

Ensure Environmental Sustainability



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TARGETS:

9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
10. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
11. By 2020, achieve a significant improvement in the housing condition of at least 1,000,000 slum dwellers, peri-urban and high density lodgers.

INDICATORS:

30. Proportion of Land area covered by forest.
31. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity.
32. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy of energy efficiency).
33. Proportion of people with sustainable access to an improved water source.
34. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation.
35. Number of housing units produced annually.

STATUS AND TRENDS

Since independence, Zimbabwe has registered commendable progress in environmental management. For example, afforestation programmes, land reclamation and natural resource conservation programmes have helped to transform previously degraded parts of the country into natural resource reservoirs.

However, because of the continued impact of the historical structural imbalances, it is worrying to note that the state of the environment continues to deteriorate in certain segments of rural and urban areas. In rural areas, for example, over crowded communal lands, resulting in poor forest management, excessive timber extraction, and collection of fuel wood, still remain among the major causes of deforestation.

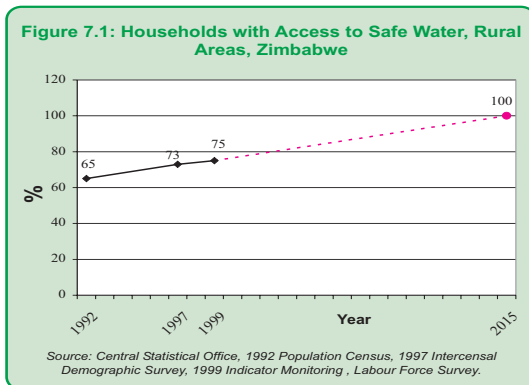
In the newly resettled areas, land clearing by new settlers for the purposes of agriculture, materials to construct houses and fuel wood, is contributing to a gradual degradation and deforestation of the environment. While this land clearing is necessary, there is need to ensure that it is implemented in a sustainable manner. While the exact figure for the rate of deforestation in Zimbabwe is unknown, estimates suggest that deforestation ranges between 100,000 - 320,000 ha per year.

In addition, the importation of alien and exotic species has led to the loss of indigenous biodiversity in some parts of the country, particularly in the eastern highlands where commercial forest plantations are the major industry. Activities of major mining firms have not been sensitive to environmental concerns either. Similarly, small-scale gold and diamond panning has become a common practice in various parts of the country. This activity, while increasing incomes, has contributed to the siltation of major surface water bodies as well as the destruction of community infrastructure. As such, there is need to regulate this activity to ensure that it is carried out in a sustainable manner.

Droughts and floods are another important factor in the degradation of cultivated lands and rangelands in many parts of the country, impacting on plant cover, livestock numbers and consequently household agricultural productivity. Besides these negative impacts of nature, there have been increased reports of wildlife poaching in the national parks and wildlife conservatories. If this trend continues, the country will witness a reduction of tourism capacity.

On the issue of rural water and sanitation, great progress had been made, but with the movement of people under the Land Reform programme, as well as the damage caused by Cyclone Eline, new and additional facilities will now be required. It is

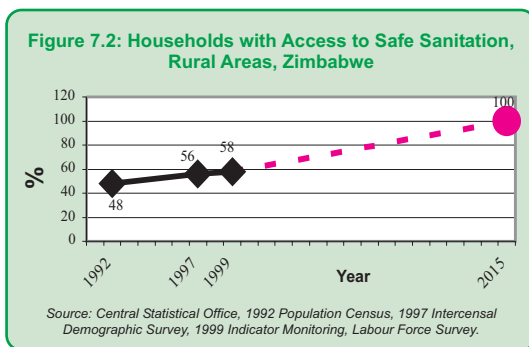
estimated that by 1997, 73% of rural households had access to safe water rising to 75% in 1999 (see fig. 7.1).



Key

- ◆ Actual
- Target
- Current rate of progress
- - - Rate of progress required to reach goal

With regards to safe sanitation, 56% of rural households had access to safe sanitation, later increasing to 58% in 1999 (see figure 7.2). The target is to reach 100% for both households with access to safe water and access to sanitation by 2015. More specifically, the target is to ensure that every household has access to a toilet within the homestead, and to potable water within 250 meters by 2015.

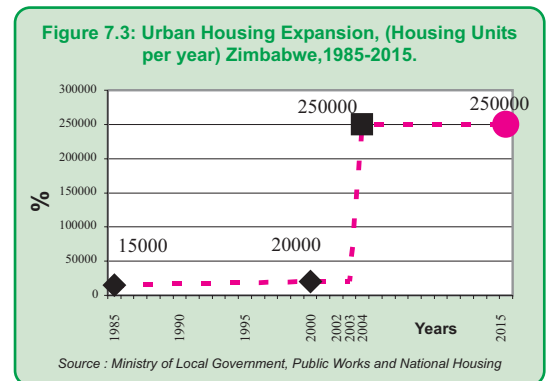


Zimbabwe is faced with the challenge of rapid urbanization. In the urban and peri-urban areas, the problem of air and water pollution has resulted in a significant increase in respiratory and water borne diseases as suggested by anecdotal evidence. In addition, industrial, domestic and municipal waste poses a serious health problem in most urban areas.

The mushrooming of unplanned settlements in both the urban and peri-urban areas is compounding the problems associated with urban environmental planning and management. It is estimated that the current urban housing backlog stands at one million (1 000 000) families. The urban population

stands at 4.456 million and is estimated to be increasing at a rate of 5% to 6% per annum, which is almost 5 to 6 times more than the current national population growth rate of 1.1% per year. This implies that the urban population is expected to rise to 7.6 million by 2015.

Available information indicates that the government had planned to construct 162,500 housing units annually during the period 1985 to 2000, so as to alleviate the housing backlog. However, the actual annual production during that period was between 15,000 to 20,000 housing units, which falls far below the target figure. A review of recent statistics shows that housing production has further declined since the year 2000. By the end of 2002, only 5,500 stands were serviced in eight urban areas in that year. The goal is to reduce the housing backlog to zero by 2015. In order to meet this target, a total of 250,000 housing units need to be produced annually. (See figure 7.3)



A number of urban centres have sub-standard housing units that were built under the former regime for the purpose of housing the “bachelor” workforce. Most of these ‘bachelors’ were married men, who have since moved their families to town and are living in cramped structures with communal water and sanitation facilities. A poor quality housing upgrading program was started by government in the mid-1980s with a view to providing decent housing, of at least three rooms, and individual water and sanitation facilities. The goal is to complete this upgrading program by 2015.

To reverse the current trend of environmental degradation, the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes becomes a priority. Specific areas that would need attention are continued provision of cleaner energy to both rural and urban populations, access to safe water and sanitation, provision of decent housing, waste management, reversing biodiversity loss and land degradation and minimising water and air pollution.



CHALLENGES

There are a number of challenges in the area of environmental sustainability. Some of these include:

Implementing Land Resettlement in a sustainable manner

The challenge is to implement the integrated conservation plan for the resettlement program, to ensure that land resettlement is done in a sustainable manner. There is need to improve capacity building efforts of institutions in environmental management and poverty reduction in these areas.

Provision of decent housing in urban areas

Rising populations in urban and peri-urban areas will continue to raise the challenge of decent housing provision for some time to come.

Provision of safe water and sanitation, particularly in rural areas

In the rural areas, the challenge is to provide safe water and sanitation to all households.

Establish waste management practices to combat air and water pollution

The current waste management systems are increasingly becoming ineffective due largely to growing urban and peri-urban populations. The challenge is to strengthen research efforts on pollution (both air and water) and land degradation. There is need to design and implement programmes that will combat the current levels of air and water pollution.

Implementation of the Provisions in the newly enacted Environment Management Act

The Environmental Management Act (EMA), which was enacted in 2002, provides a framework for mainstreaming environment into national policies and programmes. The challenge is to build capacity at both national and local levels to ensure effective implementation of the Act, as well as link EMA with other legal instruments, such as the Traditional Leaders Act, to make environmental management more effective.

Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Zimbabwe is signatory to a number of multilateral environmental agreements that provide a good basis for international cooperation in addressing global and regional environmental issues. The challenge is to balance the conservation effort with the benefits that accrue to the communities from use of the natural resource.

Energy Provision

The current national energy demand for domestic and industrial use far outstrips the supply. The challenge is to develop a comprehensive energy policy and strategy that address the country's energy problems, more specifically, the provision of renewable energy for use in remote rural areas.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Zimbabwe's participation at the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development was a milestone in raising national awareness on the need to integrate environment and development. Follow-up summits, such as the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which resulted in the Johannesburg Plan of Action, provide a useful framework for ensuring environmental sustainability. The establishment of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism was a basis for initiating national programmes of environment management. The recent enactment of the Environmental Management Act has also created a conducive framework for implementing appropriate programmes on environment.

There are a number of institutional frameworks that also provide a supportive environment for implementing programmes of sustainable development. These include:

- ◆ Multi-stakeholder consultative and planning forums e.g. taskforce on the Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification (CCDD).
- ◆ World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) task force on National Response Mechanisms (NRM).
- ◆ Environmental Management Act (EMA) and the Traditional Leaders Act (TLA).
- ◆ The District Environmental Action Plan (DEAP) and the Communal Area Management Programme for Indigenous Resources (CAMP FIRE).
- ◆ The provision of safe water and sanitation in rural areas is a traditional area for donor support.
- ◆ New Water Act, Rural Electrification Programme and the introduction of environmental science in schools.
- ◆ Urban and peri-urban councils responsible for the provision of decent housing. There is an urban housing expansion programme already in place. Under this programme, Central and Local Government, together with the private sector would provide serviced land for home seekers and the home seekers would build their own homes. Government will introduce schemes to assist home seekers access to housing development finance and appropriate technology, building materials and designs to reduce costs whilst maintaining safety standards. The implementation strategy for this scheme is in place. There is also in existence a poor quality housing upgrading program, which is designed to provide decent housing for increasing numbers of urban dwellers by 2015.



Zimbabwe Millennium Development Goals: 2004 Progress Report

PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

To achieve the goal of ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015, the following priorities need to be addressed:

Environmental awareness

To achieve sustainable management of natural resources, there is need for continued environmental awareness raising at all levels. In addition, special attention should be paid to waste management practices in urban areas as well as sustainable land resettlement.

Strengthen development of appropriate alternative renewable energy resources.

In order to reduce over reliance on natural resources for energy by the majority of the rural people and an increasing proportion of urban dwellers, the country needs to invest in the development of renewable energy resources (solar, wind biogas).

Provision of descent housing in Urban areas.

There is need to implement fully the urban housing expansion program, as well as to continue regularising peri-urban areas and unplanned settlements, as part of on-going urban development programmes.

Consolidation of the rural water and sanitation programme

Water and sanitation programmes need continuous expansion to cover all rural areas, including newly resettled areas.

Improved Management of urban environment

Establishment of waste management programmes to combat air and water pollution, particularly in urban areas.

Expand biodiversity

Expand biodiversity as it relates to indigenous trees and crops that have nutritional and medicinal value.

PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Zimbabwe's progress towards ensuring environmental sustainability could be enhanced by the participation of development partners in the implementation of the various multilateral agreements, including the WSSD outcomes. There is need for capacity building of institutions involved in the coordination and implementation of these multilateral agreements.

The challenge is to support the implementation of the Zimbabwe national Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI) - the response action programme.

Environmental Awareness

Environmental awareness programmes will need to be expanded throughout the country.

Capacity building in data collection and analysis

Given the scarcity of data on the environment, development assistance will be required to strengthen data collection and analysis systems.

COSTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

Overview: In relation to unit cost, many of the statements made under Primary Education and Health targets apply to this sector. However, the main difference is that most of the cost that Government has to incur is with regard to maintenance, rehabilitation and capital construction of water-supply schemes. The household/community also shoulders some responsibility in maintaining water supply. A Housing costing provided by the Ministry of Local Government, Public works & National Housing would be adopted for this report. Other issues relating to environment sustainability, such as deforestation, air and water pollution, etc., are not costed. The challenge is to be able to cost these in subsequent reports.

Unit cost on access to water

The Zimbabwe target, in accordance with the MDG, is to move from the current 75% safe water coverage to 100% by 2015.

Estimates are based on Budget Estimates 2000 (Vote 9 - Rural Resources and Water Development). Current assumptions are;

- ◆ 75% of the population have access to clean water.
- ◆ The whole budget has been taken into consideration in estimating costs.

Given these assumptions, annual real increase in expenditure to ensure that 100% of the population (including 1.1% population increase) have access to clean water is 4% per year. Average spending over the 15-year period to 2015 should increase from the current level of US\$38mn to US\$48.6mn.

Urban housing expansion costing

In monetary terms, it would require Z\$1.25 billion (US\$ 250,000) annually to service 250,000 stands. A further Z\$26 billion (US\$5.2 million) will be required annually to acquire land for urban expansion, as most urban centres have run out of land for developments. Therefore, the total annual housing expansion requirement to meet the MDG target is US\$5.45 million annually or US\$71 million to 2015.





“ As a Nation with Oneness
of Purpose, Together we can
Score this Goal! ”

