

CHAPTER 14

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

14.1 Vision 2016 has identified the Environment as one of the challenges that will be tackled in order for us to achieve sustainable development. In line with this challenge, Botswana has ratified a number of international conventions and the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism is implementing the related activities, as well as embarking on various projects and programmes. This chapter provides the environmental policy and programme framework that should help in fostering the pursuit of sustainable development by ensuring that due regard is given to environmental considerations in the National Development Planning process in general and in NDP 9 in particular. The chapter is premised on the National Policy on Natural Resources Conservation and Development of 1990 (the National Conservation Strategy - NCS) which is founded on the principle and concept of sustainable development, commonly defined as “.. *development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their on*”...

14.2 The chapter translates the National Conservation Strategy and the NCS Action Plan into specific policies, programmes and instruments of a macro-economic nature, which should serve as incentives in the quest to improve the protection of the country's environment and the conservation of its natural resources. These innovative measures include fiscal policies. It also proposes

specific legislation and provisions which will play a positive role in the overall protection of the environment by, among others, mitigating and ameliorating environmental degradation.

14.3 The chapter is also premised on the notion that achievement of economic growth cannot be maintained without safeguarding the natural capital and the quality resource base on which development is dependent. The process of economic development almost inevitably changes the environment. This raises several questions that should be addressed as part of development planning:

- Which environmental changes have occurred and are expected in future?
- Are there any irreversible changes that require prevention?
- Are there unacceptable changes that require mitigation, amelioration or prevention?
- What are the costs of environmental changes (e.g. reduced development opportunities, mitigation costs)?
- Are natural resources currently being used to their full development potential?

Institutional Framework

14.4 The National Conservation Strategy policy document, which was approved by Parliament in December 1990, set up two institutions: namely a 17-member National Conservation

Strategy Advisory Board chaired by the Minister of Local Government, Lands and Housing, and a National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency. During the NDP 8 the Ministry of Local Government, Lands and Housing was divided into two, namely the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Lands and Housing. The NCS institutions were assigned to the Ministry of Lands and Housing, which was later re-named Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment in recognition of the environmental coordination mandate. The National Conservation Strategy Advisory Board advises Government on all matters concerning the implementation of the National Conservation Strategy by coordinating the various environment and natural resources institutions of Government. The National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency on the other hand acts as the secretariat of the Board. It is planned to turn the NCS Coordinating Agency, which currently consists of a modest establishment of 38 posts, into a Department.

REVIEW OF NDP 8

National Conservation Strategy (NCS) Action Plan

14.5 During NDP 8, an NCS Action Plan was prepared. The main thrust of the NCS Action Plan was the introduction of new and strategic approaches aimed at achieving the integration of the conservation of natural resources into the national development process. Progress is being made in the implementation of the NCS Action Plan.

Institutional Review

14.6 An Institutional Review of the National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency and NCS Advisory Board was also undertaken during NDP 8. Among others it recommended the establishment of a Ministry dedicated to the Environment and the overall upgrading of the NCS institutions. The consultancy was a result of a joint effort by Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Legislative Framework

14.7 Since the establishment of the NCS Advisory Board and the National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency, they have not been equipped with powers, firmly grounded on legislation, to enable them to effectively monitor, superintend and co-ordinate environmental issues. These problems have been compounded by the fact that there are a number of legislative environmental instruments touching on environmental matters and the enforcement mechanisms under these instruments have proved to be ineffective. During NDP 8, steps were taken to address the problem. The process of promulgating an overarching Environmental Management Act (EMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation were initiated. It is expected that these Acts will be operational during NDP 9, to legitimise the actions being called for by the NCS Action Plan, and thus enable the two NCS institutions to play a key role in ascertaining the courses of action that warrant policy reviews and reform.

Environmental Economics

14.8 During NDP 8, an environmental economics programme was initiated to formalise the environmental economics foundation of natural resource management. This was intended to maximise the development opportunities and conserve natural resources by adopting a systematic approach towards the integration of resource management into development planning. The environmental economics programme will assist in the monitoring of resource stocks and flows. The general foundation will be the adoption of the 'polluter pays' and the 'user pays' principles, which will initially apply to commercial resource use.

Natural Resources Accounts (NRA)

14.9 As part of a regional initiative on the development of natural resources accounts, a natural resources accounts programme was initiated in 1998. A national co-ordinating committee was instituted to oversee the development of natural resource accounts. Draft accounts were developed for the water sector on a pilot basis. The draft water accounts have demonstrated the need for the institutionalisation of the NRA component of the environmental economics programme to assist in the monitoring of resource trends, stocks and flows and the regular assessment of sector comparative advantages. This has become more pressing with the current endeavours towards economic diversification.

14.10 The main problems encountered, which will have to be addressed during NDP 9, are as follows:

- Constructing the NRA is based on primary data and related records for past years which are either not available or have not been computerised.
- Core staff in technical Departments to be involved in the construction of accounts were occupied on other pressing assignments.
- Lack of training of staff to work on the programme.

Environmental Education and Public Awareness

14.11 Coordination of education and public awareness on the environment is one of the major mandates of the NCSA. An Environmental Education Coordinating Committee was established by the NCSA to enhance coordination of environmental education planning and implementation in the formal, non-formal and informal education sectors. Implementation of environmental education in collaboration with stakeholders has accomplished several initiatives. These include among other things; integration of environmental education into the school curricula, development of co-curricular activities such as environmental fairs, commemoration of environmental days, exhibitions at trade fairs and environmental fairs, and enhancement of community involvement in natural resources management through District conservation seminars.

14.12 The participation of the NCS institutions in environmental education and public awareness on environmental issues has had to take cognisance of the activities of the many other institutions within and outside government. The shortage of vehicles, manpower and lack of

equipment hampered the smooth and effective implementation of planned educational activities.

Wetlands Policy and Strategy

14.13 Botswana, with its semi-arid conditions, is remarkably well endowed with quite a number and variety of wetlands that are unique in the region. During NDP 8, the NCS institutions coordinated the formulation of a draft national Wetlands Policy and Strategy for Botswana. The main goal of the draft Policy and Strategy is *“to promote the Conservation of Botswana’s Wetlands in order to sustain their ecological and socio-economic functions as well as providing benefits for the present and future well-being of the people”*. The Policy further recognises the following: -

- ♣ The irreplaceable ecological and socio-economic values of wetlands
- ♣ Botswana’s internationally important and unique wetlands
- ♣ Ongoing degradation of wetlands resources
- ♣ Our responsibility for stopping wetlands loss and
- ♣ The need to maintain wetlands through sustainable use, improved management and full public support.

14.14 The draft Wetland Policy and Strategy document is currently undergoing consultation within Government and will be approved during NDP 9.

14.15 In addition Botswana ratified the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) in 1997 and listed the Okavango Delta as a Ramsar site. It was at the time the biggest Ramsar site in the world. Obligations under this convention

include the development of management plans and implementation thereof for wetlands. Government has thus initiated the process of developing a management plan for the Okavango Delta. The design phase is complete and support has been secured to start the development of the plan. This is a multi-sectoral process and it will involve the participation of other Departments under the overall coordination of the NCSA.

14.16 The overall goal for the development of an integrated management plan for the Okavango Delta is to integrate resource management to ensure its long-term conservation and thus provide sustained benefits for the present and future well-being of the people. The development of the management plan will be completed during NDP 9. The results of the integrated management plan will inform the Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM) which plans to develop an overall management plan for the Okavango River Basin. OKACOM involves the three riparian states of Botswana, Angola and Namibia.

14.17 The development of a management plan for the Makgadikgadi Pans system, another potential wetland of international importance, has already begun. The Makgadikgadi wetland system was selected by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States for demonstration of the development of a palustrine wetland management plan. The activity is being carried out as part of the SADC Wetland Conservation Project Phase II under the SADC Wildlife Sector and The World Conservation Union Regional Office for Southern Africa (IUCNROSA)

with financial support from NORAD. The main goal of the exercise is to provide a model procedure and test current processes of developing management plans for replication on wetlands within SADC Member States. The baseline survey will highlight the main ecological and socio-cultural/economic issues to be addressed by the management plan. The survey will also recommend an appropriate area to be covered by the project based on the available resources, time and also as a representative sample of the greater wetland ecosystem. The exercise will be concluded during NDP 9.

Environmental Research

14.18 During NDP 8, a national inventory of research on issues related to the environment was initiated. In addition Botswana Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established a consultancy to draw up the country's first State of the Environment Review (SOER). The report will provide information on the state of the Environment in Botswana and support sustainable development decisions through the provision of credible and comprehensive scientific data and information on the condition and trends of the country's environment. The State of the Environment will inform preparations for NDP 9.

Natural Resource Utilisation

14.19 During NDP 8 Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) activities were expanded from the mainstay areas of wildlife and some major veld products to cover other natural resources sectors such as thatching grass and eco-tourism in order to contribute substantially to

rural income. Major problems encountered included training of community to prepare viable project proposals and community mobilisation and lack of implementation capacity.

14.20 The NCSA with financial sponsorship from UNDP was able to financially support six community projects as outlined below.

- ♣ *Community Based Eco-tourism in Gudigwa*
- ♣ Mobilisation of Okavango Community Trust Members
- ♣ Mobilisation of Mokokwana/Mosweu Communities – Mowana Community Trust
- ♣ Promotion of Sustainable Utilisation of Veld Products for income and food security
- ♣ Botswana Community Based Organisation Network (BOCOBONET)
- ♣ Rasesa Community-Environmental Assessment

14.21 During NDP 8, the NCSA undertook several reviews of Environmental Impact Assessment studies of sectoral activities and assisted in the formulation of the terms of reference for the studies. The Agency also participated in the execution of some projects such as the CBPP Veterinary fences and the aerial spraying to eradicate tsetse fly in the Ngamiland District in collaboration with relevant departments. The lack of legislation and insufficient capacity within the NCSA were however some of the major factors affecting the monitoring of projects countrywide.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

14.22 Environmental issues often cut across international boundaries and their solution calls for global action.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are one way in which the international community deals with issues of environment.

14.23 During the NDP 8 plan period, Botswana became party to some of these MEAs such as:

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance;
- The Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and
- The Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

14.24 The NCSA is the focal point for most of these MEAs, while other Government institutions are the implementing agencies and competent authorities. Botswana also signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Botswana is also a signatory to various SADC regional protocols (notably on shared watercourses and wildlife). The implementation of the MEAs are at various stages and will be accelerated during NDP 9.

14.25 The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) was established in 1994 by the Governments of Angola, Botswana and Namibia as a tripartite vehicle towards integrated management of the Okavango basin. The three Governments are currently executing a basin wide environmental

assessment whose objective is for environmental protection and sustainable management of the Okavango River Basin.

14.26 In order to protect global and national biological diversity, Botswana ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 1995. The convention's objectives are:

- ♣ The conservation of bio-diversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels;
- ♣ The sustainable use of its component parts; and
- ♣ The fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

14.27 One of the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the production of a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP). The process of preparing a national Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has already commenced. This entails the development of national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. The project will be completed and implemented during NDP 9.

14.28 Currently, the NCSA is implementing the Southern African Biodiversity Support Programme as part of a SADC initiative. This five-year project is aimed at safeguarding the biodiversity of the region. The programme is designed to improve cooperation and to build capacity both within and between participating countries and also integrate sustainable use into biodiversity conservation and other sectoral programmes. The project will be completed during NDP 9.

Agenda 21 and other Rio Earth Summit Commitments

14.29 The Botswana Government participated in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) commonly known as the Rio Earth Summit that was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992 and has ever since aligned itself with the outcomes of the Summit. The main outcomes of the Summit were the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, consisting of 27 principles, and Agenda 21. Agenda 21 outlines an agenda for sustainable development in the 21st Century by addressing the current pressing development and preparing the world for the upcoming challenges. It was a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on sustainable development. Sustainable development hinges on three equal pillars namely economic development, social development and environmental protection.

14.30 Another World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) marking 10 years after the Rio Earth Summit was held in 2002. In this regard a National Agenda 21 Coordinating Committee was established to prepare Botswana's report on the implementation of Agenda 21.

Capacity Building and Training

14.31 During NDP 8, the NCSA was unable to fully achieve its goals due to lack of capacity even though the level of responsibility had increased. Lack of adequate human and financial resources were caused mainly by the fact that the NCSA was considered to be a Unit within the Ministry

Headquarters and the Ministry Headquarters had a very limited growth rate in both manpower and financial ceilings. This classification also meant that the NCSA did not have a financial vote of its own since it was not a Department. Training on the other hand was adequate probably because of the small staffing of the NCSA.

Financing Environmental Action

14.32 The NDP 8 plan period did demonstrate that environmental activities (projects, studies, EIAs, audits etc.) need substantial financing. This should be a shared responsibility between government, civil society and the private sector. During NDP 8, a number of environmental projects were funded under GEF and some of these include the following:-

- ♣ Energy efficiency in household and industry;
- ♣ Coal fired stoves and woodlot;
- ♣ Solar powered boreholes; and the Molalatau Biomass Research

14.33 The success of some of the projects was hampered by problems such as inadequate technical back-up at project design and implementation and non-dissemination of technology. NGO's and Research institutions in collaboration with Government did the implementation of these projects.

Environmental Planning Programme

14.34 NDP 8 saw the start of formal recognition of environment within the national planning process through the provision of a chapter dedicated to environment and land use. Through the EPP project which was funded by

the Danish, capacity has been built within planning process to incorporate environmental concerns into development planning. This will be facilitated through the implementation of the Planning Officers' Manual and District Planning Handbook which were revised to incorporate environmental issues.

POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR NDP 9

Environmental Institutions

14.35 Environmental issues are integral to society and span across sectors. The NCS institutions will be upgraded to meet the cross-sectoral challenges of environmental management during NDP 9. The cross-sectoral nature of environmental management requires increased cooperation, networking and partnerships amongst Government institutions so as to attain sustainable development. This requires effective operational links with institutions that are involved in the management of the natural capital to foster a continued policy review and reform.

14.36 Functional and effective links with the information centres of line Ministries will ensure that environmental/sustainable development indicators are generated and updated for the operation of the "State of the Environment Review and Monitoring" at the national level, and the implementation of the environmental assessment guidelines for systematic EIA applications. Closer ties and working relationships between Government, civil society and the private sector will be encouraged.

Public Institutions, Participation and Awareness

14.37 The emergence of civil society environmental institutions (Non-Governmental Organisations) – NGOs, and Community Based Organisations (CBOs), during the last two decades indicates growing societal concern and interest in the environment. NGOs tend to be advocacy-oriented whilst CBOs seem to be more project-based with many of them involved in CBNRM activities. During NDP 9, CBNRM activities will be intensified in collaboration with other stakeholders.

14.38 NGOs play an important role in creating public awareness, which is a precursor of involvement. Public participation in policy formulation, implementation and decision-making is critical to sustained environmental management. Government will share and provide access to information such that every member of society may actively participate in the execution of national environmental responsibilities. It should be noted that integration of environmental concerns into development planning (*environmental mainstreaming*) has implications for the choice, design and appraisal of policies, programmes and projects.

14.39 Environmental economic concepts and methods will greatly assist environmental mainstreaming, but at present the potential is minimally used. There are no routine analyses of the linkages between natural resources and economic development planning. The intrinsic and total economic value of most natural resources is not known, and neither is the cost of environmental damage. Resource monitoring will be

strengthened, and the results of trend analysis will be incorporated in policies, programmes and projects. This will initially be done through the extension of the natural resource accounting programme. This will involve collaboration with ongoing efforts within ministries (e.g. wildlife counts and Botswana Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring Programme BRIMP).

Resource Valuation and Costs Assessment of Environmental Damage

14.40 The overall economic costs of resource use exceed the amount paid by the user. Costs to society also include external environmental costs and foregone future benefits. The use of *marginal opportunity cost* pricing mechanisms will cover these cost components in order to deter polluters from causing environmental damage. Resource degradation continues to be a development concern. Cost assessments will be undertaken during NDP 9 to formulate remedial action, and to justify preventive measures. Furthermore resource valuation will be undertaken to prioritise resource management efforts so as to determine proper charges for resource utilisation as well as pollution prevention and control.

Optimal Use of Natural Resources

14.41 Growing competition for use of resources and the appreciation that natural resources should support economic development make it important to regularly review resource allocations and, where necessary, to make adjustments to increase the development benefits. This resource management aspect has been neglected in the past, partly because of

subsidies and the lack of concerted effort by the various sectors of the economy. During NDP 9, Ministries will be encouraged to regularly review resource allocation procedures so as to boost productive resource use. In addition, Ministries will consider the introduction of market forces (e.g. market-based charges, tendering).

Economic Opportunities Arising from Environmental Issues

14.42 It is necessary to review the areas in which the country has comparative advantages and devise means of stimulating the use and production of environmentally friendly products (e.g. recycled paper and water-saving technologies). This will provide incentives for the establishment of new industries. Comparative advantages related to the environment are associated with the abundance of solar power, some veld products, wildlife, water conservation, livestock and minerals. Furthermore, during NDP 9, development constraints will be analysed and mitigation measures effected.

Environmental-Economic Instruments

14.43 The Environmental Economics programme will be developed further during NDP 9 to create a formal framework that will foster the enhancement of development opportunities by and while conserving natural resources. A systematic approach towards the integration of resource management and development, cutting across the individual economic sectors and recognising the linkages between natural resources will be adopted.

14.44 Environmental-Economic Instruments (EIs) offer several

advantages when used in conjunction with Environmental legislation. EEIs are instruments such as taxes and user charges that are meant to encourage the use of resources in an efficient and sustainable manner. They are cheaper to implement and leave resource users and polluters a choice. EEIs thus stimulate productivity and instil a sense of resource value on users and polluters, thereby contributing towards a more positive resource utilisation attitude. EEIs suit the trend towards economic liberalisation and a greater role of market forces, and will therefore be integrated into economic market reforms. Government will pursue these initiatives during NDP 9.

Policy Framework

14.45 Policies and programmes of Ministries will be reviewed and clearly targeted so as to achieve the development objectives during NDP 9. This is important so that the needs and constraints of socio-economic target groups are addressed in line with the local environmental conditions. In socio-economic terms, a clear distinction will be made between commercial and subsistence users as the strategies and characteristics of these two groups are entirely different.

14.46 For the commercial sector, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability will be given priority. This implies that the most productive sectors need to acquire resource use rights, provided resources are used in a sustainable manner. In the past economic efficiency has not been given sufficient emphasis to the detriment of the environment and development. For example, low land and hunting charges have had the effect of increasing resource pressure as well as

resource speculation and attracting marginal producers.

Project Appraisal and Environmental Impact Assessment

14.47 In the past, project appraisal methods have not adequately incorporated environmental concerns in the project design. Some projects may thus have negative environmental impacts. These will be identified mandatorily, through the implementation of the forthcoming EIA legislation. Such impacts will be identified and the costs assessed as part of an overall appraisal. The appraisal of projects has been done through the traditional cost-benefit analysis, but increasingly multi-criteria analysis is required to assess a project's merits. The changes in the Planning Officers Manual will enhance the appraisal processes during NDP 9. The NCS institutions will also initiate environmental audits/appraisal of projects, which cut across individual ministries, albeit in consultation with the relevant line Ministries. The implementation of the EIA law will be facilitated through EIA manuals, which will be developed during NDP 9. Sector specific EIA guidelines will be developed where they do not exist.

Environmental Legislation

14.48 The existing national environmental laws cover a wide range of environmental and natural resources issues. Government is in the process of promulgating the EIA legislation and an overarching Environmental Management (EMA) Act. These will be enacted and implemented during NDP 9. Line Ministries will have to review and re-

align their existing legislation to the EIA and EMA Acts once these have been promulgated.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

14.49 MEAs require accelerated implementation through increased awareness and cooperation at District and local community levels. International trends towards convention clustering need translation into convention synergies at national level. Databases required for national communications will be shared and jointly maintained, whilst multi-convention reports will be pursued depending on the specific requirements of the conventions. National capacity to actively participate in Conference of Parties (CoPs) and international negotiations will be strengthened and public awareness about MEAs will be intensified during NDP 9.

Wetlands

14.50 The completion of management plans for the Okavango Delta and Makgadikgadi Pans systems will be followed by their implementation. Management plans for other internationally important wetlands such as the Linyanti-Chobe system will be initiated.

Agenda 21 and other Rio Earth Summit Commitments

14.51 During NDP 9, the expectations and prospects for sustainable development in the new development decade will be substantiated. This will involve consultations with stakeholders so that they understand the role they will play in promoting the implementation of

Agenda 21. District and Local Agenda 21 action plans will be developed. A mechanism will be put in place where specific goals, indicators to measure progress towards sustainable development, and the processes that will ensure Botswana's compliance with the 27 Rio Principles will be monitored. The NCSA will continue to monitor and coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21 and other Rio Earth Summit Commitments as well as the outcomes of the WSSD that Government will have accepted.

Convention on Biodiversity

14.52 The completion of the development of a national Biodiversity Action Plan will be followed by its implementation. The NCSA will continue to participate in the Southern African Biodiversity Support Programme. The implementation of the recommendations from these two projects will require additional funding as well as human resources.

Capacity Development and Training

14.53 During NDP 9, resources will be provided to improve the implementation capacity of NCSA through provision of additional human resources and further training at all appropriate levels. Improvement of capacity and skills in areas such as environmental assessment, environmental research and monitoring, environmental education and awareness, administration and management, planning and development, IT as well as in negotiating and implementing MEAs will be undertaken.

Environmental Education and Awareness

14.54 Environmental Education is being implemented through a strategy, which provides the general framework for the development of the National Environmental Education Action Plan. The programmes started during NDP 8 will continue to be undertaken and intensified during NDP 9 to ensure that support mechanisms are focused. The environmental education and awareness programmes will further be developed in collaboration with other stakeholders so as to provide a focus of the activities of the various organisations and stakeholders.

Research

14.55 The NCSA will continue to coordinate environmental research initiatives during NDP 9. The SOER will be reviewed during NDP 9 so as to enhance environmental monitoring of the indicators for sustainable development. A realistic period for coming up with future SOERs will be determined. The NCSA will encourage other stakeholders to undertake more research in their various fields and in such areas as biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, integrated water resources management, energy, environmental governance and planning, and resource economics. In conjunction with other Ministries, private sector, NGOs and Research Institutions, the need for a national Strategic Plan for integrated environmental research will be assessed and, if found appropriate, developed and implemented.

Financing Environmental Programmes/Projects

14.56 The NCS Action Plan incorporates the establishment of an Environmental Enhancement Fund specifically aimed at enhancing the country's renewable natural resource base and its capacity to use renewable and non-renewable resources efficiently. The concept of an Environmental Fund is not a new phenomenon in Botswana. For example, a number of mechanisms exist through which CBOs and NGOs can access funds through government. The establishment of the Conservation Trust Fund (DWNP) as a requirement to deal with ivory sales, has introduced a new mechanism to release funding into conservation. Given the recent developments within the NGO community where funding for environmental projects have dwindled (as a result of donors pulling out), the time is opportune to establish an Environmental Fund during NDP 9 as NGOs and the private sector are key players in the development process. The Fund will not be for NGOs and CBOs only, as it will also target groups and even individuals who will be adjudged to have made positive contributions towards the protection of the environment and its natural resources. The details regarding issues such as type, legal basis, funding, governance and disbursement of fund as well as institutional support and institutional arrangement to manage the fund will be worked out in consultation with stakeholders during NDP 9. Increased efforts will also be made to access domestic and international financial mechanisms in order to finance the ever-growing Government and civil society environmental agenda in the country.

Natural Resource Utilisation

14.57 Consolidation of CBNRM during NDP 9 requires an accelerated implementation of the CBNRM Policy and legislation. The initial results with community-based natural resource management have been positive. Any perceived shortcomings would be addressed during NDP 9 with a view to correcting them.