information in accordance with this Article, as well as identifying the technical and financial needs associated with action programmes.

Article 27 - Measures to resolve questions on implementation

The Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

Article 28 - Settlement of disputes

1. Parties shall settle any dispute between them concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention through negotiation or other peaceful means of their own choice.
2. When ratifying, accepting, approving, or acceding to the Convention or at any time thereafter, a Party which is not a regional economic integration organization may declare in a written instrument submitted to the Depositary that, in respect of any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, it recognizes one or both of the following means of dispute settlement as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation:
 - (a) arbitration in accordance with procedures adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable
 - (b) submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

3. A Party which is a regional economic integration organization may make a declaration with like effect in relation to arbitration in accordance with the procedure referred to in paragraph 2 (a).
4. A declaration made pursuant to paragraph 2 shall remain in force until it expires in accordance with its terms or until three months after written notice of its revocation has been deposited with the Depositary.
5. The expiry of a declaration, a notice of revocation or a new declaration shall not in any way affect proceedings pending before an arbitral tribunal or the International Court of Justice unless the Parties to the dispute otherwise agree.
6. If the Parties to a dispute have not accepted the same or any procedure pursuant to paragraph 2 and if they have not been able to settle their dispute within twelve months following notification by one Party to another that a dispute exists between them, the dispute shall be submitted to conciliation at the request of any Party to the dispute, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable.

Article 29 - Status of annexes

1. Annexes form an integral part of the Convention and, unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to the Convention also constitutes a reference to its annexes.
2. The Parties shall interpret the provisions of the annexes in a manner that is in conformity with their rights and obligations under the Articles of this Convention.

Article 30 - Amendments to the Convention

1. Any Party may propose amendments to the Convention.
2. Amendments to the Convention shall be adopted at an ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties. The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated to the Parties by the Permanent Secretariat at least six months before the meeting at which it is proposed for adoption. The Permanent Secretariat shall also communicate proposed amendments to the signatories to the Convention.
3. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on any proposed amendment to the Convention by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted and no agreement reached, the amendment shall, as a last resort, be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting at the meeting. The adopted amendment shall be communicated by the Permanent Secretariat to the Depositary, who shall circulate it to all Parties for their ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in respect of an amendment shall be deposited with the Depositary. An amendment adopted pursuant to paragraph 3 shall enter into force for those Parties having accepted it on the ninetieth day after the date of receipt by the Depositary of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by at least two thirds of the Parties to the Convention which were Parties at the time of the adoption of the amendment.

5. The amendment shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after the date on which that Party deposits with the Depositary its instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to the said amendment.

6. For the purposes of this Article and Article 31, "Parties present and voting" means Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote.

Article 31 - Adoption and amendment of annexes

1. Any additional annex to the Convention and any amendment to an annex shall be proposed and adopted in accordance with the procedure for amendment of the Convention set forth in Article 30, provided that, in adopting an additional regional implementation annex or amendment to any regional implementation annex the majority provided for in that Article shall include a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties of the region concerned present and voting. The adoption or amendment of an annex shall be communicated by the Depositary to all Parties.

2. An annex, other than an additional regional implementation annex, or an amendment to an annex, other than an amendment to any regional implementation annex, that has been adopted in accordance with paragraph 1, shall enter into force for all Parties to the Convention six months after the date of communication by the Depositary to such Parties of the adoption of such annex or amendment, except for those Parties that have notified the Depositary in writing within that period of their non-acceptance of such annex or amendment. Such annex or amendment shall enter into force for Parties which withdraw their notification of non-acceptance on the ninetieth day after the date on which withdrawal of such notification has been received by the Depositary.

3. An additional regional implementation annex or amendment to any regional implementation annex that has been adopted in accordance with paragraph 1, shall enter into force for all Parties to the Convention six months after the date of the communication by the Depositary to such Parties of the adoption of such annex or amendment, except with respect to:

(a) any Party that has notified the Depositary in writing, within such six month period, of its non-acceptance of that additional regional implementation annex or of the amendment to the regional implementation annex, in which case such annex or amendment shall enter into force for Parties which withdraw their notification of nonacceptance on the ninetieth day after the date on which withdrawal of such notification has been received by the Depositary; and

(b) any Party that has made a declaration with respect to additional regional implementation annexes or amendments to regional implementation annexes in accordance with Article 34, paragraph 4, in which case any such annex or amendment shall enter into force for such a Party on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect to such annex or amendment.

4. If the adoption of an annex or an amendment to an annex involves an amendment to the Convention, that annex or amendment to an annex shall not enter into force until such time as the amendment to the Convention enters into force.

Article 32 - Right to vote

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2, each Party to the Convention shall have one vote.
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to the Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

PART VI FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 33 - Signature

This Convention shall be opened for signature at Paris, on 14-15 October 1994, by States Members of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies or that are Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice and by regional economic integration organizations. It shall remain open for signature thereafter, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until 13 October 1995.

Article 34 - Ratification, acceptance, approval and accession

1. The Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by States and by regional economic integration organizations. It shall be open for accession from the day after the date on which the Convention is closed for signature. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.
2. Any regional economic integration organization which becomes a Party to the Convention without any of its member States being a Party to the Convention shall be bound by all the obligations under the Convention. Where one or more member States of such an organization are also Party to the Convention the organization and its member States shall decide on their respective responsibilities for the performance of their obligations under the Convention. In such cases, the organization and the member States shall not be entitled to exercise rights under the Convention concurrently.
3. In their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, regional economic integration organizations shall declare the extent of their competence with respect to the matters governed by the Convention. They shall also promptly inform the Depositary, who shall in turn inform the Parties of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.
4. In its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession any Party may declare that, with respect to it, any additional regional implementation annex or any amendment to any regional implementation annex shall enter into force only upon the deposit of its instrument of ratification acceptance, approval or accession with respect thereto.

Article 35 - Interim arrangements

The secretariat functions referred to in Article 23 will be carried out on an interim basis by the secretariat established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, until the completion of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

Article 36 - Entry into force

1. The Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
2. For each State or regional economic integration organization ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
3. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2, any instrument deposited by a regional economic integration organization shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by States members of the organization.

Article 37 - Reservations

No reservations may be made to this Convention.

Article 38 - Withdrawal

1. At any time after three years from the date on which the Convention has entered into force for a Party, that Party may withdraw from the Convention by giving written notification to the Depositary.
2. Any such withdrawal shall take effect upon expiry of one year from the date of receipt by the Depositary of the notification of withdrawal, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification of withdrawal.

Article 39 - Depositary

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the Depositary of the Convention.

Article 40 - Authentic Texts

The original of the present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect have signed the present Convention. DONE AT Paris, this 17th day of June one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four.

Annex I - Regional Implementation Annex for Africa

Article 1 - Scope

This Annex applies to Africa, in relation to each Party and in conformity with the Convention, in particular its Article 7, for the purpose of combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought in its arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

Article 2 - Purpose

The purpose of this Annex, at the national, subregional and regional levels in Africa and in the light of its particular conditions, is to:

- (a) identify measures and arrangements, including the nature and processes of assistance provided by developed country Parties, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention
- (b) provide for the efficient and practical implementation of the Convention to address conditions specific to Africa; and
- (c) promote processes and activities relating to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought within the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas of Africa.

Article 3 - Particular conditions of the African region

In carrying out their obligations under the Convention, the Parties shall in the implementation of this Annex, adopt a basic approach that takes into consideration the following particular conditions of Africa:

- (a) the high proportion of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas
- (b) the substantial number of countries and populations adversely affected by desertification and by the frequent recurrence of severe drought
- (c) the large number of affected countries that are landlocked;
- (d) the widespread poverty prevalent in most affected countries, the large number of least developed countries among them, and their need for significant amounts of external assistance, in the form of grants and loans on concessional terms, to pursue their development objectives
- (e) the difficult socio-economic conditions, exacerbated by deteriorating and fluctuating terms of trade, external indebtedness and political instability, which induce internal, regional and international migrations
- (f) the heavy reliance of populations on natural resources for subsistence which, compounded by the effects of demographic trends and factors a weak technological base and unsustainable production practices contributes to serious resource degradation
- (g) the insufficient institutional and legal frameworks, the weak infrastructural base and the insufficient scientific, technical and educational capacity, leading to substantial capacity building requirements; and (h) the central role of actions to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought in the national development priorities of affected African countries.

Article 4 - Commitments and obligations of African country Parties

1. In accordance with their respective capabilities, African country Parties undertake to:
 - (a) adopt the combating of desertification and/or the mitigation of the effects of drought as a central strategy in their efforts to eradicate poverty
 - (b) promote regional cooperation and integration, in a spirit of solidarity and partnership based on mutual interest, in programmes and activities to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought

(c) rationalize and strengthen existing institutions concerned with desertification and drought and involve other existing institutions as appropriate, in order to make them more effective and to ensure more efficient use of resources

(d) promote the exchange of information on appropriate technology knowledge, know-how and practices between and among them; and

(e) develop contingency plans for mitigating the effects of drought in areas degraded by desertification and/or drought.

2. Pursuant to the general and specific obligations set out in Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, affected African country Parties shall aim to:

(a) make appropriate financial allocations from their national budgets consistent with national conditions and capabilities and reflecting the new priority Africa has accorded to the phenomenon of desertification and/or drought

(b) sustain and strengthen reforms currently in progress toward greater decentralization and resource tenure as well as reinforce participation of local populations and communities; and

(c) identify and mobilize new and additional national financial resources and expand, as a matter of priority, existing national capabilities and facilities to mobilize domestic financial resources.

Article 5 - Commitments and obligations of developed country Parties

1. In fulfilling their obligations pursuant to Articles 4, 6 and 7 of the Convention, developed country Parties shall give priority to affected African country Parties and, in this context, shall:

(a) assist them to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought by, inter alia, providing and/or facilitating access to financial and/or other resources, and promoting, financing and/or facilitating the financing of the transfer, adaptation and access to appropriate environmental technologies and know-how, as mutually agreed and in accordance with national policies, taking into account their adoption of poverty eradication as a central strategy

(b) continue to allocate significant resources and/or increase resources to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought; and

(c) assist them in strengthening capacities to enable them to improve their institutional frameworks, as well as their scientific and technical capabilities, information collection and analysis, and research and development for the purpose of combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought.

2. Other country Parties may provide, on a voluntary basis, technology, knowledge and know-how relating to desertification and/or financial resources to affected African country Parties. The transfer of such knowledge, know-how and techniques is facilitated by international cooperation.

Article 6 - Strategic planning framework for sustainable development

1. National action programmes shall be a central and integral part of a broader process of formulating national policies for the sustainable development of affected African country Parties.

2. A consultative and participatory process involving appropriate levels of government, local populations, communities and non-governmental organizations shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum participation from local populations and communities. As appropriate, bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies may be involved in this process at the request of an affected African country Party.

Article 7 - Timetable for preparation of action programmes

Pending entry into force of this Convention, the African country Parties in cooperation with other members of the international community, as appropriate shall, to the extent possible, provisionally apply those provisions of the Convention relating to the preparation of national, subregional and regional action programmes.

Article 8 - Content of national action programmes

1. Consistent with Article 10 of the Convention, the overall strategy of national action programmes shall emphasize integrated local development programmes for affected areas, based on participatory mechanisms and on integration of strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The programmes shall aim at strengthening the capacity of local authorities and ensuring the active involvement of local populations, communities and groups, with emphasis on education and training, mobilization of non-governmental organizations with proven expertise and strengthening of decentralized governmental structures.

2. National action programmes shall, as appropriate, include the following general features:

(a) the use, in developing and implementing national action programmes of past experiences in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account social, economic and ecological conditions;

(b) the identification of factors contributing to desertification and/or drought and the resources and capacities available and required, and the setting up of appropriate policies and institutional and other responses and measures necessary to combat those phenomena and/or mitigate their effects; and (c) the increase in participation of local populations and communities including women, farmers and pastoralists, and delegation to them of more responsibility for management.

3. National action programmes shall also, as appropriate, include the following:

(a) measures to improve the economic environment with a view to eradicating poverty:

(i) increasing incomes and employment opportunities especially for the poorest members of the community, by:

- developing markets for farm and livestock products
- creating financial instruments suited to local needs

- encouraging diversification in agriculture and the setting-up of agricultural enterprises;
and - developing economic activities of a paraagricultural or non-agricultural type

(ii) improving the long-term prospects of rural economies by the creation of:

- incentives for productive investment and access to the means of production; and - price and tax policies and commercial practices that promote growth

(iii) defining and applying population and migration policies to reduce population pressure on land; and

(iv) promoting the use of drought resistant crops and the application of integrated dry-land farming systems for food security purposes

(b) measures to conserve natural resources:

(i) ensuring integrated and sustainable management of natural resources, including:

- agricultural land and pastoral land

- vegetation cover and wildlife

- forests

- water resources; and

- biological diversity;

(ii) training with regard to, and strengthening, public awareness and environmental education campaigns and disseminating knowledge of techniques relating to the sustainable management of natural resources; and

(iii) ensuring the development and efficient use of diverse energy sources, the promotion of alternative sources of energy, particularly solar energy, wind energy and biogas and specific arrangements for the transfer acquisition and adaptation of relevant technology to alleviate the pressure on fragile natural resources

(c) measures to improve institutional organization:

(i) defining the roles and responsibilities of central government and local authorities within the framework of a land use planning policy

(ii) encouraging a policy of active decentralization, devolving responsibility for management and decision-making to local authorities, and encouraging initiatives and the assumption of responsibility by local communities and the establishment of local structures; and (iii) adjusting, as appropriate, the institutional and regulatory framework of natural resource management to provide security of land tenure for local populations

(d) measures to improve knowledge of desertification:

(i) promoting research and the collection, processing and exchange of information on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of desertification

(ii) improving national capabilities in research and in the collection, processing, exchange and analysis of information so as to increase understanding and to translate the results of the analysis into operational terms; and (iii) encouraging the medium and long term study of:

- socio-economic and cultural trends in affected areas
- qualitative and quantitative trends in natural resources; and - the interaction between climate and desertification and

(e) measures to monitor and assess the effects of drought:

(i) developing strategies to evaluate the impacts of natural climate variability on regional drought and desertification and/or to utilize predictions of climate variability on seasonal to interannual time scales in efforts to mitigate the effects of drought

(ii) improving early warning and response capacity, efficiently managing emergency relief and food aid, and improving food stocking and distribution systems, cattle protection schemes and public works and alternative livelihoods for drought prone areas; and

(iii) monitoring and assessing ecological degradation to provide reliable and timely information on the process and dynamics of resource degradation in order to facilitate better policy formulations and responses.

Article 9 - Preparation of national action programmes and implementation and evaluation indicators

Each affected African country Party shall designate an appropriate national coordinating body to function as a catalyst in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of its national action programme. This coordinating body shall in the light of Article 3 and as appropriate:

(a) undertake an identification and review of actions, beginning with a locally driven consultation process, involving local populations and communities and with the cooperation of local administrative authorities, developed country Parties and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, on the basis of initial consultations of those concerned at the national level

(b) identify and analyze the constraints, needs and gaps affecting development and sustainable land use and recommend practical measures to avoid duplication by making full use of relevant ongoing efforts and promote implementation of results

(c) facilitate, design and formulate project activities based on interactive, flexible approaches in order to ensure active participation of the population in affected areas, to minimize the negative impact of such activities, and to identify and prioritize requirements for financial assistance and technical cooperation

(d) establish pertinent, quantifiable and readily verifiable indicators to ensure the assessment and evaluation of national action programmes which encompass actions in the short, medium and long terms, and of the implementation of such programmes; and (e) prepare progress reports on the implementation of the national action programmes.

Article 10 - Organizational framework of subregional action programmes

1. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Convention, African country Parties shall cooperate in the preparation and implementation of subregional action programmes for central, eastern, northern, southern and western Africa and, in that regard may delegate the following responsibilities to relevant subregional intergovernmental organizations:

- (a) acting as focal points for preparatory activities and coordinating the implementation of the subregional action programmes
- (b) assisting in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes
- (c) facilitating the exchange of information, experience and know-how as well as providing advice on the review of national legislation; and (d) any other responsibilities relating to the implementation of subregional action programmes.

2. Specialized subregional institutions may provide support, upon request, and/or be entrusted with the responsibility to coordinate activities in their respective fields of competence.

Article 11 - Content and preparation of subregional action programmes

Subregional action programmes shall focus on issues that are better addressed at the subregional level. They shall establish, where necessary mechanisms for the management of shared natural resources. Such mechanisms shall effectively handle transboundary problems associated with desertification and/or drought and shall provide support for the harmonious implementation of national action programmes. Priority areas for subregional action programmes shall, as appropriate, focus on:

- (a) joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, as appropriate
- (b) coordination of programmes to develop alternative energy sources
- (c) cooperation in the management and control of pests as well as of plant and animal diseases
- (d) capacity building, education and public awareness activities that are better carried out or supported at the subregional level;
- (e) scientific and technical cooperation, particularly in the climatological, meteorological and hydrological fields, including networking for data collection and assessment, information sharing and project monitoring, and coordination and prioritization of research and development activities
- (f) early warning systems and joint planning for mitigating the effects of drought, including measures to address the problems resulting from environmentally induced migrations
- (g) exploration of ways of sharing experiences, particularly regarding participation of local populations and communities, and creation of an enabling environment for improved land use management and for use of appropriate technologies
- (h) strengthening of the capacity of subregional organizations to coordinate and provide technical services, as well as establishment reorientation and strengthening of subregional centres and institutions; and (i) development of policies in fields, such as trade, which have impact upon affected areas and populations, including policies for the coordination of regional marketing regimes and for common infrastructure.

Article 12 - Organizational framework of the regional action programme

1. Pursuant to Article 11 of the Convention, African country Parties shall jointly determine the procedures for preparing and implementing the regional action programme.
2. The Parties may provide appropriate support to relevant African regional institutions and organizations to enable them to assist African country Parties to fulfil their responsibilities under the Convention.

Article 13 - Content of the regional action programme

The regional action programme includes measures relating to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought in the following priority areas, as appropriate:

- (a) development of regional cooperation and coordination of sub-regional action programmes for building regional consensus on key policy areas including through regular consultations of sub-regional organizations
- (b) promotion of capacity building in activities which are better implemented at the regional level;
- (c) the seeking of solutions with the international community to global economic and social issues that have an impact on affected areas taking into account Article 4, Paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention
- (d) promotion among the affected country Parties of Africa and its subregions, as well as with other affected regions, of exchange of information and appropriate techniques, technical know-how and relevant experience; promotion of scientific and technological cooperation particularly in the fields of climatology, meteorology, hydrology, water resource development and alternative energy sources coordination of sub-regional and regional research activities; and identification of regional priorities for research and development
- (e) coordination of networks for systematic observation and assessment and information exchange, as well as their integration into world wide networks; and (f) coordination of and reinforcement of sub-regional and regional early warning systems and drought contingency plans.

Article 14 - Financial resources

1. Pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention and Article 4, Paragraph 2, affected African country Parties shall endeavour to provide a macroeconomic framework conducive to the mobilization of financial resources and shall develop policies and establish procedures to channel resources more effectively to local development programmes, including through non-governmental organizations, as appropriate.
2. Pursuant to Article 21, Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Convention, the Parties agree to establish an inventory of sources of funding at the national subregional, regional and international levels to ensure the rational use of existing resources and to identify gaps in resource allocation, to facilitate implementation of the action programmes. The inventory shall be regularly reviewed and updated.
3. Consistent with Article 7 of the Convention, the developed country Parties shall continue to allocate significant resources and/or increased resources as well as other forms of assistance to affected African country Parties on the basis of partnership

agreements and arrangements referred to in Article 18, giving, inter alia, due attention to matters related to debt, international trade and marketing arrangements in accordance with Article 4, Paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention.

Article 15 - Financial Mechanisms

1. Consistent with Article 7 of the Convention underscoring the priority to affected African country Parties and considering the particular situation prevailing in this region, the Parties shall pay special attention to the implementation in Africa of the provisions of Article 21, Paragraph 1 (d) and (e) of the Convention, notably by:

(a) facilitating the establishment of mechanisms, such as national desertification funds, to channel financial resources to the local level; and

(b) strengthening existing funds and financial mechanisms at the subregional and regional levels.

2. Consistent with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, the Parties which are also members of the governing bodies of relevant regional and subregional financial institutions, including the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund, shall promote efforts to give due priority and attention to the activities of those institutions that advance the implementation of this Annex.

3. The Parties shall streamline, to the extent possible, procedures for channelling funds to affected African country Parties.

Article 16 - Technical assistance and cooperation

The Parties undertake, in accordance with their respective capabilities, to rationalize technical assistance to, and cooperation with, African country Parties with a view to increasing project and programme effectiveness by inter alia:

(a) limiting the costs of support measures and backstopping, especially overhead costs; in any case, such costs shall only represent an appropriately low percentage of the total cost of the project so as to maximize project efficiency

(b) giving preference to the utilization of competent national experts or where necessary, competent experts from within the subregion and/or region, in project design, preparation and implementation, and to the building of local expertise where it does not exist; and (c) effectively managing and coordinating, as well as efficiently utilizing, technical assistance to be provided.

Article 17 - Transfer, acquisition, adaptation and access to environmentally sound technology

In implementing Article 18 of the Convention relating to transfer acquisition, adaptation and development of technology, the Parties undertake to give priority to African country Parties and, as necessary, to develop with them new models of partnership and cooperation with a view to strengthening capacity building in the fields of scientific research and development and information collection and dissemination to enable them to implement their strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

Article 18 - Coordination and partnership agreements

1. African country Parties shall coordinate the preparation, negotiation and implementation of national, subregional and regional action programmes. They may involve, as appropriate, other Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in this process.
2. The objectives of such coordination shall be to ensure that financial and technical cooperation is consistent with the Convention and to provide the necessary continuity in the use and administration of resources.
3. African country Parties shall organize consultative processes at the national, subregional and regional levels. These consultative processes may:
 - (a) serve as a forum to negotiate and conclude partnership agreements based on national, subregional and regional action programmes; and
 - (b) specify the contribution of African country Parties and other members of the consultative groups to the programmes and identify priorities and agreements on implementation and evaluation indicators, as well as funding arrangements for implementation.
4. The Permanent Secretariat may, at the request of African country Parties, pursuant to Article 23 of the Convention, facilitate the convocation of such consultative processes by:
 - (a) providing advice on the organization of effective consultative arrangements, drawing on experiences from other such arrangements
 - (b) providing information to relevant bilateral and multilateral agencies concerning consultative meetings or processes, and encouraging their active involvement; and
 - (c) providing other information that may be relevant in establishing or improving consultative arrangements.
5. The subregional and regional coordinating bodies shall, inter alia:
 - (a) recommend appropriate adjustments to partnership agreements
 - (b) monitor, assess and report on the implementation of the agreed subregional and regional programmes; and
 - (c) aim to ensure efficient communication and cooperation among African country Parties.
6. Participation in the consultative groups shall, as appropriate, be open to Governments, interested groups and donors, relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant subregional and regional organizations, and representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations. Participants of each consultative group shall determine the modalities of its management and operation.
7. Pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, developed country Parties are encouraged to develop, on their own initiative, an informal process of consultation and coordination among themselves, at the national, subregional and regional levels, and, at the request of an affected African country Party or of an appropriate subregional or regional organization, to participate in a national, subregional or regional consultative process that would evaluate and respond to assistance needs in order to facilitate implementation.

Article 19 - Follow-up arrangements

Follow-up of this Annex shall be carried out by African country Parties in accordance with the Convention as follows:

- (a) at the national level, by a mechanism the composition of which should be determined by each affected African country Party and which shall include representatives of local communities and shall function under the supervision of the national coordinating body referred to in Article 9
- (b) at the subregional level, by a multidisciplinary scientific and technical consultative committee, the composition and modalities of operation of which shall be determined by the African country Parties of the subregion concerned; and (c) at the regional level, by mechanisms defined in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, and by an African Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.

Annex II - Regional Implementation Annex for Asia

Article 1 - Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements for the effective implementation of the Convention in the affected country Parties of the Asian region in the light of its particular conditions.

Article 2 - Particular conditions of the Asian region

In carrying out their obligations under the Convention, the Parties shall as appropriate, take into consideration the following particular conditions which apply in varying degrees to the affected country Parties of the region:

- (a) the high proportion of areas in their territories affected by, or vulnerable to, desertification and drought and the broad diversity of these areas with regard to climate, topography, land use and socioeconomic systems
- (b) the heavy pressure on natural resources for livelihoods
- (c) the existence of production systems, directly related to widespread poverty, leading to land degradation and to pressure on scarce water resources
- (d) the significant impact of conditions in the world economy and social problems such as poverty, poor health and nutrition, lack of food security, migration, displaced persons and demographic dynamics
- (e) their expanding, but still insufficient, capacity and institutional frameworks to deal with national desertification and drought problems, and
- (f) their need for international cooperation to pursue sustainable development objectives relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Article 3 - Framework for national action programmes

1. National action programmes shall be an integral part of broader national policies for sustainable development of the affected country Parties of the region.

2. The affected country Parties shall, as appropriate, develop national action programmes pursuant to Articles 9 to 11 of the Convention, paying special attention to Article 10, Paragraph 2 (f). As appropriate, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies may be involved in this process at the request of the affected country Party concerned.

Article 4 - National action programmes

1. In preparing and implementing national action programmes, the affected country Parties of the region, consistent with their respective circumstances and policies, may, inter alia, as appropriate:

- (a) designate appropriate bodies responsible for the preparation coordination and implementation of their action programmes
- (b) involve affected populations, including local communities, in the elaboration, coordination and implementation of their action programmes through a locally driven consultative process, with the cooperation of local authorities and relevant national and nongovernmental organizations
- (c) survey the state of the environment in affected areas to assess the causes and consequences of desertification and to determine priority areas for action
- (d) evaluate, with the participation of affected populations, past and current programmes for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, in order to design a strategy and elaborate activities in their action programmes
- (e) prepare technical and financial programmes based on the information derived from the activities in subparagraphs (a) to (d)
- (f) develop and utilize procedures and benchmarks for evaluating implementation of their action programmes
- (g) promote the integrated management of drainage basins, the conservation of soil resources, and the enhancement and efficient use of water resources
- (h) strengthen and/or establish information, evaluation and follow up and early warning systems in regions prone to desertification and drought taking account of climatological, meteorological, hydrological biological and other relevant factors; and (i) formulate in a spirit of partnership, where international cooperation including financial and technical resources, is involved, appropriate arrangements supporting their action programmes.

2. Consistent with Article 10 of the Convention, the overall strategy of national action programmes shall emphasize integrated local development programmes for affected areas, based on participatory mechanisms and on the integration of strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Sectoral measures in the action programmes shall be grouped in priority fields which take account of the broad diversity of affected areas in the region referred to in Article 2(a).

Article 5 - Subregional and joint action programmes

1. Pursuant to Article 11 of the Convention, affected country Parties in Asia may mutually agree to consult and cooperate with other Parties, as appropriate, to prepare and implement subregional or joint action programmes, as appropriate, in order to complement, and increase effectiveness in the implementation of, national action

programmes. In either case, the relevant Parties may jointly agree to entrust subregional, including bilateral or national organizations, or specialized institutions, with responsibilities relating to the preparation, coordination and implementation of programmes. Such organizations or institutions may also act as focal points for the promotion and coordination of actions pursuant to Articles 16 to 18 of the Convention.

2. In preparing and implementing subregional or joint action programmes the affected country Parties of the region shall, inter alia, as appropriate:

(a) identify, in cooperation with national institutions, priorities relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought which can better be met by such programmes, as well as relevant activities which could be effectively carried out through them

(b) evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant regional, subregional and national institutions

(c) assess existing programmes relating to desertification and drought among all or some parties of the region or subregion and their relationship with national action programmes; and (d) formulate in a spirit of partnership, where international cooperation including financial and technical resources, is involved, appropriate bilateral and/or multilateral arrangements supporting the programmes.

3. Subregional or joint action programmes may include agreed joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources relating to desertification, priorities for coordination and other activities in the fields of capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation particularly drought early warning systems and information sharing, and means of strengthening the relevant subregional and other organizations or institutions.

Article 6 - Regional activities

Regional activities for the enhancement of subregional or joint action programmes may include, inter alia, measures to strengthen institutions and mechanisms for coordination and cooperation at the national, subregional and regional levels, and to promote the implementation of Articles 16 to 19 of the Convention. These activities may also include:

(a) promoting and strengthening technical cooperation networks

(b) preparing inventories of technologies, knowledge, know-how and practices, as well as traditional and local technologies and know-how and promoting their dissemination and use

(c) evaluating the requirements for technology transfer and promoting the adaptation and use of such technologies; and (d) encouraging public awareness programmes and promoting capacity building at all levels, strengthening training, research and development and building systems for human resource development.

Article 7 - Financial resources and mechanisms

1. The Parties shall, in view of the importance of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in the Asian region promote the mobilization of

substantial financial resources and the availability of financial mechanisms, pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention.

2. In conformity with the Convention and on the basis of the coordinating mechanism provided for in Article 8 and in accordance with their national development policies, affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly:

(a) adopt measures to rationalize and strengthen mechanisms to supply funds through public and private investment with a view to achieving specific results in action to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

(b) identify international cooperation requirements in support of national efforts, particularly financial, technical and technological; and (c) promote the participation of bilateral and/or multilateral financial cooperation institutions with a view to ensuring implementation of the Convention.

3. The Parties shall streamline, to the extent possible, procedures for channelling funds to affected country Parties in the region.

Article 8 - Cooperation and coordination mechanisms

1. Affected country Parties, through the appropriate bodies designated pursuant to Article 4, Paragraph 1 (a), and other Parties in the region, may, as appropriate, set up a mechanism for, inter alia, the following purposes:

(a) exchange of information, experience, knowledge and know-how

(b) cooperation and coordination of actions, including bilateral and multilateral arrangements, at the subregional and regional levels

(c) promotion of scientific, technical, technological and financial cooperation pursuant to Articles 5 to 7

(d) identification of external cooperation requirements; and (e) follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of action programmes.

2. Affected country Parties, through the appropriate bodies designated pursuant to Article 4, Paragraph 1 (a), and other Parties in the region, may also, as appropriate, consult and coordinate as regards the national, subregional and joint action programmes. They may involve, as appropriate, other Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in this process. Such coordination shall, inter alia, seek to secure agreement on opportunities for international cooperation in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention, enhance technical cooperation and channel resources so that they are used effectively.

3. Affected country Parties of the region shall hold periodic coordination meetings, and the Permanent Secretariat may, at their request pursuant to Article 23 of the Convention, facilitate the convocation of such coordination meetings by:

(a) providing advice on the organization of effective coordination arrangements, drawing on experience from other such arrangements

(b) providing information to relevant bilateral and multilateral agencies concerning coordination meetings, and encouraging their active involvement; and (c) providing other information that may be relevant in establishing or improving coordination processes.

Annex III - Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean

Article 1 - Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to provide general guidelines for the implementation of the Convention in the Latin American and Caribbean region, in light of its particular conditions.

Article 2 - Particular conditions of the Latin American and Caribbean region

The Parties shall, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, take into consideration the following particular conditions of the region:

(a) the existence of broad expanses which are vulnerable and have been severely affected by desertification and/or drought and in which diverse characteristics may be observed, depending on the area in which they occur; this cumulative and intensifying process has negative social, cultural, economic and environmental effects which are all the more serious in that the region contains one of the largest resources of biological diversity in the world

(b) the frequent use of unsustainable development practices in affected areas as a result of complex interactions among physical, biological political, social, cultural and economic factors, including international economic factors such as external indebtedness deteriorating terms of trade and trade practices which affect markets for agricultural, fishery and forestry products; and

(c) a sharp drop in the productivity of ecosystems being the main consequence of desertification and drought, taking the form of a decline in agricultural, livestock and forestry yields and a loss of biological diversity; from the social point of view, the results are impoverishment, migration, internal population movements, and the deterioration of the quality of life; the region will therefore have to adopt an integrated approach to problems of desertification and drought by promoting sustainable development models that are in keeping with the environmental, economic and social situation in each country.

Article 3 - Action programmes

1. In conformity with the Convention, in particular its Articles 9 to 11, and in accordance with their national development policies, affected country Parties of the region shall, as appropriate, prepare and implement national action programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought as an integral part of their national policies for sustainable development. Subregional and regional programmes may be prepared and implemented in accordance with the requirements of the region.

2. In the preparation of their national action programmes, affected country Parties of the region shall pay particular attention to Article 10 Paragraph 2 (f) of the Convention.

Article 4 - Content of national action programmes

In the light of their respective situations, the affected country Parties of the region may take account, inter alia, of the following thematic issues in developing their national

strategies for action to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought, pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

- (a) increasing capacities, education and public awareness, technical scientific and technological cooperation and financial resources and mechanisms
- (b) eradicating poverty and improving the quality of human life
- (c) achieving food security and sustainable development and management of agricultural, livestock-rearing, forestry and multipurpose activities
- (d) sustainable management of natural resources, especially the rational management of drainage basins
- (e) sustainable management of natural resources in high-altitude areas
- (f) rational management and conservation of soil resources and exploitation and efficient use of water resources
- (g) formulation and application of emergency plans to mitigate the effects of drought
- (h) strengthening and/or establishing information, evaluation and follow-up and early warning systems in areas prone to desertification and drought, taking account of climatological, meteorological hydrological, biological, soil, economic and social factors
- (i) developing, managing and efficiently using diverse sources of energy including the promotion of alternative sources;
- (j) conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- (k) consideration of demographic aspects related to desertification and drought; and (l) establishing or strengthening institutional and legal frameworks permitting application of the Convention and aimed, inter alia, at decentralizing administrative structures and functions relating to desertification and drought, with the participation of affected communities and society in general.

Article 5 - Technical, scientific and technological cooperation

In conformity with the Convention, in particular its Articles 16 to 18, and on the basis of the coordinating mechanism provided for in Article 7, affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly:

- (a) promote the strengthening of technical cooperation networks and national, subregional and regional information systems, as well as their integration, as appropriate, in worldwide sources of information
- (b) prepare an inventory of available technologies and know-how and promote their dissemination and use
- (c) promote the use of traditional technology, knowledge, know-how and practices pursuant to Article 18, Paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention
- (d) identify transfer of technology requirements; and (e) promote the development, adaptation, adoption and transfer of relevant existing and new environmentally sound technologies.

Article 6 - Financial resources and mechanisms

In conformity with the Convention, in particular its Articles 20 and 21, on the basis of the coordinating mechanism provided for in Article 7 and in accordance with their national development policies, affected country Parties of the region shall, individually or jointly:

- (a) adopt measures to rationalize and strengthen mechanisms to supply funds through public and private investment with a view to achieving specific results in action to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- (b) identify international cooperation requirements in support of national efforts; and
- (c) promote the participation of bilateral and/or multilateral financial cooperation institutions with a view to ensuring implementation of the Convention.

Article 7 - Institutional framework

1. In order to give effect to this Annex, affected country Parties of the region shall:

- (a) establish and/or strengthen national focal points to coordinate action to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought; and (b) set up a mechanism to coordinate the national focal points for the following purposes:
 - (i) exchanges of information and experience
 - (ii) coordination of activities at the subregional and regional levels
 - (iii) promotion of technical, scientific, technological and financial cooperation
 - (iv) identification of external cooperation requirements; and (v) follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of action programmes.

2. Affected country Parties of the region shall hold periodic coordination meetings and the Permanent Secretariat may, at their request pursuant to Article 23 of the Convention, facilitate the convocation of such coordination meetings, by:

- (a) providing advice on the organization of effective coordination arrangements, drawing on experience from other such arrangements
- (b) providing information to relevant bilateral and multilateral agencies concerning coordination meetings, and encouraging their active involvement; and (c) providing other information that may be relevant in establishing or improving coordination processes.

Annex IV - Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean

Article 1 - Purpose

The purpose of this Annex is to provide guidelines and arrangements necessary for the effective implementation of the Convention in affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean region in the light of its particular conditions.

Article 2 - Particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean region

The particular conditions of the northern Mediterranean region referred to in Article 1 include:

- (a) semi-arid climatic conditions affecting large areas, seasonal droughts, very high rainfall variability and sudden and high-intensity rainfall

- (b) poor and highly erodible soils, prone to develop surface crusts
- (c) uneven relief with steep slopes and very diversified landscapes
- (d) extensive forest coverage losses due to frequent wildfires
- (e) crisis conditions in traditional agriculture with associated land abandonment and deterioration of soil and water conservation structures
- (f) unsustainable exploitation of water resources leading to serious environmental damage, including chemical pollution, salinization and exhaustion of aquifers; and (g) concentration of economic activity in coastal areas as a result of urban growth, industrial activities, tourism and irrigated agriculture.

Article 3 - Strategic planning framework for sustainable development

1. National action programmes shall be a central and integral part of the strategic planning framework for sustainable development of the affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean.
2. A consultative and participatory process, involving appropriate levels of government, local communities and non-governmental organizations, shall be undertaken to provide guidance on a strategy with flexible planning to allow maximum local participation, pursuant to Article 10, Paragraph 2 (f) of the Convention.

Article 4 - Obligation to prepare national action programmes and timetable

Affected country Parties of the northern Mediterranean region shall prepare national action programmes and, as appropriate, subregional, regional or joint action programmes. The preparation of such programmes shall be finalized as soon as practicable.

Article 5 - Preparation and implementation of national action programmes In preparing and implementing national action programmes pursuant to Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention, each affected country Party of the region shall, as appropriate:

- (a) designate appropriate bodies responsible for the preparation coordination and implementation of its programme
- (b) involve affected populations, including local communities, in the elaboration, coordination and implementation of the programme through a locally driven consultative process, with the cooperation of local authorities and relevant non-governmental organizations
- (c) survey the state of the environment in affected areas to assess the causes and consequences of desertification and to determine priority areas for action
- (d) evaluate, with the participation of affected populations, past and current programmes in order to design a strategy and elaborate activities in the action programme
- (e) prepare technical and financial programmes based on the information gained through the activities in subparagraphs (a) to (d); and (f) develop and utilize procedures and benchmarks for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme.

Article 6 - Content of national action programmes

Affected country Parties of the region may include, in their national action programmes, measures relating to:

- (a) legislative, institutional and administrative areas
- (b) land use patterns, management of water resources, soil conservation forestry, agricultural activities and pasture and range management
- (c) management and conservation of wildlife and other forms of biological diversity
- (d) protection against forest fires
- (e) promotion of alternative livelihoods; and
- (f) research, training and public awareness.

Article 7 - Subregional, regional and joint action programmes

1. Affected country Parties of the region may, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, prepare and implement subregional and/or regional action programmes in order to complement and increase the efficiency of national action programmes. Two or more affected country Parties of the region, may similarly agree to prepare a joint action programme between or among them.

2. The provisions of Articles 5 and 6 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the preparation and implementation of subregional, regional and joint action programmes. In addition, such programmes may include the conduct of research and development activities concerning selected ecosystems in affected areas.

3. In preparing and implementing subregional, regional or joint action programmes, affected country Parties of the region shall, as appropriate:

- (a) identify, in cooperation with national institutions, national objectives relating to desertification which can better be met by such programmes and relevant activities which could be effectively carried out through them
- (b) evaluate the operational capacities and activities of relevant regional, subregional and national institutions; and (c) assess existing programmes relating to desertification among Parties of the region and their relationship with national action programmes.

Article 8 - Coordination of subregional, regional and joint action programmes

Affected country Parties preparing a subregional, regional or joint action programme may establish a coordination committee composed of representatives of each affected country Party concerned to review progress in combating desertification, harmonize national action programmes, make recommendations at the various stages of preparation and implementation of the subregional, regional or joint action programme, and act as a focal point for the promotion and coordination of technical cooperation pursuant to Articles 16 to 19 of the Convention.

Article 9

Non-eligibility for financial assistance In implementing national, subregional, regional and joint action programmes affected developed country Parties of the region are not eligible to receive financial assistance under this Convention.

Article 10

Coordination with other subregions and regions Subregional, regional and joint action programmes in the northern Mediterranean region may be prepared and implemented in collaboration with those of other subregions or regions, particularly with those of the subregion of northern Africa.

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Annex 2 African Signatories to the UN CCD

		Country Date of Ratification / Accession							
1.	Algeria	May	22,	1996	27.	Liberia	March	2	1998*
2.	Angola	June	30,	1997	28.	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	July	22	1996
3.	Benin	August	29,	1996	29.	Madagascar	June	25	1997
4.	Botswana	September	11,	1996	30.	Malawi	June	13	1996
5.	Burkina Faso	January	26,	1996	31.	Mali	October	31	1995
6.	Burundi	January	6	1997	32.	Mauritania	August	7	1996
7.	Cameroon	May	29,	1997	33.	Mauritius	January	23	1996
8.	Cape Verde	May	8	1995	34.	Morocco	November	7	1996
9.	CAR	September	5	1996	35.	Mozambique	March	13	1997
10.	Chad	September	27,	1996	36.	Namibia	May	16	1997
11.	Comoros	March	3	1998	37.	Niger	January	19	1996
12.	Congo	July	12,	1999	38.	Nigeria	July	8	1997
13.	Côte d'Ivoire	March	4	1997	39.	Rwanda	October	22	19988
14.	DR Congo	September	12,	1997	40.	Sao Tome & Principe	July	8	1998
15.	Djibouti	June	12,	1997	41.	Senegal	July	26	1995
16.	Egypt	July	7	1995	42.	Seychelles	June	26	1997
17.	Equatorial Guinea	June	27,	1997	43.	Sierra Leone	September	25	1997
18.	Eritrea	August	14,	1996	44.	South Africa	September	30	1997
19.	Ethiopia	June	27,	1997	45.	Sudan	November	9	1995
20.	Gabon	September	6	1996*	46.	Swaziland	October	7	1996
21.	Gambia	June	11,	1996	47.	Togo	October	4	1995**
22.	Ghana	December	27,	1996	48.	Tunisia	October	11	1995
23.	Guinea	June	23,	1997	49.	Uganda	June	25	1997
24.	Guinea- Bissau	October	27,	1995	50.	Zambia	September	19	1996
25.	Kenya	June	24,	1997	51.	Zimbabwe	September	23	1997
26.	Lesotho	September	12,	1995					

Annex 3 List of Interviews and Questionnaires

ORGANISATION	NAME
SNTC (NEEP)	Ms. Dzelisa Dlamini
SNTC (TFCA)	Mr. Wisdom Dlamini
SWAZI TRAILS	Mr. Darron Raw
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT	Dr. Irma Allen
SEA	Mr. Steve Zuke
MOAC (PLANNING& DEVELOPMENT)	Mr. Bongani Masuku
MOAC (LANDUSE PLANING)	Mr. Dumsani Mngometulu
MWPT (METEOLOGY)	Mr. Emmanuel Dlamini
MNRE (ENERGY SECTION)	Mr. Peterson Dlamini
CONSULTANT	Dr. Arie Rimmelzwaal
SNTC (Malolotja Nature Reserve)	Mr. Ray Gama
SNTC (CEO)	Mr. Sinaye Mamba
CANGO	Mr. Clement Dlamini
SNTC (DIRECTOR OF PARKS)	Mr. Sikhumbuzo Dlamini

Annex 4 List Of Questionnaires

Government departments		Section	No of questionnaires	Response
Raphael Sangweni	MNRE	Water resources	1	0
Peterson Dlamini	MNRE	Energy	1	1
Similo Mavimbela	MOAC	Research station	1	1
Dumsani Mngometulu	MOAC	Land use planning	1	0
Bongani Xaba	MOAC	Livestock	1	1
ST Gamedze	MOAC	Forestry	1	0
Vakela Gama	MEPD	Planning	1	1
Faith Mkhathshwa	MPWT	Environmental planning	1	1
Dudu Nhlengetfwa	MPWT	Meteorology	1	1
Parastatal				
Poppy Khoza	STA	Tourism	1	0
Lynn Kota	SKPE	Environment	1	1
Ian Van Zaydum	KOBWA	Environment	1	0
Wisdom Dlamini	SNTC	Peace Parks	1	1
Dzelisa Dlamini	SNTC	NEEP	1	1
Vusi Simelane	SEB	Environment	1	1
NGO's				
Thuli Makama	Yonge Nawe		1	0
Emmanuel Dlangamandla	CANGO		1	1
Private Companies				
				1
Patience Simelane	SAPPI	Forest planning	1	0
Mr Bold	PEAK TIMBERS	Environment	1	0
George Brown	Ngonini Estate	Production	1	0
James Kunene	Mantenga Nature Reserve		1	1
Ray Gama	Malolotja Nature Reserve		1	0
School teachers				
Teacher	Mlumati High School	Biology & Geography	2	1
Teacher	Timphisini High School	Biology & Geography	2	1
Teacher	Sphocosini High	Biology & Geography	2	0
Teacher	Mhlatane High	Biology & Geography	2	1
Teacher	Evelyn Barring	Biology & Geography	3	3
Teacher	Siteki Nazarene	Biology & Geography	2	0

Teacher	MDHS	Biology & Geography	2	0
Teacher	Masiphula High	Bilogy & Geography	2	0
SCHOOLS				
Hhohho	Timphisini High School	Biology & Geography	25	23
Hhohho	Mlumati High School	Biology & Geography	25	22
Hhohho	Lobamba National High	BIology & Geography	25	1
Hhohho	Siphocosini High	Biology & Geography	25	0
Hhohho	Mhlatane High School	Biology & Geography	25	0
Shiselweni	Evelyn Baring High	Biology & Geography	25	12
Shiselweni	Masiphula High	Biology & Geography	35	31
Lubombo	Siteki Nazarene	Biology & Geography	40	38
Hhohho	MDHS	Biology & Geography	25	24
Municipalities	Mbabane City Council	Environment	1	1
	Total number of questionnaires		290	171

Annex 5 List Stakeholders at the NCSA Workshop

NAME	EMAIL	TEL	ORGANASATION
NCSA PMG			
Bongani Masuku	moaclds@realnet.co.sz	5184162	MOAC/CCD Focal Point
Rex Brown	rbrown@ecs.co.sz	4044118	NCSA Project Coordinator
Steve Zuke	seabiodiv@realnet.co.sz	4046420	MTEC/Senior Environment Officer
CREATE TEAM			
Dr Ara Monadjem	ara@uniswacc.uniswa.sz	5184011	Consultant, CREATE, CBD
Dr Arie Remmelzwaal	remmelzwaal@africaonline.co.sz	4049118	Consultant, CREATE, CCD
Prof Jonathan Matondo	matondo@uniswacc.uniswa.sz	5185276	Consultant, CREATE, FCC
Dr Marcus Wishart	mwishart@tropical.co.mz		Consultant, CREATE
Steve Woodburn	createsd@africaonline.co.sz	3441356	Consultant, CREATE
CCD			
Nomsa Mabila	shewula@realnet.co.sz		Shewula Community Conservation Project
Peta Masson	peta.hardy@sappi.com		SAPPI (White River, RSA)
Solomon Mabuza	solom@swaziplace.com	2078588	Shiselweni Forestry
Tony Bold	Tony_Bold@mondi.co.za	4371255	Mondi Forests
Khanyisile Mabuza	khanyisile.mabuza@fao.org.sz	4043299	Assistant FAO Representative (MOAC)
Mandla Mlipha	mlipha@science.uniswa.sz		UNISWA GEP DEPT
Moses Vilakati	moses@swase.co.sz		KDDP Livestock Unit
Dr Absalom Manyatsi	manyatsi@agric.uniswa.sz	5283021	UNISWA Land & Mechanisation
Mike McDermott	mikemackd2@yahoo.com.au	4044278	Consultant, Land Policy
Peterson Dlamini	dlaminipe@gov.sz	4046244	MNRE Energy Section
OTHER/ALL			
Dr Imma Allen	szallen@africaonline.co.sz	4042376	Consultant, Environmental Education
Happy Mavimbela	happymav@swazibank.sz		Swazi Bank Environmental Officer
Lynn Kota	lynnk@swade.co.sz	3232274	KDDP Environmental Manager
Bheki Nsibandze		2078392	MOAC (Shiselweni)
Sikelela Madzinane	sikelela@mbacity.org.sz	4042612	Mbabane city Council
Amy Francis	reaswa@swazi.net		Renewable Energy Ass
Lucky Hlatshwako		3434435	Min of Health (Ubombo)
Dudu Nhlengetfwa	dudu@swazinet.gov.sz	4046274	Meteorology
Bernard Mashwana		4041513	SEB
Nokuthula Dlamini	faith@swade.co.sz	3232275	SKPE
Sixolile Kunene	skunene@illovo.co.za	3638472	Ubombo Sugar
Mandla Mahlalela	mmahlalela@illovo.co.za	3638240	Ubombo Sugar
Thembisile Ntshangase		4047761	Public Health Unit
Thembalihlwa Mahlaba	tmahlaba@science.uniswa.sz	5184011	UNISWA

Annex 6 NCSA Stakeholders Workshop Agenda



National Capacity Self-Assessment for the Implementation of the Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity Conventions



STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Venue: Esibayeni Lodge, near Matsapha Airport

Date: 18th November 2004

Welcome and Theme Setting

8:30 (Guest speaker Mr Jameson Vilakati)

Mr Vilakati is the Director of the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA). Responsible for implementation and realization of the UN Conventions in Swaziland Mr Vilakati will introduce the workshop topic and officially open proceedings.

Introduction to the NCSA process

9:00 (Mr. Rex Brown NCSA Co-ordinator)

The Swaziland Environmental Authority, with support from the UNDP and the GEF, has established an NCSA Project Management Group (PMG) to facilitate the National Capacity Self-Assessment.

As coordinator for the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) Project Mr Brown will provide a brief introduction to the NCSA Process, the projects history and the expected outcomes and deliverables from the process.

According to the Terms of Reference (ToR), the objective of the NCSA project is *to identify national capacity constraints and priorities to meet binding commitments contained in the three Rio Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification.*

The information gained through this process is to be used by the PMG to *determine how best to develop this capacity to meet Swaziland's commitment to global environmental management through the production of a strategy and action plan.*

Introduction to the UN Conventions.

9:30 (Dr M. Wishart, Mr S.J Woodburne, Dr A. Matondo, Dr Arie Remmelzwaal)

This session will be based on the findings of the analysis and review of the Consultants. The session will provide an introduction to the UN Conventions, the reasons behind their establishment and overview the obligations and commitments assumed by signatories to the UN Conventions.

Morning Tea

Systemic Capacity – referring to organisational concerns with creation of “enabling environments”, the overall policy, economic, regulatory and accountability frameworks within which institutions and individuals operate and the relationships between institutions, both formal and informal.

Organisational / Network / Sector Capacity - referring to institutional levels and focusing on the overall organisational performance and functioning capabilities as well as the ability to adapt to change.

Individual Capacity - referring to the process of changing attitudes and behaviours, through imparting knowledge and skills developing training. Includes learning by doing, participation, ownership and processes associated with increasing performance through changes in management, motivation, morale and levels of accountability and responsibility. Definition of components common to the three conventions includes human resource capabilities, ecological and geographical conditions, scientific and technological.

Lunch

12:30

Discussion - Convention working groups

13:30 (Facilitators)

Discussion will continue in the working groups.

The working groups will summarise the strengths, weaknesses and constraints.

Emphasis will be placed on examining potential interventions and activities that may be appropriate to overcome the constraints and enhance the strengths. This will be guided by the logical framework approach, an example of which is given in the last section.

Report back to group sessions (Group Leaders)

14:00

Representatives will present the findings from the working groups. These will be presented under the generic headings;

- reporting requirements,
- policy and legislation,
- research and monitoring,
- training and education,
- public awareness,
- financial mechanisms, and
- capacity.

Root Cause Analysis – working session (All)

14:30

The working group findings will be interrogated further using a root-cause analysis. Through a facilitated process participants will assist in working through the various reasons behind the perceived weaknesses and constraints to the underlying, or root, cause.

The causal factors identified through this process will be used to define the key capacity constraints, from which capacity needs will emerge. Capacity needs as identified and

defined through this process will be further discussed with participants in order to examine potential interventions, actions and strategies to overcome and realise the objectives of the Conventions within the context of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Summary and Conclusions (R. Brown and Dr M. Wishart)

16:00

Dr Wishart will provide a summary of the workshops findings.

The SWOT analysis will highlight gaps in meeting the provisions of the UN Conventions. The working sessions will examine reasons behind these. There are several typical and generic constraints, for example, financial and information technology constraints, along with human resources constraints. These need to be explored in detail though. For example, is it a lack of finances per se or simply the ability and awareness of these funds and how to access them, does the hardware exist to facilitate the utilisation of technology or is it a skills base that needs to be developed. These kinds of issues will be explored and identified. The results will be used to populate the logical framework. Specific objectives will be developed to address each of the identified problems. Specific activities will be assigned to ensure that each objective is realised. The Indicators will enable evaluation of the success of these activities.

The NCSA Coordinator, Mr Brown will briefly outline how these will be taken further through the NCSA process and assist in realising Swaziland's potential under the UN Conventions.

This will be guided by the definition of tangible outcomes facilitated by the use of a logical framework. This will be based on the template given below populated during the workshop sessions for each of the Conventions.

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	MEASURABLE INDICATORS	IMPORTANT ASSUMPTIONS
Goal:			
Purpose:			
Objective 1:	•	•	•
Objective 2:	•	•	•