



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND
TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S (2017-2027)**

DRAFT

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ACRONYMS

AIS	Alien Invasive Species
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
CARA	Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act No. 43 of 1983
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CGA	South African Cane Growers Association
CRDP	Comprehensive Rural Development Programme
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought
DRDLR	Department of Land Reform and Rural Development
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environment Facility
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
ISRDP	Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme
IUCN	International Union for Nature Conservation
KNP	Kalahari-Namib Project
LADA	Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MLRA	Marine Living Resources Act No. 18 of 1998
MPRDA	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act No. 28 of 2002
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAP	National Action Programme
NARYSEC	National Rural Youth Service Corps
NEM: ICMA	Integrated Coastal Management Act No. 24 of 2008 as amended
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act No. 107 of 1998
NEMAQA	National Environmental Management Air Quality Act No. 39 of 2004
NEMBA	National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004
NEMPAA	National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NWA	National Water Act No. 36 of 1998
PASG	Percentage of Average Seasonal Greenness
QUELRO	Quantified Emissions Limitation and Reduction Objective
SA-UNCCD	South Africa - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
SCI-SLM	Stimulating Community Initiative in Sustainable Land Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SPLUMA	Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act No. 16 of 2013
SUPRA	Sustainable Utilization and Protection of Agricultural Resources Bill
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-GEF	United Nations Development Programme – Global Environment Facility
UNFCCC	United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHCA	World Heritage Convention Act No. 49 of 1999
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

FOREWORD

THIS WILL BE DONE ONCE THE CONTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT IS FINALISED

1. BACKGROUND

Globally, desertification affects approximately 70% of drylands, and 73% of Africa's agricultural lands are degraded. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report, approximately, 91% of South Africa's landscape is drylands, and this makes it susceptible to desertification. Both Desertification and land degradation are intricately linked to food security, poverty, urbanization, climate change, and biodiversity thus, are among the most critical environmental challenges in South Africa. In addition, 80% of the land in South Africa is used for agriculture and subsistence livelihoods; 11% of it (12.76 million ha) has arable potential, of which 82% is under commercial agriculture; while majority (69%) is used for grazing.

South Africa is a relatively dry country, with an average annual rainfall of about 464 mm, compared to a world average of about 860 mm. While the Western Cape gets most of its rainfall in winter, the rest of the country is generally a summer-rainfall region. South Africa's surface area covers approximately 1 219 602 km². South Africa is considered a "mega-diverse" country and as such forms part of a select group of nations that possess the greatest number and diversity of animals and plants; nearly 70% of global species diversity. However, the country continues to face threats to food production due to climate change linked meteorological hazards (for example floods and frequent droughts), and loss of productive land due to land degradation processes such as soil erosion and desertification.

Soil degradation is severe and increasing in most communal cropland and grazing lands. Sheet and gully erosion cover about 0.72 million ha of the country and is increasing. Water erosion is the most widespread problem affecting over 70% of the country. About 25% of South Africa is highly susceptible to wind erosion with an estimated 2.2 million ha severely affected by wind erosion in 1985. This proportion has more than doubled due to the dry period leading up to 2013-2015. Areas particularly prone to wind erosion include the western half of croplands in western Free State and the greater part of the North West and the Northern Cape provinces (DEA, 2016a).

South Africa being one of the countries that are affected by desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) which dates back to the last century, ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 1997. The Convention provides a framework for countries affected by desertification and drought to address the problem of land degradation effectively through development of the National Action Programmes (NAPs) in accordance with Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention text (UNCCD, 2008).

The UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention was adopted by Decision 3/COP8 in September 2007 in Madrid, Spain. The strategy aims to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification and degradation in order to reduce poverty and support environmental sustainability while presenting a major opportunity to address the underlying causes of land degradation. In addition, to review and align the NAP with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention gives effect to other relevant decisions and resolutions, which encourages country parties "to align and review their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities relating to the Convention with the Strategy by, *inter alia*, addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives" (UNCCD, 2008). The current draft revision of South Africa's NAP is the expression of our government's commitment to honour its obligations in terms of the UNCCD.

2. OVERVIEW OF DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND DROUGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Land is important for producing food and providing ecosystem goods and services such as fresh water, clean air, and raw building materials such as timber and sand. Productive land and fertile soil is very important and many communities depend heavily on it as their main source of food and sustainable livelihoods, especially the rural poor. Productive land is however becoming scarce. Population growth, climate change, unsustainable land use, land degradation, and growing urban areas increase pressure on productive land resources. Competition for productive land increases due to the growing demand for food, fodder, mineral resources, as well as raw materials for industrial and energy use. Land is central to the “nexus” that links energy, food, water, and environmental health in an interdependent loop. Continued land degradation over the years could reduce food production when population growth, rising incomes and changing consumption patterns are expected to increase food demand significantly. By 2030, the demand for food, energy, and water is expected to increase. These needs will not be met sustainably unless we preserve and restore the productivity of our land. Business as usual will lead to more deforestation (UNCCD, 2015).

Desertification is defined as land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors including climatic variations and human activities whereas land degradation refers to any depletion of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning that negatively impacts on the provision of ecosystem services and ultimately impedes poverty eradication and sustainable development (DEA, 2016a). Land degradation is not a new phenomenon; it has been there since time immemorial due to human activities and natural processes. However, land degradation is being exacerbated by the adverse impacts of climate change (UNCCD, 2008). In addition to unsustainable agricultural and livestock management practices, other sectoral activities contribute to land degradation thereby reducing socio-ecological resilience of food and water security (UNCCD, 2008). When degradation occurs in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas where productivity is constrained by water availability, it is called desertification (UNCCD, 2008).

Both Desertification and land degradation are linked to food security, poverty, urbanization, climate change, as well as biodiversity and thus, are among the most critical environmental challenges in South Africa. In addition, 80% of the land in South Africa is used for agriculture and subsistence livelihoods. About six million people in South Africa depend on agriculture for their livelihoods with the smallholder agricultural sector providing employment for 1.3 million households (DEA, 2016b). Despite the importance of land and its ecosystems, South Africa is however prone to land degradation and desertification currently exacerbated by human activities that disturb the balance between soils, vegetation, and climate.

2.1. Consequences of desertification and land degradation

Land degradation impacts upon landscapes and people in several ways, e.g. the decline in the quality of soil and the vegetation that it supports. This further has a direct impact on agricultural productivity leading to lower yields of crops. Land degradation also undermines the productive potential of land and water resources, so the consequences are considerable and diverse in terms of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems, and it directly affects human welfare. When land is degraded, it can worsen the effects of poverty and bring about hunger. Degradation of land has serious consequences on food security. Many small scale farmers in areas of degraded land can only watch in dismay as their soil grows less each year to feed their families. This situation is made worse by droughts and unpredictable weather patterns caused by climate change.

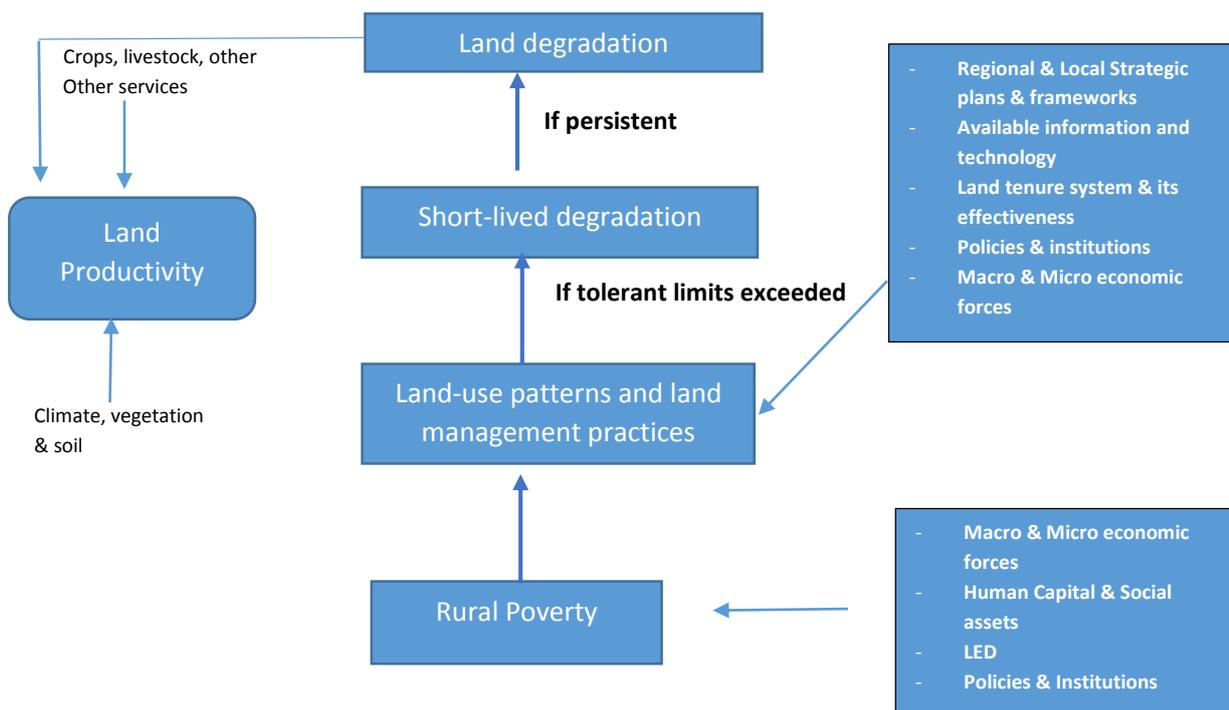


Figure 1: Outline of relationships between desertification and its causes in South Africa, particularly rural poverty

2.1.1. Effects of Land degradation on Water resources, biodiversity and soils

Globally, it is estimated that as many as 1.8 billion people live in areas with some noticeable land and water degradation which reduces livelihoods and household security. The rate of degradation of land and water resources is accelerating, and consequences for food security are becoming increasingly clear (Wood *et al.*, 2000). Degradation of catchment areas results in the deterioration of the quality, quantity, and ecological integrity of surface water resources, including rivers, wetlands, dams, and estuaries. Soil erosion results in sedimentation of dams, while increased invasion by alien species has serious impacts on stream flows, land productivity, and biodiversity. Furthermore, alien plant invasion is one of South Africa’s most critical environmental issues and an important contributor to vegetation degradation and loss of productivity of land.

2.1.2. Effects of desertification and land degradation on Household food security

South Africa depends on local agricultural production for food provision. Effects of droughts on agriculture and degradation leads to less productive soils thus increasingly impair the country’s ability to feed its growing population and to sustain livelihoods, particularly among the rural poor.

2.1.3. Effects of desertification and land degradation on the economy

The economics of land degradation and desertification are poorly understood. However, about 35% of the country’s net agricultural income is overstated because the environmental costs are currently not included. Soil degradation alone costs South Africa about R2 billion annually in dam sedimentation and increased water treatment costs, for example, costs associated with neutralizing the effects of acid rain (caused by energy generation) on soils in Mpumalanga are estimated at R25 million per year, while the loss of soil nutrients through degradation costs R1.5 billion per year.

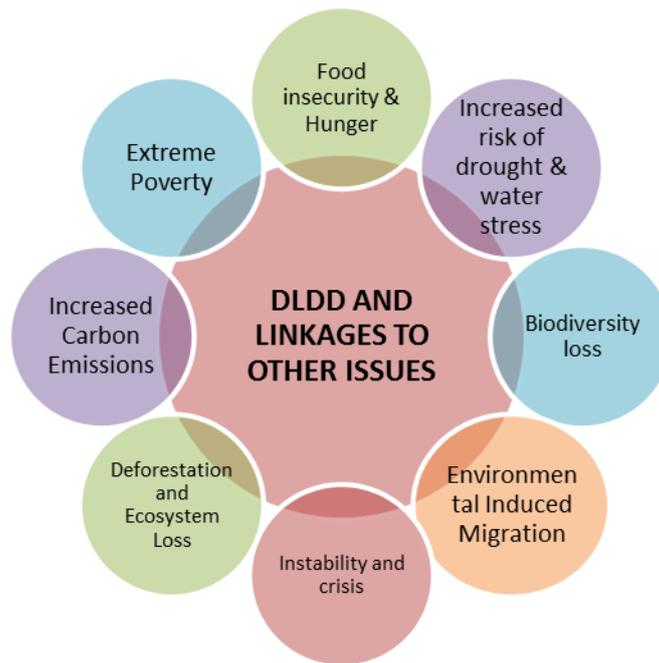


Figure 2: Impacts of land degradation on different sectors

2.2. Different types of land degradation

2.2.1. Soil degradation

South Africa's soils are generally sensitive, fragile, climatologically, and topographically predisposed to land degradation through soil erosion, which is a natural process until it is accelerated due to human activities such as deforestation, overgrazing, forest fires, and construction activities (DEA, 2012). Over 70 per cent of the South African land surface has been intensely affected by a variety of soil erosion types. Still the most influential factor in land degradation is poor agricultural or farming methods and land husbandry by both commercial and subsistence farming (Le Roux 2007).

Several natural events such as running water or blowing winds also trigger erosion processes. Soil erosion also results in loss of soil productivity, increased suspended sediments in water bodies, and sedimentation in reservoirs, which consequently affects river ecosystems (Le Roux 2007). When considered across all land-use types, it is clear that soil degradation is perceived as more of a problem in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, and the Eastern Cape, and less of a problem in the Free State, Western Cape, and Northern Cape. (Le Roux 2007).

2.2.2. Vegetation degradation

High rates of vegetation degradation are in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and communal areas of Eastern Cape (DEA, 2008). They have high proportions of grazing lands and experience problems of decreased vegetative cover, bush encroachment, alien plant invasions, and changes in species composition. Bush encroachment is also severe in the dry areas of the Northern Cape, the western parts of North West and south-western Free State (DEA, 2008).

2.2.3. Water erosion

Erosion is a major problem in South Africa (Pretorius, 1998 and Le Roux *et al.*, 2007). Rainfall and subsequent runoff are the major sources of erosive and transport energy. Erosion via water can be categorized into sheet, rill, and gully erosion (Morgan, 2005 and Le Roux *et al.*, 2008). These forms of erosion are not sharply distinct, but are different in that they may occur simultaneously at different watershed stages. According to Al-Kaisi (2008) while erosion reduces the productivity of land, it also

contributes to water quality deterioration. In South Africa, soil water erosion is the major carrier of nutrients and pollutants to water bodies.

2.2.4. Wind erosion

Wind erosion is a crucial issue in arid and semi-arid regions (FAO, 1960; Wolfe and Nickling, 1993; Borrelli *et al.*, 2014). Nearly 28% of the global land area is affected by this phenomenon (Oldeman, 1994; Callot *et al.*, 2000; Prospero *et al.*, 2002; Webb *et al.*, 2006; Du *et al.*, 2015). Wind erosion decreases soil productivity and has a negative effect on the environment because eroded fine particulates become suspended in the atmosphere (Sterk and Raats 1996; Sharratt *et al.*, 2007; Visser & Sterk, 2007; Borrelli *et al.* 2014). In South Africa, soil wind erosion is closely related to the natural and human-induced removal of vegetation cover (Wiggs *et al.*, 1994). Twenty five percent of South Africa is susceptible to wind erosion (Pretorius, 1998). This percentage is likely to grow due to the loss of vegetation in rangelands and tillage practices in agricultural lands. Studies have delineated large areas of the Northern Cape, the western part of the North West Province and the northwest part of the Free State Province as significant sources of dust emission in South Africa (Ginoux *et al.*, 2012). Major natural dust emission source areas occur in the arid and semi-arid parts of South Africa such as Namaqualand, Swartland and ephemeral lakes (Ginoux *et al.*, 2012).

2.2.5. Alien plant invasion

South Africa is among the countries that have a long colonial history of invasive alien species. Several thousand species of alien plants have been introduced into South Africa. Many of these have become naturalised and some, following a long 'lag' phase which may last many decades, suddenly increase in abundance and become invasive weeds. The introduction of invasive species in South Africa date back to the 1600s and peaked in the 1800s, which has resulted in over 500 species being listed as damaging in agricultural and natural ecosystems. Several invasive species are also responsible for decreasing water run-off and groundwater reserves at rates that are far in excess of water usage by the natural vegetation types, which is especially problematic in this water-scarce country.

2.3. State of land degradation

The desertification, land degradation and drought study of 2015 indicates that, 91% of the country falls within the category of drylands, making it susceptible to desertification (DEA, 2016a). Areas of severe degradation and desertification correspond closely with the distribution of communal rangelands, specifically in the steeply sloping environments adjacent to the escarpment in the aforementioned provinces (DEA, 2016a). The study further indicates that the arid zones are prevalent in the Northern Cape Province while the North West and Free State were found to be predominantly Semi-Arid (DEA, 2016a). The findings on the state of land degradation are contained in the Figure 1 below.

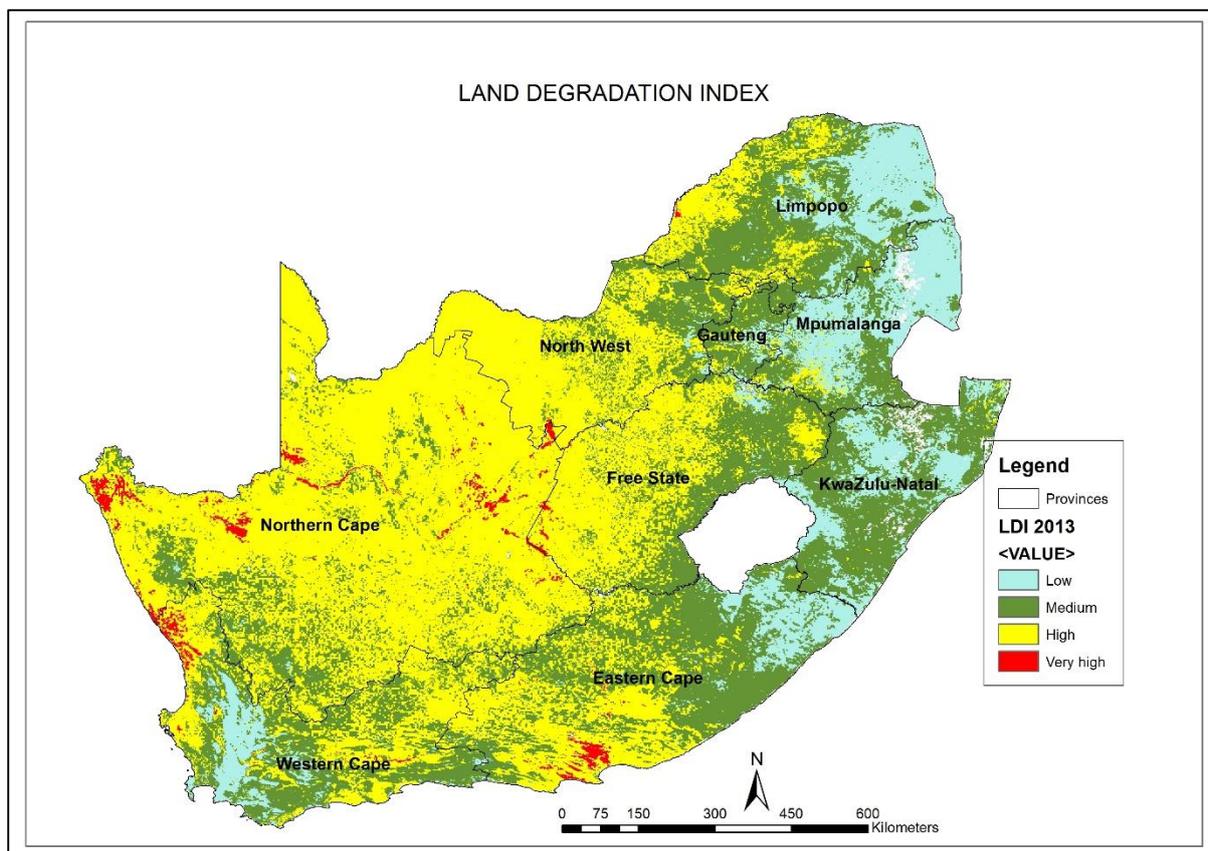


Figure 1: Land degradation index Map (DEA, 2016)

The land degradation index above (Figure 1) was produced by combining a number of indicators that include aridity index, wind and water erosion and soil pH. The map shows that most parts of the country experience low to medium degradation, whereas large parts of Northern Cape, North West and Eastern Cape Province experience high degradation.

2.4. State of drought in South Africa

In South Africa, drought is a serious natural disaster and has been associated with many socio-economic challenges. Throughout the African continent, it causes large-scale water and food deficits, hunger, famine, migration of people and animals, diseases, deaths and many other severe, chronic societal problems. Drought, however, is not limited to Africa but is a global problem that affects many parts of the world, including both poor and rich countries, developed and developing ones.

South Africa's climate is characterised by periods of wet spells also called La Niña (years receiving above-normal rainfall) and dry spells also called El Niño (years receiving below-normal rainfall). Scientific analysis of rainfall data has shown that South Africa experiences spells of either predominantly wet years or spells of predominantly dry years, and these spells have not affected regions of this country exactly the same or equally.

The recent droughts over parts of South Africa particularly within important grain production areas have highlighted the fact that South Africa is a drought-prone country and is vulnerable to the impacts of drought. Maize production during the 2014/15 production year was estimated to be only a third of that of the previous production year. Apart from the impact on food security, the occurrence of droughts also places a strain on natural resources such as grazing, which, together with unsustainable management practices, results in reduced production capacity (Archer, 2004). Large parts of the country are

classified as arid or semi-arid, but more importantly, periodicities in the climate system sometimes result in multi-year periods of anomalously low rainfall. The duration, spatial extent, and intensity of droughts result in a range of impacts affecting various sectors of the economy.

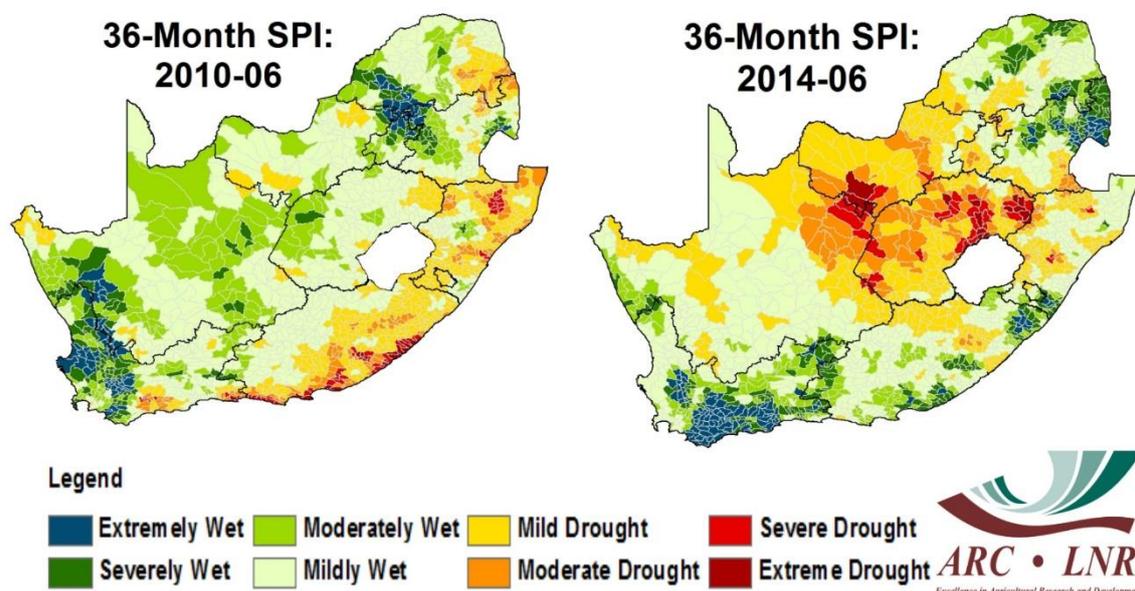


Figure 2: Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) classes at 36-month time scale between June 2010 and June 2013.

The latest droughts on record in South Africa occurred in 1982/84, 1992/93, 2003/04 and 2014/15 resulting in significant economic, environmental, and social impacts and highlighted the country's continuing vulnerability concerning this natural hazard (DEA, 2016a). The 2014/15 drought had major impacts of the following provinces namely Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and North West. Given that the impact of drought is most severe in these provinces which form part of the important grain producers; this further highlights the fact that South Africa is a drought-prone country, vulnerable to the impacts of drought. The gradual shift in dry area is also indicated in Figure 2 above.

3. REVISION AND ALIGNMENT OF THE 2004 NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME

3.1 The 2004 National Action Programme

In response to Article 9 and 10 of the UNCCD, South Africa through DEA developed the first NAP in 2004 in collaboration with other relevant departments, research and academic institutions, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), multilateral donor organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society at large. South Africa's ratification of the Convention expressed the political will of our government to contribute to these undertakings. The subsequent adoption of the 2004 NAP and appointment of a National Coordinating Body (NCB) further expressed this commitment. The implementation of the 2004 NAP was overseen by the Steering Committee, which widened the NAP's reach through advisory structures and workshops involving national, provincial and local stakeholders.

3.2 Revision of the 2004 National Action Programme

The eighth session of the Conference of Parties held in Madrid, Spain in September 2007, adopted the UNCCD 10-Year Strategic Plan and Framework (2008-2018) in accordance with decision 3/COP8. The Strategy provides a unique opportunity to address some of the Convention's key challenges, to

capitalize on its strengths, to seize opportunities provided by the new policy and financing environment, and to create a new, revitalized common ground for all UNCCD stakeholders. Its mission is “to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability”. The UNCCD Strategy contains four strategic objectives, as well as five operational objectives as outlined below:

Strategic objectives

- To improve the living conditions of affected populations
- To improve the condition of affected ecosystems
- To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD
- To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors

Operational objectives

- Advocacy, awareness raising and education
- Policy framework
- Science, technology and knowledge
- Capacity-building
- Financing and technology transfer

In South Africa the process of reviewing and updating the NAP was initiated early in 2014. The process of reviewing and updating the NAP came at an opportune time wherein the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted 17 global goals for sustainable development (the SDGs) in September 2015 in New York. These bold, transformative and universal goals are the roadmap for the next 15 years. SDG 15 is of particular relevance for the UNCCD, which urges countries to “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. More specifically, Target 15.3 which reads, “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”. This target has therefore become a strong vehicle to drive UNCCD implementation, while at the same time contributing to other SDGs, including those relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, food and water security, disaster risk reduction, and poverty reduction.

BOX 1: Land Degradation Neutrality Target

At the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the UNCCD held in Ankara, Turkey from 12 to 23 October 2015, Parties adopted Decision 3/COP 12 on integration of the SDGs and its targets into the implementation of the UNCCD in particular SDG 15 and target 15.3. Through this decision, COP invited Parties to:

- (a) Formulate voluntary targets to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities, taking into account the list of options for operationalizing LDN at the national level as outlined by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG);
- (b) Use the monitoring and evaluation approach adopted in decision 22/COP.11, including the progress indicators as listed in the annex to this decision, where reliable data is available pursuant to paragraph 7 of that decision and taking into consideration national circumstances and, as needed, add additional indicators to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards achieving the LDN target;
- (c) Explore options on how to integrate the voluntary LDN targets in their NAPs as part of their overall discussion on the implementation of the SDGs;
- (d) Promote the use of LDN targets and projects and other Sustainable Land Management (SLM) initiatives as an effective vehicle for mobilizing additional sustainable financing and responsible and sustainable investments that address DLDD issues.

3.3 The purpose of the NAP

To identify and implement factors contributing to desertification, land degradation and drought as well as practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. The NAP shall specify the respective roles of government, local communities and land users as well as 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 and all other relevant policies;
- (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;
- (g) Require regular review of, and progress reports on, their implementation;
- (h) To achieve SDG target 15.3 which states that by 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world; and
- (i) Promote awareness, education and capacity building (i.e. scientific, human and institutional) on issues of DLDD

PART B: INTERNATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT ON DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND DROUGHT

4. International policy context on desertification, land degradation and drought

There have been a number of developments happening at the international space that addresses issues relating to Desertification, land Degradation and Drought (DLDD). South Africa has been involved in such developments. These developments were taken into consideration and further inform the revision of the NAP. The key developments are highlighted below:

4.1 The Adoption of the Global UNCCD Strategic Plan and Framework (2008-2018)

In 2007, the UNCCD adopted a 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018) to enhance implementation of the Convention with an overall objective “to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability”.

The Strategy contains four strategic objectives, as well as five operational objectives. The four strategic objectives are as follows:

- i. To improve the living conditions of affected populations;
- ii. To improve the condition of affected ecosystems;
- iii. To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD; and
- iv. To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors.

The five operational objectives are each linked to thematic areas as outlined in table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of operational objectives of the UNCCD Global Strategy.

UNCCD OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	THEMATIC AREA
To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.	Advocacy, awareness raising and education
To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/ land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.	Policy framework
To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.	Science, technology and knowledge
To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse DLDD and mitigate the effects of climate change.	Capacity building
To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.	Financing and technology

4.2 Aichi Biodiversity targets

In 2010, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Aichi Target are the overarching framework on biodiversity not only for the CBD, but for the entire United Nations system. The mission of the Aichi targets is to “Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by

2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication". The Aichi targets that contribute to DLDD are summarised in table 2 below.

Table 2: Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Aichi targets 5	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
Aichi targets 15	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification

4.3 Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought post Rio+20 Summit

The UNCCD made an official submission calling for a bold set of actions to be endorsed at the Rio+20 Conference. The Rio+20 outcome document called "the future we want document" on desertification, land degradation and drought is considered as one of the successes of the Rio +20 Conference wherein the world governments underline the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil and agreeing to strive for a land-degradation neutral world as a tool to monitor, globally, land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept was born out of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) where Member States "recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation". In view of this, at Rio+20, world leaders agreed that natural capital, in particular land resources are the foundation of our society and economy. It was this vision that guides the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda.

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted SDGs, in particular SDG 15, target 15.3 on LDN (see table 3 below) which is a watershed moment for the UNCCD as this brings the Convention into the realm of measurability.

The LDN target responds to the immediate challenge of how we can sustainably intensify production of food, fuel and fibre to meet future demand without further degradation of our finite land resource base. The objective of LDN is to maintain the amount of healthy and productive land resources over time in line with national sustainable development priorities through Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices and ecosystem restoration. The SLM enhances the resilience of land resources and communities that directly depend on them while avoiding further degradation. The key principle of LDN is that people at grassroots level whose everyday decisions and actions affect the condition of land and water resources have to be involved in designing and implementing measures to address DLDD.

During UNCCD COP 12, the COP endorsed the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) science-based definition of LDN as a "state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems".

In addition, Parties were invited to (a) Formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities, taking into account the list of options for operationalising LDN at the national level as outlined by the IWG; (b) Use the monitoring and

evaluation approach adopted in decision 22/COP.11, develop additional indicators to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards achieving the LDN target; and (c) Promote the use of LDN targets and projects as an effective vehicle for mobilising additional sustainable financing and investments that address DLDD issues, amongst others.

Table 3: Sustainable Development Goal 15.

<p>Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</p> <p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>

4.4 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)

The nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 19) in Warsaw called on parties to submit “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions” (INDCs). INDC identifies the actions that national government intends to take under the Paris Agreement agreed in December 2015 at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21). INDCs are, therefore, the basis of post-2020 global emissions reduction commitments included in the climate agreement.

Land is the largest carbon storage on earth, after the oceans (Sara et al, 2009). Land could take up much more carbon if it is managed sustainably. Worldwide, billions of hectares of land are degraded and they have the potential to be restored and rehabilitated. E.g., the inclusion of the land sector among the sectors that are covered by the INDCs had significantly expanded country parties options for mitigation. By rehabilitating 12 million hectares annually over a period of 10 years, this can help to sequester up to 3.3 gigatonnes of CO₂ per year by 2030 which can also help to harness the mitigation potential for land and for achieving land degradation neutrality and closing the emissions gap and keeping global warming below 2°C on average.

4.5 The Paris Agreement

In 2015, the UNFCCC COP 21 adopted the Paris Agreement, which established a global goal on adaptation that seeks to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The Paris Agreement acknowledges that adaptation action should consider, among other things, ecosystems. In the planning and implementation of adaptation action at the national level, Parties to the Paris Agreement may include the assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems, and building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems.

The Paris Agreement is very important in terms of achieving the LDN target. Under baseline projections, average global temperatures could be expected to increase by 4°C, resulting in catastrophic climate change impacts, such as regime shifts in ecosystems, substantial species loss, substantial increase in extinction risk for terrestrial and freshwater species, widespread coral reef mortality and accelerated ocean acidification, and the potential for “tipping points” to be crossed in some biomes with large detrimental effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The aim of the UNFCCC is described in Article 2, as "enhancing the implementation" of the Convention through:

- (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;
- (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

4.6 Southern African Development Community Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification (2015-2025)

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Sub-regional Action Programme to Combat Desertification (SRAP) is an operational tool to facilitate a coordinated approach towards the implementation of the Convention at the sub-regional level. SADC SRAP is aimed at facilitating joint actions at the sub-regional level, including the management of transboundary natural resources, transfer of technology, research and development, capacity building and public awareness.

The UNCCD Regional Implementation Annex for Africa provides detailed commitments, strategies and measures for the implementation of the Convention in Africa. SADC, as one of the affected African countries are expected to undertake joint actions at the sub-regional level for the implementation of the Convention.

4.7 Drought Resilient and Prepared Africa (DRAPA) - Strategic Framework for Drought Management and Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa

Drought is a complex natural hazard that is global in nature and has cross-cutting impacts on many aspects of livelihoods and sectors of society. These include agriculture, energy, food security, health, water resources, migration, and resource conflict amongst others. In responding to drought issues for the Africa Region, member states adopted the Drought Resilient and Prepared Africa (DRAPA) as a framework that will focus on drought risk management and enhancing resilience in Africa. The strategic framework contains six main elements in line with the priorities of African regional networks, national action programmes (NAPs), and the global disaster risk reduction frameworks such as the Sendai Framework. These elements include: (i) drought policy and governance for drought risk management, (ii) drought monitoring and early warning; (iii) drought vulnerability and impact assessment, (iv) drought mitigation, preparedness, and response, (v) knowledge management and drought awareness, and (vi) reducing underlying factors of drought risk, as well as cross-cutting issues such as capacity development and reducing gender and income inequality.

PART C: POLICY FRAMEWORK CONTEXT

5. LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES ADDRESSING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN LINE WITH THE UNCCD OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has a number of legislative tools, policies, strategies and plans that address the issues of DLDD which cut across the mandates of various spheres of government departments and institutions. The legislative framework relevant for DLDD is summarised in the table below.

Table 4: Legislations

LEGISLATIVE/POLICY TOOLS	OBJECTIVE
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998)	To provide for co-operative, environmental governance by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-ordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of state.
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)	To provide for the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework of the NEMA, the protection of species and ecosystems that warrant national protection; the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources; the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from bio-prospecting involving indigenous biological resources.
National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Amendment Act, 2008 (Act No. 36 of 2014)	To establish a system of integrated coastal and estuarine management in the Republic, including norms, standards and policies, in order to promote the conservation of the coastal environment, and maintain the natural attributes of coastal landscapes and seascapes, and to ensure that development and the use of natural resources within the coastal zone is socially and economically justifiable and ecologically sustainable; to define rights and duties in relation to coastal areas; to determine the responsibilities of organs of state in relation to coastal zone, inappropriate development of the coastal environment and other adverse effects on the coastal environment; to give effect to South Africa's international obligations in relation to coastal matters.
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004)	To reform the law regulating air quality in order to protect the environment by providing reasonable measures for the prevention of pollution and ecological degradation and for securing ecologically sustainable development while promoting justifiable economic and social development.
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003)	To provide for the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas representative of South Africa's biological diversity and its natural landscapes and seascapes; for the establishment of a national register of all national, provincial and local protected areas; for the management of those areas in accordance with national norms and standards; for intergovernmental co-operation and public consultation in matters concerning protected areas.
World Heritage Convention Act, 1999 (Act No. 49 of 1999)	To provide for the incorporation of the World Heritage Convention into South African law; the enforcement and implementation of the World Heritage Convention in South Africa; the recognition and establishment of World Heritage Sites; the establishment of Authorities and the granting of additional powers to existing organs of state; the powers and duties of such

	Authorities, especially those safeguarding the integrity of World Heritage Sites; where appropriate, the establishment of Boards and Executive Staff Components of the Authorities; integrated management plans over World Heritage Sites; land matters in relation to World Heritage Sites; financial, auditing and reporting controls over the Authorities
Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act No. 16 of 2013)	To provide a framework for spatial planning and land use management in the Republic; specify the relationship between the spatial planning and the land use management system and other kinds of planning; to provide for the inclusive, developmental, equitable and efficient spatial planning at the different spheres of government; provide a framework for the monitoring, coordination and review of the spatial planning and land use management system; provide a framework for policies, principles, norms and standards for spatial development planning and land use management; address past spatial and regulatory imbalances; promote greater consistency and uniformity in the application procedures and decision-making by authorities responsible for land use decisions and development applications; establishment, functions and operations of Municipal Planning Tribunals; facilitation and enforcement of land use and development measures.
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983)	To provide for the conservation of the natural agricultural resources of the Republic by the maintenance of the production potential of land, by the combating and prevention of erosion and weakening or destruction of the water sources, and by the protection of the vegetation and the combating of weeds and invader plants.
Sustainable Utilization and Protection of Agricultural Resources Bill (SUPRA)	To provide for the optimum productivity and sustainable utilisation of natural agricultural resources, the control of weeds or invader plants, and the control over the subdivision and change of utilisation of agricultural land.
National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)	To ensure that the nation's water resources are protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled in ways which take into account amongst other factors: meeting the basic human needs of present and future generations; promoting equitable access to water; redressing the results of past racial and gender discrimination; promoting the efficient, sustainable and beneficial use of water in the public interest; facilitating social and economic development; providing for growing demand for water use; protecting aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity; reducing and preventing pollution and degradation of water resources; meeting international obligations; promoting dam safety; managing floods and droughts
National Forests Act, 1998 (Act 84 of 1998)	To promote the sustainable management and development of forests for the benefit of all; create

	the conditions necessary to restructure forestry in State forests; provide special measures for the protection of certain forests and trees; promote the sustainable use of forests for environmental, economic, educational, recreational, cultural, health and spiritual purposes; promote community forestry; promote greater participation in all aspects of forestry and the forest products industry by persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.
National Veld and Forest Fire Act 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998)	To prevent and combat veld, forest and mountain fires throughout the Republic.
Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make provision for equitable access to and sustainable development of the nation's mineral and petroleum resources.

Table 5: Policies, Strategies, Plans and Frameworks

Policies, strategies, plans and frameworks	OBJECTIVE (to summarise)
Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996	Section 24 of the Constitution which provides within its Bill of Rights that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that: i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation; ii) promote conservation; and iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.
National Development Plan 2030	South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. Relating to agriculture, the Plan seeks to: create more jobs through agricultural development, based on effective land reform and the growth of irrigated agriculture and land production; ensure that all people have access to clean, potable water and that there is enough water for agriculture and industry, recognising the trade-offs in the use of water; Increased investment in new agricultural technologies, research and the development of adaptation strategies for the protection of rural livelihoods and expansion of commercial agriculture; These goals can be realised by drawing on the energies of its people, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state, and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society.
National Biodiversity Framework;	The purpose of the NBF is to provide a framework to co-ordinate and align the efforts of the many organisations and individuals involved in conserving and managing South Africa's biodiversity, in support of sustainable development. DLDD issues have strong links with biodiversity and implementation of several of the Priority Actions in the NBF will directly support the achievement of several of the priority activities identified in the NAP.
National Biodiversity Assessment	The purpose of the NBA is to assess the state of South Africa's biodiversity based on best available science, with a view to understanding trends over time and informing policy and decision-making across a range of sectors.
White Paper on the Conservation and	Policy objective 1.5 of the White Paper states that "restore and rehabilitate degraded

Sustainable use of South Africa's Biological Diversity	ecosystems, and strengthen and further develop species recovery plans where practical and where this will make a significant contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity".
National Climate Change Response White Paper	The purpose of the National Climate Change Response White Paper is to effectively manage inevitable climate change impacts through interventions that build and sustain South Africa's social, economic and environmental resilience and emergency response capacity; Make a fair contribution to the global effort to stabilise greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that avoids dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system within a timeframe that enables economic, social and environmental development to proceed in a sustainable manner.
Biodiversity Sector Climate Change Response Strategy	The purpose of the Biodiversity Sector Climate Change Response Strategy is to provide an overview of the anticipated climate change impacts on South Africa's biodiversity. The Strategy highlights the key international considerations informing South Africa's Biodiversity and ecosystems climate change response. It takes cognisance of the importance of inter-sectoral coordination as one of the key delivery mechanisms.
Disasters Management Act	The purpose of the Disasters Management Act is to provide for an integrated and co-ordinated disaster management policy that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of disasters, emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response to disasters and post-disaster recovery.
Biodiversity and Species Management Plans	The purpose of the Biodiversity and Species Management Plans is to provide for the long-term survival of a species in the wild and to provide a platform for an implementing organisation or responsible entity to monitor and report on the progress regarding the implementation of the Biodiversity Management Plans.
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans	The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) aims to conserve, manage and sustainably use biodiversity to ensure equitable benefits to the people of South Africa, now and in the future. The NBSAP includes the objective of the UNCCD which states that by 2019, Land Degradation National Action Plan must be implemented. Integrate biodiversity considerations into sector policies and legislation, including land use planning (SPLUMA) and decision making tools for agriculture (includes PDALFA, Sustainable Use and Management of Natural Resources Policy and Bill, revision of CARA), climate change, waste management, renewable and non-renewable energy, invasive alien

	species and land degradation.
Alien Invasive Species Regulations	Alien Invasive Species Regulations outlines the procedure and criteria as contemplated in Chapter 5 of NEMBA relating to the preparation, evaluation, submission, processing and consideration of, and decision on, applications for environmental authorisations for the commencement of activities, subjected to environmental impact assessment, in order to avoid or mitigate detrimental impacts on the environment, and to optimise positive environmental impacts, and for matters pertaining thereto.
Rural Development Strategy	The strategy addresses how rural communities can access and use resources, including government funds and those that can be leveraged by government funds.
National Water Resource Strategy	National Water Resource Strategy supports development and the elimination of poverty and inequality; Water contributes to the economy and job creation; Water is protected, used, developed, conserved, managed and controlled sustainably and equitably
Integrated Development Plan	Integrated Development Plan is a five-year plan in which local government is required to compile to determine the development needs of the municipality

6. SECTORAL PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

There are various multi-sectoral programmes being implemented that support the objectives of the UNCCD, with many of them linking biodiversity conservation with socio-economic development in line with government priorities. Table 6 outlines these programmes which include initiatives with development, social, and conservation emphasis, such as programmes under the umbrella of the national Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). These include Working for Water; Working for Land; Working for Wetlands; Working on Fire; LandCare Programme; Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme (ISRDP); Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM); People and Parks Programme; National Greening and Open Space Management; Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP); National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC); and Participatory Forestry Management.

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Table 6: Programmes and Initiatives

PROGRAMME	PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE	UNCCD Operational Objective addressed	NAP Outcome addressed
Working for Water (DEA)	To control invasive alien species while promoting resource conservation and poverty reduction. While the main goal of this programme is to recover scarce water, other components include the conservation of biological diversity, and the building and empowerment of local communities through job creation.	1 and 5	3; 4 and 6
Working for Land (DEA)	The working for land focus area aims at empowering the greater community with rehabilitated areas of land by planting trees and make more land available for agricultural land grazing uses. This programme seeks to address degradation of land due to desertification, overgrazing, soil erosion, poor storm water management and unsustainable farming practices.	1, 2	4 and 6
Working for Wetlands (DEA)	To facilitate the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of wetland ecosystems as a vehicle for poverty alleviation with an approach that centres on the creation of partnerships between landowners, communities and civil society.	1, 2	3; 4 and 6
Working on Fire (DEA)	The programme addresses the prevention and control of wild-land fires to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, poverty and the environment through the implementation of Integrated Fire Management (IFM) practices.	1, 3	6
LandCare programme (DAFF)	The programme aims to optimize and sustain resources in order to attain greater productivity; food security; job creation and a better quality of life by encouraging and supporting sustainable land use practices; raising awareness and promoting a resource conservation ethic while also reducing poverty; and creating jobs through natural resource rehabilitation, improvement and conservation.	1, 2, and 5	1; 3; 4 and 6
Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) (DEA)	The programme focuses on promoting the sustainable use of communal land, optimizing productivity and sustainability of resources to address food security, job creation and a better quality of life for all. It promotes rural development in communal areas with the participation of local people in natural resource conservation aiming to alleviate rural poverty by producing a range of social, economic, institutional and ecological benefits.	1 and 2	1 and 4
People and Parks Programme (DEA)	To invest in infrastructure development and biodiversity conservation for economic benefits; to ensure that local communities are involved in the management of protected and surrounding areas; and to ensure the promotion of biodiversity values in the proclaimed protected and surrounding areas. The overall aim of the People and Parks Programme is to address issues at the interface between conservation and communities in particular the realization of tangible benefits by communities who were previously displaced to pave way for the establishment	3	1;4; 5 and 6

	of protected areas.		
Participatory Forestry Management (DAFF)	The programme supports the sustainable use of forests and forest resources to serve the livelihoods of the poor, rural and marginalized urban communities through access to forest resources at community level and through enterprise development.	3	4
National Greening and Open Space Management (DEA)	The National Greening and Open Space Management is an interactive and innovative programme that contributes to one of the key government priorities on the environment which is sustainable resource management and use targeting the open spaces. The objective of the cleaning and greening programme is to improve the state of the environment, create a conducive environment and promote sustainability in those disadvantaged areas.	1	4 and 6
Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) (DRDLR)	The programme aims to mobilise and empower rural communities to take initiatives aimed at control of their own destiny with the support of government. The goal of the CRDP is to achieve social cohesion and development by ensuring improved access to basic services, enterprise development and village industrialisation.	5	4
National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC). (DRDLR)	To recruit unemployed youth in rural areas; to train the youth through Further Education and Training programmes linked to the identified developmental community projects in rural areas; to develop youth with multi-disciplinary skills through civic education; to increase the number of rural communities receiving support in their self-development through the CRDP.	4	4
Kalahari Namib Project	Support communities and policy makers in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to effectively implement and upscale SLM in the Molopo-Nossob catchment area and thereby contribute to restoration of the integrity and functioning of the entire Kalahari-Namib ecosystem	2	1;2;3;4;5 and6

BOX 2: SLM Best practice projects and lessons learnt

South Africa has delivered a number of best practices in which key lessons learned were identified in terms of sustainable land management and natural resources which will be further built on through the National Action Programme. This includes amongst others the GEF funded projects, programmes and other initiatives: A summary of such initiatives and interventions is provided below.

(a) The Drylands Research Programme

In accordance with article 17 of the UNCCD: "Parties need to undertake and promote technical and scientific cooperation through i.e. increased knowledge of the processes leading to desertification and drought and distinction between causal factors both natural and human, with a view to combating desertification and achieving improved productivity as well as sustainable use and management of resources, develop and strengthen national, sub-regional and regional research capabilities giving particular attention to multidisciplinary and participative socio- economic research and also to take into account where relevant, the relationship between poverty, migration caused by environmental factors and desertification". As such, South Africa through DEA developed the South Africa Drylands Research Programme in 2010.

The purpose of the developed Drylands Research Programme on the implementation of the UNCCD is to provide an overall framework for future research initiatives in South Africa in order to address areas of research amongst others as follows:

- Preparing an overview of the current research into trends, dynamics and distribution of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) in the country;
- Identifying key research areas and issues that need to be addressed, to further the goal of combating land degradation and alleviating poverty; and
- Identifying the most important knowledge gaps on DLDD, and begin the process of refining the indicators set out in the UNCCD 10-Year Strategic Plan and Framework (2008-2009), customising them for South African circumstances.

(b) The Kalahari-Namib project (KNP)

The Kalahari-Namib Project is a transboundary initiative between the Governments of the Republic of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. It aims at promoting the joint management of the Kalahari-Namib ecosystem in Southern Africa, essentially focusing on combating land degradation and desertification while enhancing the livelihoods of communities dependent on these marginal dryland areas. Working with a variety of stakeholders through its three layers of government, the KNP is implemented in South Africa by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) in partnership with DEA and executed by the International Union on Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The KNP is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The KNP is fitted within the GEF fourth replenishment cycle (GEF-4) Land Degradation Focal Area and contributes to Strategic Objective 2 (SO2) which is about "Up-scaling Sustainable Land Management (SLM) investments that generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods". The project was completed in 2016.

(c) UNEP-GEF STIMULATING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IN SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Stimulating Community Initiatives in Sustainable Land Management (SCI-SLM) was an innovative three year programme aimed at identifying local innovation in Sustainable Land Management by communities in four African countries namely; Ghana, Morocco, South Africa and Uganda. The SCI-SLM project was executed by UNEP and University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) as an implementing agent. Vreij University provided technical support to SCI-SLM project. The project was budgeted for R3 million, with 50% being core funding and the other funding coming from the participating organizations' own contributions. The initiative embraces both the principles of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and the National Action Programme (NAP). The project was completed in 2013.

PART D: THE NATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME

7. Framework for the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

7.1 Methodology followed for the development of the NAP

The following key activities formed the basis of the methodology to develop South Africa's National Action Programme:

- Conducted literature review on the national imperatives as outlined in the National Development Plan in support of financial resource mobilisation;
- As part of the literature review process, the existing stakeholder database for the NAP was assessed and the identified individuals who participated in the programme before were consulted to resuscitate the process. The outcome of this activity was a consolidated stakeholder database that allowed proper initial consultations and the establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC);
- A review of the linkages between the various conventions and how their activities will contribute to the UNCCD/NAP alignment programme was undertaken;
- The guideline documents provided by the UNCCD Secretariat to all member countries also formed a basis of the programme in terms of adhering to the expected process that will lead to the acceptable outcome in terms of the aligned NAP to be submitted by the country;
- Conducted gap analysis on the implementation of the 2004 NAP;
- Developed a gap analysis report;
- Convened three PSC meetings;
- Conducted provincial and national stakeholder consultations workshops on the revision and alignment of the NAP;
- Revised the draft NAP based on comments and inputs received from the PSC, and Provincial and national consultations;
- Convened a national workshop to present the revised NAP for final inputs and comments as well as the proposed institutional arrangements for implementation;
- Undertook a Peer Review of final draft document through PSC and the UNCCD Secretariat
- Facilitated approval of the revised NAP by Cabinet

7.2 Structure of the NAP

The NAP as illustrated by figure 1 below is framed by an overarching vision which outlines the long-term vision for desertification, land degradation and drought in the country. The vision will be achieved through the implementation of seven (7) outcomes.

VISION

Prosperous and healthy South Africans living in an environment restored and maintained through universal improvement in land management to its beautiful landscapes and productive ecosystems that sustain livelihoods and ecosystem services, for the benefit of current and future generations

PURPOSE

To identify factors contributing to desertification, land degradation and drought as well as practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought

Outcome 1

By 2020 National strategy for communication and coordination programme to mitigate desertification/ degradation and drought is delivered.

Outcome 2

By 2020, policy and institutional frameworks are effectively implemented and strengthened to minimise desertification reverse land degradation and mitigate effects of drought.

Outcome 3

By 2025, support and encourage research by academic and scientific institutions on science, knowledge and technology on desertification, land degradation, and drought, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Outcome 4

By 2019, the capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society to support efforts/ initiatives aimed at mitigating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought has been built.

Outcome 5

By 2019, funding mechanisms to support land owners, communities and conservation entities to implement sustainable land use management established and functioning.

Outcomes 6

By 2030 South Africa to ensure that degraded ecosystems are restored whilst contributing to ecosystem services delivery, climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Outcome 7

Outcome 7: By 2030 Identify, formulate and implement South Africa's National Voluntary targets to ensure that a land degradation neutral world.

Figure 3: The vision, purpose and outcomes of the NAP.

8. Key outcomes of the NAP

Outcome 1: By 2020 National strategy for communication and coordination programme to mitigate desertification/degradation and drought is delivered.

The main objective of this outcome is to ensure there are public awareness and advocacy programmes in place on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. Increasing public awareness on desertification; land degradation and the effects of drought is crucial to ensure South Africa smoothly implement the NAP while educating communities on the Sustainable Land Management best practices. The Department of Environmental Affairs in coordination with other departments will advocate the public awareness on the threats and risks of Unsustainable Land Management and the benefits of Sustainable Land Management best practices.

Key outputs

- Output 1.1:** Effective mobilisation, generation and delivery of the knowledge and information required to support achievement of sustainable land management, land degradation neutrality (LDN) and land degradation-related sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Output 1.2:** Promote consistent and participatory action to address the factors causing DLDD
- Output 1.3** Effective delivery of communication and awareness strategy to support achievement of the sustainable land management, land degradation neutrality (LDN) and sustainable development goals.

Outcome 1: By 2020 National strategy for communication and coordination programme to mitigate desertification/degradation and drought is delivered.

Outputs	Activities	Target	Indicators	Key agencies	Budget
Effective delivery of communication and awareness strategy to support achievement of the sustainable land management, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	Develop communication and awareness raising strategy and implementation plan for DLDD and LDN	By 2018	Communication and awareness strategy	Lead: DEA Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	Approximately R500 000.00 P/A
	Conduct awareness raising and education on DLDD and SLM at National, Provincial and Local level.		Number of stakeholder /public awareness events and number of people reached.		
	Develop communication materials	Annually	Number of communication materials developed and distributed to increase awareness on DLDD.		
	Develop articles from published reports for DLDD and SLM awareness		Number of Articles published at Media platforms.		
Deliver presentations on DLDD and SLM issues at various platforms	Annually	Number of presentations Delivered			
Assess and integrate SLM into school and university curriculum		Number of reports on Awareness conducted and number of people informed on DLDD and SLM.			

			Number of Curriculum Assessment Policy document updated		
Promote consistent and participatory action to education on the factors causing DLDD.	Convene Learning exchanges platforms and forum for SLM	Biennial	Number of learning exchange platforms conducted	Lead: DEA Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisation.	Approximately R500 000.00 P/A

Outcome 2: By 2020, policy and institutional frameworks are effectively implemented and strengthened to minimise desertification reverse land degradation and mitigate effects of drought. (Mainstream DLDD into other relevant sector policies)

South Africa has relatively comprehensive policy frameworks in place that address and encourage Sustainable Land Management. The main objectives of this outcome are to strengthen coordination among all the actors and establishing of permanent institutional arrangements to achieve cross sector collaboration. The strengthening of local governance structures linked to Sustainable Land Management is also a vital component of this outcome.

Key outputs

- Output 2.1:** Implement and integrate national policies and frameworks that support sustainable land use management while strengthening institutional arrangements.
- Output 2.2:** Institutional structure in place to strengthen cross-sector partnership on implementation of the NAP and initiatives for combating desertification.
- Output 2.3:** Leverage synergies among the Rio Convention and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements at national level

Outcome 2: By 2020, policy and institutional frameworks are effectively implemented and strengthened to minimise desertification, reverse land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought. (Mainstream DLDD into other relevant sector policies)					
Outputs	Activities	Target	Indicators	Key agencies	Budget
Implement and integrate national policies and frameworks that support sustainable land use management while strengthening institutional arrangements.	Conduct Gap analysis on existing policies and strategies	By 2020	Report on Gap analysis conducted on existing policies and strategies developed	Lead: DEA Supported: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	Approximately R500 000.00 P/A
	Support the integration of DLDD into relevant sector policies, regulations and legislative framework		Number of policies, strategies and legislations supported		
	Develop policy brief and dialogue on DLDD		Number of tools integrating SLM best practises Number of policy briefs developed Number of policy dialogues on DLDD conducted		
Institutional structure put in place to strengthen cross-sector partnership on implementation of the NAP	Establish National Coordinating Body to oversee the implementation of NAP	By 2017	National Coordinating Body established and functional	Lead: DEA Supported: Nominated Institutions/organisations	Approximately R500 000.00 P/A

and initiatives for combating desertification					
Leverage synergies among the Rio Convention and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements at national level	Ensure consistency on national positions and implementation of decision thereof	Annual	Number of cross cutting issues identified Number of common position developed in a synergistically approach	Relevant National Focal Points	

Outcome 3: By 2025, support and encourage research by academic and scientific institutions on science, knowledge and technology on desertification, land degradation, and drought, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

South Africa has limited information/data on the extent of desertification in the country and hinders South Africa's ability to effectively implement the NAP. The main objective of this outcome is to further and encourage research on Sustainable Land Management and the extent of desertification and land degradation in the country. South Africa through the Department of Environmental Affairs will engage with research institutions such as the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to encourage these institutions to consider research on issues of SLM, Climate Change, desertification and land degradation.

Key outputs

Output 3.1: Institutional partnerships among relevant academic and scientific institutions established for research on DLDD and training on SLM

Output 3.2: Research initiatives by academic and scientific institutions funded to improve understanding of the science, technology and knowledge on SLM, DLDD and related issues.

Output 3.3: A technical skills and implementation capacity assessment conducted to determine existing gaps in available technical skills and national capacity to effectively implementing SLM and DLDD mitigation measures.

Outcome 3: By 2025, support and encourage research by academic and scientific institutions on science, knowledge and technology on desertification, land degradation, and drought, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Outputs	Activities	Target	Indicators	Key agencies	Budget
Institutional partnerships among relevant academic and scientific institutions established for research on DLDD and training on SLM	Establish research advisory committee that will advise on research focus.	By 2018	Research Advisory Committee established Research network established and operational Annual research plan published	Lead: NRF/DST in coordination with DEA Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	Approximately R100 000.00
Research initiatives by academic and scientific institutions funded to improve understanding of the science, technology and knowledge on SLM, DLDD and related issues.	Establish a coordinated resource allocation(funding) mechanism /machinery for a DLDD research	By 2020	Amount of money dedicated to DLDD research Number of published research outputs	Lead: DEA in collaboration with DST Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	Approximately R500 000.00 P/A
A technical skills and implementation capacity assessment conducted to determine existing gaps in available technical skills and national capacity to effectively implementing	Conduct Gap Analysis on technical skills and capabilities.	By 2019	Gap Analysis report on technical skills and capabilities be developed.	Lead: Research Institutions Supported: Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	Approximately R500 000.00 P/A

SLM and DLDD mitigation measures.	Support training initiatives by academic and scientific institutions on SLM.	On-Going	Number of people trained at specified levels	Coordinated by DEA in consultation with the research advisory committee	Approximately R400 000 P/A
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Outcome 4: By 2019, the capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society to support efforts/ initiatives aimed at mitigating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought has been built.

South Africa is prone to desertification, land degradation and drought (DEA 2016a) It is therefore crucial for South Africa to have a national capacity building programme in place. The main objective of this outcome is to build capacity of communities, land managers, farmers and implementers of Sustainable Land Management. South Africa will participate in international capacity building programmes of the UNCCD to ensure the results are implemented at National, Provincial and Local Level.

Key outputs:

- Output 4.1:** Support the implementation of the national capacity self-assessment (NCSA) action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional (formal and informal) and systemic levels to tackle desertification/land degradation and drought issues at the national, provincial and local levels.
- Output 4.2:** Training and awareness raising conducted at all spheres of government on implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and combating Desertification, land Degradation and Drought (DLDD).
- Output 4.3:** Develop capacity-building programmes for combating DLDD and enabling sustainable development.

Outcome 4: By 2019, the capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society to support efforts/ initiatives aimed at mitigating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought has been built					
Outputs	Activities	Target	Indicators	Key agencies	Budget
Support the implementation of the national capacity self-assessment (NCSA) action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels to tackle desertification/land degradation and drought issues at the national, provincial and local levels	Capacity needs assessment on DLDD and SLM conducted	By 2018	Reports on capacity needs assessment by 2018	Lead: DEA Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	R500 000.00 P/A
	Participate in GEF capacity building projects	Annual	Reports on initiatives conducted / to strengthen capacity building.		
Training and awareness raising conducted at all levels on implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and combating Desertification, land Degradation and Drought (DLDD).	Training on implementation of SLM and combating DLDD conducted	Annual	Number of trainings conducted	Lead: DEA Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	R500 000.00 P/A
Develop a capacity-building programme for combating DLDD and enabling sustainable development.	Capacity Building Programme for Combating DLDD at all levels developed	By 2019	Number of capacity building programmes provided annually	Lead: DEA Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	R500 000.00 P/A

Outcome 5: By 2019, funding mechanisms to support land owners, communities and conservation entities to implement sustainable land use management established and functioning.

South Africa, through the implementation of the resource mobilisation strategy will continue to mobilize financial resources. Such funds will be used to ensure South Africa implements SLM best practices so as to empower rural communities and women who are most vulnerable to degradation induced poverty and while promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use practices. The mainstreaming of funding from private sectors is also crucial for South Africa to enhance financial resources to support small and large scale projects related to DLDD and SLM.

Key outputs:

Output 5.1: Adequate financial resources from local and international sources for supporting the implementation of NAP and its priorities mobilised.

Output 5.2: Integrated intergovernmental funding and investment model for implementing the NAP and its related programmes developed.

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Outcome 5: By 2019, funding mechanisms to support land owners, communities and conservation entities to implement sustainable land use management established and functioning.

Outputs	Activities	Target	Indicators	Key agencies	Budget
<p>Adequate financial resources from local and international sources for supporting the implementation of NAP and its priorities mobilised.</p>	<p>Resource mobilisation and fundraising through proposals to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Donor Agencies, Development Partners and the Private Sector.</p>	<p>Every four years</p>	<p>Amount of funds mobilised for DLDD and SLM.</p>	<p>Lead: DEA; National Treasury,</p> <p>Supported: Key national Departments and their entities; Provincial Departments and their entities; Local Government; Civil Society; Non-Governmental Organisations; and Private Sector.</p>	
	<p>A clear assessment of South Africa's financial capacity to implement DLDD and SLM-related projects conducted.</p>	<p>By 2019</p>	<p>Assessment reports developed</p>		

<p>Integrated intergovernmental funding and investment model for implementing the NAP and its related programmes developed.</p>	<p>Establish a Sub-Committee to oversee the mainstreaming of funds from donors and National Budget allocation</p> <p>National co-funding and investment model developed</p>	<p>By 2017</p>	<p>Sub-Committee is in place</p> <p>Sub-Committee reports and minutes</p> <p>Effective co-funding account by 2019.</p>	<p>Lead: DEA</p> <p>Supported: Key national Departments and their entities; Provincial Departments and their entities; Local Government; Civil Society; Non-Governmental Organisations; and Private Sector.</p>	
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Outcomes 6: By 2030 South Africa to ensure that degraded ecosystems are restored whilst contributing to ecosystem services delivery, climate change adaptation and mitigation

The main objective of this outcome is for South Africa to restore degraded ecosystems to increase land cover and land productivity while contributing to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. South Africa like many other countries in the world is invaded by alien invasion species, bush encroachment and experiencing severe desertification and land degradation. South Africa will ensure the participation of women and youth and private sectors on issues of desertification, land degradation and drought to ensure effective implementation of the NAP through various flagships programmes.

Key outputs:

- Output 6.1:** Reduce the combined impacts of climate change and DLDD through protecting and conserving ecosystem and its services, thus increasing the capacity of communities to adapt to drought.
- Output 6.2:** Strengthening communities' ability to adapt to the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought.
- Output 6.3:** Areas under Bush encroachment and invaded by alien invasive species identified where relevant, managed and controlled .
- Output 6.4:** Identification of communities and focal landscapes at high risk of desertification, land degradation and drought

Outcomes 6: By 2030 South Africa to ensure that degraded ecosystems are restored whilst contributing to ecosystem services delivery, climate change adaptation and mitigation					
Outputs	Activities	Target	Indicators	Key agencies	Estimated Budget
Reduce the combined impacts of Climate Change and DLDD through protecting ecosystem services and increasing the capacity of communities to adapt to drought	<p>Promotes Sustainable land Management and Ecosystem Based Adaptation best practices</p> <p>Establish flagship programmes to promote community adaptation to drought, desertification and climate change</p>	By 2030	<p>Land productivity measured as flows of ecosystem services by 2030.</p> <p>Decrease in number of people negatively impacted by DLDD and climate change</p> <p>Increase in Carbon sinks/stocks and plant biomass in degraded areas by 2030</p>	<p>Lead: DEA</p> <p>Supported: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.</p>	R2000 000.00 pa
Areas under Bush encroachment and invaded by alien invasive species identified where relevant, managed and controlled	<p>Map, monitor and where practical and desirable, control bush encroachment and alien invasive species.</p> <p>Involvement of women, youth and communities and others agencies on alien and invasive species and bush encroachment control to prevent further degradation of vegetation and ecosystems.</p>	<p>Every five years</p> <p>On-Going</p>	<p>Number of hectares / area invaded by alien invasion and bush encroachment</p> <p>Increase in number of youth and women empowered by 2025</p>	<p>Lead: DEA</p> <p>Supported: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.</p>	R 2 000 000. 00
Identification of communities and focal landscapes at high risk	Establish Monitoring and Evaluation steering committee to identify	By 2020	Flagship programmes on Focal landscapes and communities identified and prioritised by	<p>Lead: DEA</p> <p>Supported by Key</p>	R500 000.00 P/A

<p>of desertification, land degradation and drought</p>	<p>communities and landscapes that need urgent action</p>		<p>2020.</p>	<p>National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.</p>	
<p>NAP implemented in a manner that contribute to job creation and poverty reduction</p>	<p>Influence the activities and prioritization of EPWP and other relevant programmes</p> <p>Explore the potential to create long-term jobs linked to SLM</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Number of hectares rehabilitated /restored</p> <p>Number of jobs created</p>	<p>Lead: Inter-Ministerial task team on DLDD and NT</p> <p>Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.</p>	<p>R500 000.00 P/A</p>

Outcome 7: By 2030 Identify, formulate and implement South Africa’s National Voluntary targets to ensure a land degradation neutral world is achieved. .

The objective of this outcome is for South Africa to formulate National Voluntary Targets to achieve a land degradation neutral world by 2030. As one of the Contracting Parties to the UNCCD and affected by desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD), South Africa should adopt best practices on SLM to ensure that a land degradation neutral world is achieved by 2030. The majority of the population in South Africa depends on land for agriculture to sustain their livelihoods. South Africa will ensure collaboration among all actors and strengthen institutional arrangements and develop monitoring system to monitor the implementation of the NAP in line with its Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. Departments such as Environmental Affairs, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Rural Development and Land Reform, Water and Sanitation and Public Works will play a significant role to ensure South Africa achieves LDN.

Key outputs:

- Outputs 7.1:** Conceptualisation of the Land Degradation Neutrality protocol for South Africa
- Outputs 7.2:** Develop accessible GIS database for spatial distribution of areas severely and moderately affected by desertification, land degradation and drought.
- Outputs 7.3:** Target setting and implementation of the Land Degradation Neutrality concept at national level

Outcome 7: By 2030 Identify, formulate and implement South Africa's National Voluntary targets to ensure a land degradation neutral world					
Outputs	Activities	Target	Indicators	key Agencies	Estimated Budget
Conceptualisation of the Land Degradation Neutrality protocol for South Africa	liase with the UNCCD Secretariat on the process to operationalize the protocol on LDN	By 2020	SA specific protocol for LDN	Lead: DEA	R300 000 for 3 years
Develop accessible GIS database for spatial distribution of areas severely and moderately affected by desertification, land degradation and drought.	South Africa to compile GIS data on spatial distribution of degraded ecosystems to identify the extent of desertification and land degradation in the country.	By 2020	Produce maps of degraded ecosystems and technical report on the extent of desertification and land degradation be generated for quality monitoring of DLDD by 2020 Annual degradation spatial coverage report be-developed	Lead: DST (SAEON), Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organisations.	R1 000 000.00 pa for 3 years
Target setting and implementation of the Land Degradation Neutrality concept at national level.	Coordinate and facilitate national voluntary target settings workshops.	By 2018	South African to formulate national voluntary targets by 2018 to ensure Land degradation Neutrality achieved by 2030. Number of workshops	Lead: DEA Supported by: Key National and Provincial Departments, public entities, Local Government; Civil Society and Non-Governmental	R 600 000.00

			conducted towards the development of the national voluntary targets	Organisations.	
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PART E: NAP INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The NAP will be implemented over a 10 year period from 2017-2027. The 10 year period is considered realistic for South Africa to put the necessary structures in place to oversee the implementation of the NAP in line with the outcomes and outputs outlined in part D above.

The Department of Environmental Affairs as the focal point to the UNCCD will coordinate and facilitate the overall implementation of the NAP. A National Coordination Body will be established to oversee the implementation of NAP, including its monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the committee will follow the cross-sectoral coordination approach and will draw its representatives from the NAP contributing partners

9. National Coordinating Body for the UNCCD

The Convention requires that Parties establish a National Coordinating Body (NCB) to function as a catalyst in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of its NAP. The South African NCB will provide advisory services to the South African Government through its Department of Environmental Affairs by assisting as appropriate in the coordination, facilitation and implementation of the UNCCD NAP taking into account government priorities and its programme of work, various legislation, policies, strategies, and the National Development Plan (NDP). In discharging its duties, the NCB will account to the South African Government through DEA and will further endeavour to take into account South Africa's development agenda, priorities, circumstances and transformation imperatives. Implementing the NAP requires concerted work to follow a path agreed upon by the partners in the enterprise, i.e. DEA and other organs of state in different spheres of government, the private sector, development finance institutions, organised labour, and civil society. However, it is important to use existing institutional arrangements as far as possible to achieve the improvements in coordination and integration of government initiatives needed for progress. DEA will therefore give effect to the requirements of the Convention by constituting the NCB for South Africa's UNCCD NAP. The NCB will meet twice per year.

As stated in Annex I of the UNCCD the purpose of the NCB and its objectives are:

- to advise the DEA upon the policy, strategy and programme for the implementation of the NAP, as well as the for provisions of the UNCCD as a whole
- to advise DEA on preparations for participation in international forums and assist in its reporting responsibility to the Conference of Parties
- to generally advise the DEA on its role as National Focal Point for the UNCCD
- to review NAP evaluation reports prepared by the National Focal Point

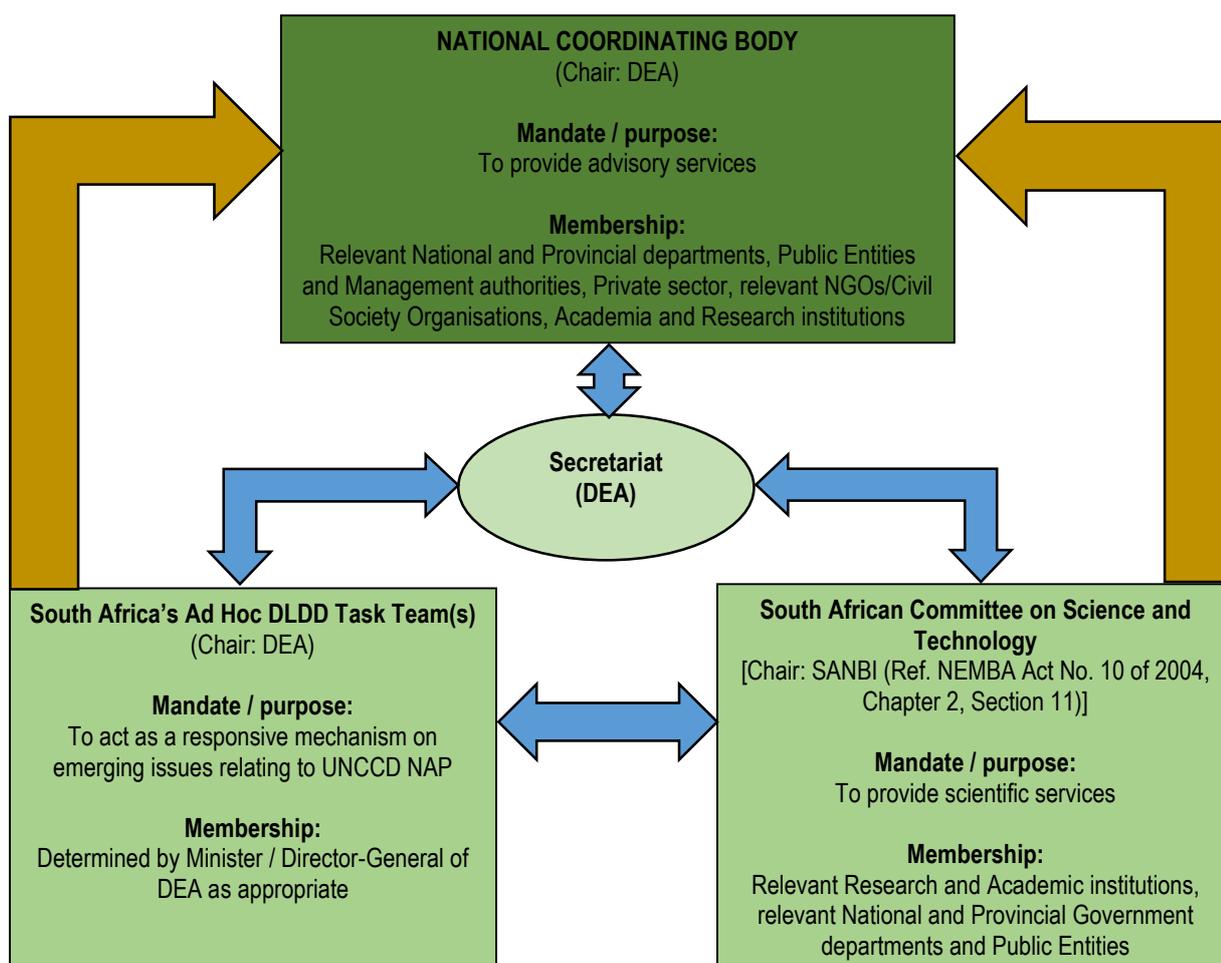


Figure 4: The NAP institutional arrangements

Box 3 The responsibility of the coordinating body as specified in Annex I of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

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 non-governmental 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.

10. Funding Mechanisms for the implementation of the NAP

In terms of Article 20 of the UNCCD, Parties to the Convention are required to mobilise financial resources for the implementation of the NAP. In recognising the central importance of financing so as to achieve the objectives of the Convention, country Parties, taking into account their capabilities, are required to make every effort to ensure that adequate financial resources are available for programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

During the 2003/2004 financial year, the Department commissioned a resource mobilization survey, which indicated that private sector companies spent approximately R1.1 billion over a period of a year on corporate social responsibility services of which 18% of the amount equating to R85.6 million, was spent on programmes and projects related to the NAP. To leverage such resources and other funding mechanisms aimed at addressing desertification, land degradation and the effects of drought, a resource mobilization strategy was subsequently developed which culminated in the establishment of the "Rehabilitating Drylands for Poverty Alleviation account" commonly known as the "Drylands Fund". The establishment of the Drylands Fund was a collaborative effort between the Department and private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), small scale farmer support groups and civil society.

The Drylands Fund seeks to support initiatives, partnerships and processes to scale up solutions to sustainable land use management in the country with a focus on poor communities living in areas which are vulnerable to environmental degradation.

The NAP of the UNCCD will be funded largely through Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and other donor funded programmes and projects such as the Green Fund, Climate Change Adaptation fund, Global Environment Facility, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and the LDN fund amongst others.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation of the NAP

Sound monitoring and evaluation is critical for the success of the South African NAP implementation. Monitoring and evaluation must track progress of the implementation of the NAP and ensure that the NAP is on track. Remedial action will be needed where this is not the case. This is a prerequisite for good governance. Monitoring and evaluation must ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved from the NAP interventions. This is critical to secure long term funding. The NAP must be an adaptive management process that can recommend change where desired results are not being achieved either in the implementation process or in the resultant consequences from implementation, to ensure the success of its implementation process. Furthermore, the NAP requires a significant commitment of human and financial resources, for which there are many competing uses. The seven outcomes of the NAP are cross-cutting in nature and will require sound monitoring and coordination to achieve the intended results per outcome. Reporting on the NAP and the state of desertification is an international obligation as a signatory to the UNCCD. Progress towards achieving the outcomes and the outputs of the NAP will be monitored and evaluated every three years.

DEA will report on the state of land degradation in the country every five years. The state of the land report will be submitted to Parliament. The monitoring process must be linked to rigorous review of successes and failures and the NAP must be adjusted accordingly. This monitoring process must be closely aligned with and draw on data from amongst others:

- State of the environment M&E

- SDGs M&E process
- National LDN target setting and implementation process
- State of the forests M&E
- Agricultural resource M&E
- Drought and food security M&E
- The Statistics South Africa M&E
- Veld fire M&E
- National Land Cover changes data
- And others that will be identified in the process.

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