



THIRD NATIONAL REPORT

by

SAMOA



ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

Copyright to:

Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology
(M N R E M)
2006

ACRONYMS

ADB:	Asia Development Bank
ARCF:	Asia Regional Cooperation Framework
CBD:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBDAMPIC:	Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in the Pacific Islands
CBO:	Community Based Organisations
CEA:	Country Environmental Analysis
CEO:	Chief Executive Officer
CSP:	Country Strategy and Programme
EPC:	Electric Power Corporation
EU:	European Union
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GEF:	Global Environmental Facility
GHG:	Green House Gases
GNI:	Gross National Income
GoS:	Government of Samoa
HRPP:	Human Rights Protection Party
JICA:	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAF:	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MNREM:	Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology
MSP:	Medium Sized Project
NAP:	National Action Programme
NAPA:	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NBSAP:	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Project
NCB:	National Coordinating Body
NCSA:	National Capacity Self Assessment
NEMS:	National Environmental Management Strategy
NFP:	National Focal Point
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSC:	National Steering Committee
NUS:	National University of Samoa
OP:	Operational Programme
PRCF:	Pacific Regional Cooperation Framework
PRSM:	Pacific Regional Support Mechanism
PRS:	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PUMA:	Planning and Urban Management Agency
RAP:	Regional Action Plan
SDS:	Strategy for the Development of Samoa
SDSP:	Samoa Drainage and Sanitation Project
SES:	Statement of Economic Strategy
SIAMP:	Samoa Infrastructure and Asset Management Project
SLM:	Sustainable Land Management

SRAP: Sub Regional Action Plan
TALAVOU: Towards A Legacy of Achievement, Versatility and Opportunity through
Unity
TDP: Tourism Development Plan
TPN: Thematic Programme Network
TT: Task Team
UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
USP: University of the South Pacific
WaSSP: Water Sector Support Programme

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PART A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 Focal Point Institution: Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment

Name of Focal Points	Tuuu Dr. I Taulealo – Chief Executive Officer (UNCCD Overall Manager) Sooialo D. Fong – Assistant CEO-Land Management (UNCCD Project Manager) Faainoino Laulala – Principal Land Development Officer (UNCCD Project Coordinator)
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Country Specific Websites:	http://www.mnre.gov.ws

2 Status of the NAP

Dates of Validation:	
29 April 2006 (first NAP draft)	National Steering Committee (NSC) & Taskteam
19, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28 June 2006.....	Village Mayors (pulenuus)
17 – 21 July 2006.....	Other Village Community Groups ¹
17 August 2006	All other National Stakeholders & NGOs including the NSC & Taskteam, Regional Organizations and other Technical Resource Experts.
27 September 2006	Cabinet approved Samoa's NAP
4 October 2006	Official NAP Launch
October – November (current).....	Further enhancement to the NAP prior to submission to UNCCD Secretariat
10 November 2006 (completed)	NAP National Stakeholder Validation Workshop
24 December 2006 (pending)	Official NAP submission to UNCCD Secretariat
January 2007(pending)	Official NAP Publication
NAP Reviews:	Every 5 years
NAP has been integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS):	Integration into the PRS will happen once the NAP takes off during the implementation phase
NAP has started with or without the conclusions of partnership agreements	Yes, it will start with or without it
Expected NAP validation	Completed
Final Draft of a NAP exists	Yes
Formulation of a draft NAP is underway	No
Basic Guidelines for a NAP have been established	Yes
Process for a NAP has only been initiated	No
Process has not yet started	No

¹ Village Councils (Chiefs & Orators), Women's Council, Untitled Men, Untitled Women & Village Youths

3 Member of SRAP/RAP

Name of Subregional and/or Regional Cooperation Framework		Involvement specifically in Topics such as Water harvesting techniques, Soil erosion etc
1	Pacific Regional Cooperation Framework (PRCF)	A regional action programme for the Pacific Region is under current discussion or preparatory for formulation. This regional action programme will certainly involve discussions of specific topics and issues on water, soil, forests and other land-based ecosystems
2	Asia Regional Cooperation Framework (ARCF), also known as Thematic Programme Network 6 (TPN6)	Samoa is a member of the Asian Regional Network and was recently involved in discussions held in mid-2004 on an Asia Regional Action Programme for Combating Desertification and Mitigating Drought Impacts. The discussion focused on priority programmes and activities for Asia in the following areas; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local area development in the context of UNCCD implementation – focused on promoting community driven initiatives and activities in the areas of natural resource management, dryland land management, rural agriculture development, community empowerment, etc that are relevant to facilitating UNCCD implementation in Asia Partnership building and institutional networks
3	Pacific Regional Support Mechanism (PRSM)	Samoa is part of the PRSM coordinated and facilitated by SPREP and funded by UNDP-GEF. This programme ensures that capacity building support is given to countries of the Pacific such as through the NCSA mechanism that assess national capacity needs of individual member countries to implement the three Rio Conventions of which is the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.

4 Composition of the National Coordinating Bodies² (NCB) /Taskteam (TT)

	Name of Institution	Government	NGO/ Regional	Educational/ Academic Institutions	Male/Female (M/F)	TT member
1	Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division of Environment & Conservation Division of Water Resources Division of Forestry Division of Meteorology Division of Land Management Division of Planning and Urban Management Division of Corporate Services 	√			M F M F/M F/M M/F F M	√ √ √ √ √ √ √ √ √

² Also known as the UNCCD National Steering Committee (NSC)

	Name of Institution	Government	NGO/ Regional	Educational/ Academic Institutions	Male/Female (M/F)	TT member
	• Division of Technical Services					
2	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	√			F	
3	Ministry of Finance	√			M	√
4	Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries	√			M	√
5	Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development	√			M	√
6	Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture	√			M	√
7	Ministry of Samoa Tourism Authority	√			M	
8	Office of the Attorney General	√			F	
9	Samoa Land Corporation	√			F	
10	National University of Samoa			√	F	√
11	University of the South Pacific (USP)			√	M	√
12	National Council of Churches		√		M	
13	Samoa Umbrella of Non-Governmental Organizations		√		M	√
14	Women in Business		√		F	√
15	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		√		F	
17	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)		√		M	

5 **Total Number of NGOs accredited to the Process:** 2 are accredited to the process with SUNGO
representing 10 other environmental NGOs.

Has an NGO National Coordinating Committee on desertification been established? If yes, how many NGOs or civil society organizations participate in it?	No, there is none existing that is specific to desertification. There is potential for other NGOs to become members of the NSC or to form own NGO-NSC for desertification
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6 **Total Number of Acts and Laws and/or Regulations:** 20+

Name up to five most relevant Acts and Laws and/or Regulations

Title of the Law ³		Date/Year of Adoption
1	Constitution of the Independent State of Western Samoa	1960
2	Lands, Surveys and Environment Act	1989
3	Planning & Urban Management Act	2004
4	Forest Regulations	1969
5	Watershed Protection and Management Regulations	1992

7 The Consultative Process

Number of Partnership Agreements that have been concluded and/or are being initiated within the framework of the UNCCD.

Official Title of Partnership	Donors, international organizations, and/or Agencies of the UN system involved	Date of (expected) Conclusions
1		
2		
3		

List of Consultative Meetings on UNCCD Implementation

Name of Consultative Meetings	Date/Year	Donor Involved	Countries	International Organizations or Agencies of the UN system
1				
2				
3				

Name of Country which has taken over the role of *Chef de file*: _____

8 Name up to 10 Projects currently under Implementation which are directly related to UNCCD

Name of Project	Project Implemented within the Framework of the NAP/SRAP/RAP? (Yes/No)	Project Implemented within the Framework of	Time Frame	Partners Involved	Overall Budget	
1	MSP on Capacity Building & Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management	Yes	NAP	3 years	Government NGOs CBOs USP/NUS	US\$500,000 plus Co-financing
2	Water Sector Support Programme on Water Resource Management	No	EU	5 years	Governments Village Communities	ST\$60m
3	MSP-Lowland & Upland Forests	Yes	CBD	3 years	Government CBOs	US\$1.5m

³ All Laws, except 1 & 3, are under current amendments

Name of Project		Project Implemented within the Framework of the NAP/SRAP/RAP? (Yes/No)	Project Implemented within the Framework of	Time Frame	Partners Involved	Overall Budget
4	SIAMP (Phases 1 & 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Infrastructure Management Plans (SIAMP II) National Disaster Management Plans Samoa Drainage and Sanitation Cyclone Emergency Recovery Project for Cyclone Heta Sustainable Management Plans for Flood Prone Areas 	No	World-Bank funded Project	5years	Government Village Communities	
5	Sustainable Management Plans for the Industrial Area	No	UNDP	2 years	Government Private Sector	
6	Community Forest Programme	No	FAO AusAid funded		Govt Community (farmers)	AUS\$5m
7	National Parks & Reserve Project		JICA	5years		US \$500,000
8	Integrated Water Resource Management	RAP	EU	5 years	Government Village Communities NGOs	
9	Promoting Conservation of Biodiversity	No			NGOs	
10	Talavou programme (UN Joint TALAVOU Young People's Programme)	RAP	UNDP		UNDP Village Youths Communities	ST\$500,000
11	Flood Risk Reduction Action Plan & Guidelines (EDF Project) ⁴	RAP	SOPAC-EU funded		Government Communities	

PART B: UNCCD COUNTRY PROFILE

This UNCCD country profile has been provided by: UNCCD Taskteam Members

Name of Focal Point Institution: Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment

Date: 30 October 2006

⁴ Reducing Vulnerability in the Pacific ACP (Asia, Caribbean & the Pacific)

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I Biophysical Indicators relating to Desertification and Drought

1	Climate	481mm/yr (avr)
1.1	Index of Aridity ⁵	<hr/>
1.2	Normal Rainfall	241mm <hr/>
1.3	Rainfall Standard Deviation	47.9 <hr/>

Sub-National Areas	mm
1. Savaii:	
- North Savaii	134.6mm
- South Savaii	257.2mm
- East Savaii	193.3mm
- West Savaii	291.4mm
2. Upolu:	
- North Upolu	241.0mm
- South Upolu	352.5mm
- East Upolu	323.3mm
- West Upolu	231.5mm

2	Vegetation and Land Use	
2.1	NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index)	<hr/>
2.2	Vegetation Cover (% of total land area)	59.92% <hr/>
2.3	Land Use (% of total land)	39.38% <hr/>

Land Use	1990 – 1999	2000 – 2005
Arable Crop Land	34.7%	22.3%
- Irrigated	No irrigation	No irrigation
- Rainfed		
Pasture	4.7%	6.16%
Forest and Woodland	49.7%	59.92%

⁵ The index of Aridity is the ratio P/PET; P=precipitation, PET=potential evapo-transpiration.
Climate zone maps to be annexed if available in a scale of 1/million

⁵ Surface Albedo Map to be Annexed if available

Other Land	10.9%	11.62%
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- 2.4 Surface Albedo⁶ _____
- 3 **Water Resources** *Samoa has no data on fresh water availability. Efforts had just been made to collect the data on fresh water. There is no agricultural water use as irrigation is non-existing.*
- 3.1 Fresh water availability (million m³)
- 3.2 Fresh water resources per capita (m³)
- 3.3 Agricultural water use (million m³)
- 3.4 Industrial water use (million m³)
- 4 **Energy**
- Consumption
- 4.1 Energy use per capita (kg oil equivalent) _____ 433
- 4.2 Agricultural energy use per hectare (millions of BTU) _____
- Production
- 4.3 Energy from renewables excluding Combustible renewables and waste (% of total supply) _____
- Renewables – Consumption by Sector
- 4.4 Industry (% of total renewable consumption) _____
- 4.5 Residential (% of total renewable consumption) _____
- 4.6 Agriculture (% of total renewable consumption) _____

5 Types of Land Degradation

Type of Degradation	1990 – 1999		2000 - 2005	
	Million Ha	% of total area	Million Ha	% of total area
Soil Degradation				
Forest Degradation				
Watershed Degradation				

Contaminated sites from persistent toxic substances				
Coastal erosion				

6 Rehabilitation

Lands under Rehabilitation	1990 – 1999	2000 – 2005
Rehabilitation of degraded crop land (km ²)		
Rehabilitation of degraded rangeland (km ²)		
Rehabilitation of degraded forests (km ²)		

II Socio-Economic Indicators related to Desertification and Drought

7 People and Economy

7.1	Population (total)	174,140 (2001 census)
		<u>46%</u>
	• Population: urban (% of total)	<u>54%</u>
	• Population: rural (% of total)	<u>1%</u>
7.2	Population Growth (annual %)	
7.3	Life Expectancy (years)	65(males)/72years (female)
7.4	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	<u>60 per 1000 (1-4years)</u>
7.5	GDP (current US\$)	<u>1,200 per capita</u>
7.6	GNI per capita (current US\$)	
7.7	National Poverty Rate (% age group)	age 40 (10%) age 5 (17%)
7.8	Crop Production (metric tons)	
7.9	Livestock Production (metric tons)	

8 Human Development

		10-14 years – 96% / 5-9 years – 94%
	Primary education completion rate (% age group)	<u>68%</u>
	Number of women in rural development (total number)	<u>58%</u>
	Unemployment rate (age 15 – 24)	<u>5%</u>
	Youth unemployment (% age 15 and above)	<u>37%</u>
	Illiteracy total (% age 15 and above)	

- 9 **Science and Technology**
9.1 Number of Scientific Institutions engaged in
 desertification-related work (total number) _____

- 10 **Please specify Data Sources:**
i) Meteorology Division – MNRE
ii) SaMFRIS Report 2005
iii) Population Census 2001
iv) ADB – Country Assistance Plan 2001-2003
v) Agriculture Census Report 1999/2005
vi) General Data of Samoa

PART C: MEASURES TAKEN TO COMBAT LAND DEGRADATION

1. Strategies and Priorities established within the Framework of Sustainable Development Plans and/or Policies

Samoa has retained the same ruling governing party of the last 20 years as its government for the next five years after the general elections in early March 2006. After years in power since 1985, the Human Rights Political Party (HRPP) continues to advance its

focus on enhancing the macroeconomic stability of the country. Apart from reliance on traditional mainstays such as agriculture and remittances, it targeted growth led by the construction, other manufacturing, hotels and restaurants, transport and communication sectors. Samoa therefore has achieved significant progress and success in areas of social and economic competence as it entered the 21st century. Economic performance continued to achieve positive results and social indicators showed signs of improvement. This means the quality of life has advanced. However, a lot remains to be done and efforts towards raising the quality of life is forever challenging.

It has also since the Rio Summit 1992 on environment and development, progressively adhered its developmental operations and undertakings within the national framework of sustainable development. However much of its progressive national actions in the area of environmental management of natural resources is donor-driven. There is very little progress to integrate environmental considerations into macro-level national strategy, policies and plans. Environmental policies and plans especially designed for sustainable environmental management in general are by and large left to individual Ministries, due in part to the environmental policy vacuum in previous as well as in the current Statement for the Development of Samoa (SDS). The result is an ad-hoc approach that is largely driven and underpinned by external funding. Attempts however are currently being made by initiative of the ADB programme using an integrated approach for a standalone recognition of environment as a sector. This ADB programme has produced for Samoa a Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) report as a planning mechanism for mainstreaming recognition of incorporating environment considerations into the national development strategy and programme for Samoa. The same ADB programme is currently undertaken simultaneously for other developing countries.

National actions and priorities since 2000 have been guided by two types of separate statements issued periodically by the government. These statements have served the interests of its people since the dawn of this new millennium, and from which as follow had stemmed a number of national plans, priorities and strategies, in the following areas;

- ***Statement of Economic Strategy (SES) 2000 – 2001***

Samoa's Economic Strategy aimed at encouraging private-sector led, and broader-based growth in outputs and employment, as well as facilitated social development, within a good governance environment. The government during the SES period accorded high priority to the education and health sectors in order to provide people with greater opportunities to advance themselves. The government also supported a rural development programme to improve power distribution, transport infrastructure, and communications in order to create more opportunities for those in Savaii and the rural areas of Upolu, where lowest income levels tend to occur.

- ***Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2002-2004 & 2005 – 2007***

Following instantly the SES period, the GoS released in 2002 the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2002-2004. The vision is "for every Samoan to enjoy an improved quality of life premised on a competitive economy with sustained economic growth, improved education, enhanced health standards and strengthened

cultural and traditional values”. The SDS 2002-2004 identified nine key strategic areas for the development of Samoa over a three year implementation period. these priority areas are; maintaining a stable macroeconomic framework; the development of health, education, private sector, socio-cultural values and agriculture; as well as infrastructural services; tourism development; and improved service delivery by the public sector. The government believes that the successful implementation of these strategies will result in an improved quality of life for all Samoans. It does not provide analysis of the current development situation or provide links between the various activities occurring in each sector. The SDS 2005-2007 is a continuation of strengthening and enhancement of key priority areas previously highlighted in the SES period for development with particular emphasis on furthering development of the private sector, agricultural growth and tourism. The SDS is the only national document of its kind in Samoa which attempts to draw together all of the various sectors. However, it is essentially a planning document that states the government’s development strategy.

1.1 National Plans and Strategies in other Social and Economic Areas

Table 1: Programmes & Plans that are Socially and Economically related

Key Sectors/Performance Indicators		Status	
		National Plans & Strategies	Outcome
1	SES 2000 -2001		
	i. Enhanced Public Sector Efficiency & Effectiveness	Public Sector Reforms	Institutional Reforms have realigned all government Ministries and Corporations as well as functioned to reflect their current positions according to issues for resolve they represent in order to attain efficiency and effectiveness with performance and delivery of public services.
	ii. Improved Education Standards	Education and Associated Strategic Plan for 1995-2005	The plan reflects the government's commitment to improving quality of education for all Samoans. It is based on four key concepts of equity, quality, relevance and efficiency of the public education system.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Sector Project to strengthen strategic planning capability Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA) 	The SQA is a 2-years project funded by UNDP. The SQA will provide policy advice to Government on all aspects of post-school education and training to promote national economic, social and cultural development in tandem with both national and international goals. The outcome of the project would be reduced disparity in education access with expanded opportunities for quality education for life for all community groups thereby contributing to national development in Samoa.
	iii. Improved Health Standards	Strategic Health Sector Plan	This plan focused on strengthening health services through rationalizing operations, and upgrading of training for health personnel. Improvements in this sector include provision of private health care services and traditional healers given greater prominence in health care services as well as rural health services continuing to improve.
	iv. Enhanced Growth in Private Sector Development	Adopted a Private Sector Partnership Approach to policy development	The private sector is the engine of growth for Samoa and the government continued to develop this sector by enhancing the enabling environment through financial sector liberalization and a micro-finance project has provided credit to the rural areas.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Foreign Investment Act approved in 2000 and a National Investment Policy formulated 	
	v. Invigorated Agriculture & Fisheries	Diversification Plan for Commercial Agriculture	After five years of stagnation following the Taro Leaf Blight, the agriculture sector began to show signs of growth in the 2000-01 period. The focus in the SES 2002-2004 is on diversification of commercial agriculture. At the commercial level, support is given to the requirement for food security as well as diversifying agricultural products for processing and exports. To improve the quality and quantity of crops available for both domestic and overseas markets, the Ministry of Agriculture has focused on surveying, controlling and monitoring pests and diseases that may affect crop quality and production systems.
vi. Sustainable Tourism Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint management of research, training and market development between farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture 		
	Tourism Development Plan (TDP)	This plan was developed in the SES 2000-2001 period in which identified key issues and strategies for this sector. The TDP continued to guide tourism development in the SES 2002-2004	
vii. Revitalised Village Economy	Revitalizing the state of rural and village economy	The government placed emphasis on making village economy a more attractive place to find employment or to engage in commercial agriculture if employment opportunities are to be generated for all the young people	

Key Sectors/Performance Indicators		Status	
		National Plans & Strategies	Outcome
1	SES 2000 -2001		
	i. Enhanced Public Sector Efficiency & Effectiveness	Public Sector Reforms	Institutional Reforms have realigned all government Ministries and Corporations as well as functioned to reflect their current positions according to issues for resolve they represent in order to attain efficiency and effectiveness with performance and delivery of public services.
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	iv. Enhanced Growth in Private Sector Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISP to strengthen strategic planning capability 	
	v. Invigorated Agriculture & Fisheries	Adopted a Private Sector Partnership Approach to policy development	The private sector is the engine of growth for Samoa and the government continued to develop this sector by enhancing the enabling environment through financial sector liberalization and a micro-finance project has provided credit to the rural areas.
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Key Sectors/Performance Indicators		Status	
		National Plans & Strategies	Outcome
1	SES 2000 -2001		
	i. Enhanced Public Sector Efficiency & Effectiveness	Public Sector Reforms	Institutional Reforms have realigned all government Ministries and Corporations as well as functioned to reflect their current positions according to issues for resolve they represent in order to attain efficiency and effectiveness with performance and delivery of public services.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Foreign Investment Act approved in 2000 and a National Investment Policy formulated 			
vi. Sustainable Tourism Development	Diversification Plan for Commercial Agriculture	After five years of stagnation following the Taro Leaf Blight, the agriculture sector began to show signs of growth in the 2000-01 period. The focus in the SES 2002-2004 is on diversification of commercial agriculture. At the commercial level, support is given to the requirement for food security as well as diversifying agricultural products for processing and exports. To improve the quality and quantity of crops available for both domestic and overseas markets, the Ministry of Agriculture has focused on surveying, controlling and monitoring pests and diseases that may affect crop quality and production systems.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint management of research, training and market development between farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture 		
vii. Revitalised Village Economy	Tourism Development Plan (TDP)	This plan was developed in the SES 2000-2001 period in which identified key issues and strategies for this sector. The TDP continued to guide tourism development in the SES 2002-2004	
	Revitalizing the state of rural and village economy	The government placed emphasis on making village economy a more attractive place to find employment or to engage in commercial agriculture if employment opportunities are to be generated for all the young people	

Key Sectors/Performance Indicators		Status	
		National Plans & Strategies	Outcome
1	SES 2000 -2001		
	i. Enhanced Public Sector Efficiency & Effectiveness	Public Sector Reforms	Institutional Reforms have realigned all government Ministries and Corporations as well as functioned to reflect their current positions according to issues for resolve they represent in order to attain efficiency and effectiveness with performance and delivery of public services.
	ii. Improved Education Standards	Education and Associated Strategic Plan for 1995-2005	The plan reflects the government's commitment to improving quality of education for all Samoans. It is based on four key concepts of equity, quality, relevance and efficiency of the public education system.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Sector Project to strengthen strategic planning capability Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA) 	The SQA is a 2-years project funded by UNDP. The SQA will provide policy advice to Government on all aspects of post-school education and training to promote national economic, social and cultural development in tandem with both national and international goals. The outcome of the project would be reduced disparity in education access with expanded opportunities for quality education for life for all community groups thereby contributing to national development in Samoa.
	iii. Improved Health Standards	Strategic Health Sector Plan	This plan focused on strengthening health services through rationalizing operations, and upgrading of training for health personnel. Improvements in this sector include provision of private health care services and traditional healers given greater prominence in health care services as well as rural health services continuing to improve.
	iv. Enhanced Growth in Private Sector Development	Adopted a Private Sector Partnership Approach to policy development	The private sector is the engine of growth for Samoa and the government continued to develop this sector by enhancing the enabling environment through financial sector liberalization and a micro-finance project has provided credit to the rural areas.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Foreign Investment Act approved in 2000 and a National Investment Policy formulated 	
v. Invigorated Agriculture & Fisheries	Diversification Plan for Commercial Agriculture	After five years of stagnation following the Taro Leaf Blight, the agriculture sector began to show signs of growth in the 2000-01 period. The focus in the SES 2002-2004 is on diversification of commercial agriculture. At the commercial level, support is given to the requirement for food security as well as diversifying agricultural products for processing and exports. To improve the quality and quantity of crops available for both domestic and overseas markets, the Ministry of Agriculture has focused on surveying, controlling and monitoring pests and diseases that may affect crop quality and production systems.	
vi. Sustainable Tourism Development	Tourism Development Plan (TDP)	This plan was developed in the SES 2000-2001 period in which identified key issues and strategies for this sector. The TDP continued to guide tourism development in the SES 2002-2004	
	vii. Revitalised Village Economy	Revitalizing the state of rural and village economy	The government placed emphasis on making village economy a more attractive place to find employment or to engage in commercial agriculture if employment opportunities are to be generated for all the young people

1.2 *National Plans and Strategies in the Field of Combating Desertification developed prior to UNCCD NAP*

Samoa's First National Report 2003 to UNCCD had addressed some of the past, current and ongoing policy and institutional measures, participatory processes as well as highlighting plans and strategies prior to UNCCD's official stages of implementation. The following plans and strategies are updates on progress made to complement all other developments and government commitments to the environment cause of protection and conservation of Samoa's natural resources.

In the field of combating desertification or land degradation, Samoa has not yet progressed much in this field. Samoa is at the final stages of finalizing its National Action Programme (NAP) which is to be taken as the overall policy and legal framework for stimulating effective national actions to combat desertification in the context of land degradation problems in Samoa. However there have been national initiatives and action plans by initiatives of the government and other conventional/regional frameworks that have contributed significant efforts in addressing land degradation in Samoa.

Table 2: Programmes and Plans that are Desertification/Land Degradation related

Key Sector	Status	
	National Plans & Initiatives	Outcomes
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going Rural Water Supply Consolidation Project (EU) 	Will consolidate benefits and impacts of new infrastructure in NW Upolu and SE Savaii by extending metered, treated, potable water to all intended beneficiaries, which is around 25% of the population.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP) (EU) 	The WaSSP will extend health and environmental benefits by increasing access to metered treated water to over 85% of the total population and addressing inadequate sanitation provision in rural schools and community facilities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa Drainage and Sanitation Project (SDSP) (ADB) 	The SDSP will bring similar benefits in the Apia urban area through improved drainage, wastewater treatment and sewerage disposal. Sector support from the EU will also ensure water services are set within a strengthened water management framework with improved sector monitoring and performance assessment. The services also include strengthening the baseline hydrological data collection program as the foundation for water supply and hydropower projects.
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coconut Oil for Power Generation Preparatory Assessment 	The Electric Power Corporation (EPC) in cooperation with the Government of Samoa and UNDP Samoa are undertaking the preparatory phase of the Coconut Oil for Power Generation project. The objective of this preparatory phase is to assist the GoS in defining, formulating and finalizing an Operational Program (OP 6) MSP Proposal to submit to GEF financing in the promotion of coconut oil-based power generation, and accompanying barrier removal activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upolu Wind Resource Assessment Project 	Samoa will undertake a wind resource assessment in Upolu for grid-connected wind applications. The project will select, install and operate two (2) wind monitoring stations and after one year with successful minimum data recovery rates analyse the data and assess the wind resource potential on Upolu.
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa Tourism Development Plan 2002-2006 	The plan highlights five particular aspects of sustainable tourism in Samoa; i) generating continuing economic benefits throughout Samoa society ii) contributing to general improvement in quality of life in Samoa iii) reflecting and supporting the faaSamoa iv) conserving and enhancing the country's natural and built environments and v) enhancing tourists' experience in Samoa.
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic farming practices, agroforestry and mixed cropping plantations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MAF and NGOs as well as through UNDP-GEF small grants schemes have encouraged farmers to diversity agriculture into organic farm practices. Many farmers and agriculturally active households have practiced agroforestry plantations and have tendency to practice mixed cropping rather than monocropping.
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Forestry Programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Programme is viewed as the major industry initiative over the next years with expected future benefits for both the community and the industry. However there will be obvious difficulties in retaining the industry infrastructure until plantations reach harvestable age. The recent physical transfer of the Forestry Division to MNRE from MAF has promising results in fine-tuning the usual commercially-driven focus of this sector to sustainable management of forest resources.

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	National Plans & Initiatives	Outcomes
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Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) 	<p>The NAPA will implement national actions through project implementation on the following areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water resources for communities concerning improvement of water quality, accessibility and availability Reforestation, rehabilitation and community forestry fire prevention projects in order to protect, rehabilitate and increase resilience of coastal lowland and inland forest resources Concerning drought mitigation and adaptation to flood events, NAPA has developed project to upgrade early warning systems for climate events and two of key actions is to increase resilience of village communities from drought and flooding associated with heavy rainfall, tropical cyclones and storm surges; and In the area of agriculture and food security, NAPA addresses the need to maintain economically subsistent agriculture and sustained food security in communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second National Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa is currently undertaking its second national communication to update the first national communication of 1999. The key component of the project is the inventory of GHG emissions and programmes containing measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBDAMPIC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project has implemented adaptation measures for two vulnerable coastal communities, one each in both Savaii and Upolu.
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Biodiversity Strategic Action Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Action Programmes of the NBSAP have addressed significant areas related to protection and conservation of land-based ecosystems such as in the area of national parks and reserves, threatened species, protection and conservation of biodiversity rich land areas and of invasive species.
Synergies amongst CC, CBD & CCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Capacity Self-Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samoa has actively participated in various national, regional and international capacity building environmental initiatives. Although previous capacity assessments have been

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		undertaken, Samoa is looking to the NCSA to undertake a more comprehensive assessment of national capacity needs utilizing an integrated, transparent and participatory approach. The aim of the project is to design an appropriate and practical NCSA that will identify and explore the priority capacity needs of the country.
NEMS Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Landuse Policy 2001 National Water Resource Policy 2001 National Population and Sustainable Development Policy 2001 National Waste Management Policy 2001 National Forest Development Policy 2005 National Conservation of Biological Diversity Policy 2005 National Cultural and Natural Heritage Policy 2005 National Biodiversity Policy 2005 National Planning for Climate Change National Protection of the Atmosphere Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The First National Report previously noted four NEMS policies approved in 2001. Four other policies have again been approved in 2005 while the other two are with Cabinet for approval. To date, about eight (8) policies have been approved by Cabinet and all eight are now operational working documents to guide national actions for sustainable development of natural resources.

2. Institutional Measures taken to Implement the Convention, including legislative and Institutional Frameworks or arrangements, linkages and synergies with other Environmental Conventions and, as appropriate, with National Development Strategies.

2.1 *NAPS as part of the National Economic and Social Development and Environment Protection Plans*

Samoa's NAP has been developed with the ultimate view that it would be part of the national economic, social development and environment protection plans of the

government. In view of land degradation situations in the country, the NAP presents a definite platform for addressing national concerns that aspire for sustainable land management practices as the ultimate resolve and/or remedial solution. Samoa's recent approval of the NAP is an initial indication of the government's commitment to recognizing national efforts to combat symptoms of desertification in the form of land degradation as it affects Samoa.

Samoa understands its obligations to UNCCD and in its quest for sustainable development of land resources, key sectoral development issues have been identified during the NAP formulation process. These concerns have been fed into the NAP to be addressed with appropriate actions. Environmental concerns are only sectorally streamlined for recognition in periodic SES' and SDS' by government. A key feature of this NAP is to mainstream SLM issues at higher-level national plans and policies targeting especially future statements of commitment by government. The NAP can be said to be complementary to the existing National Landuse Policy which has as its main objective the promotion of sustainable utilization of Samoa's land resources so they can best meet the needs of the present while preserving some for the future generation. Other programmes and policies that have bearing on the NAP are listed in Table 2 above.

2.2 Linkages achieved with Subregional and Regional Action Programmes

Samoa recognizes the importance of working collaboratively through effective networking and coordination with regional and subregional bodies in order to function widely and keep base with the outside world and neighboring countries on issues commonly affecting them. Samoa is actively involved as a member to a number of other regional action programmes under frameworks of other Conventions such as climate change and biodiversity. Under UNCCD, Samoa is part of the Thematic Programme Network 6 for the Asian Region and Pacific Regional Cooperation Framework which currently discusses formulation of a regional action programme. This action programme will exist to address individual pacific island issues and issues that have commonalities amongst the concerned island nations. Although to date there are no concrete actions born of the latter, the subregional and regional action programmes are largely seen to be drawn from individual country NAPs which notes individual concerns of affected country Parties and with most appropriate actions.

2.3 Established and Functional National Coordination Body

Samoa first established its functional National Steering Committee (NSC) in 2002 for purpose of facilitating the implementation of UNCCD through provision of policy advice and guidance to the National Implementing Agency. The National Focal Point is itself the National Implementing Agency, of which is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Decisions on the use and allocation of resources to implement the Convention are entrusted to the NSC for advice and guidance on how it is expended except on urgent financial matters whereby the NFP exercises its sole autonomy. This is so because the NSC has the capacity to catalyze preparation, implementation and

evaluation of UNCCD implementation and thus the NAP in addition to other possible functions.

The NSC is a multi-stakeholder committee with multidisciplinary competence in areas of agriculture, forests, water, research and scientific studies, tourism and finance. The NSC is represented by various governmental organizations and NGOs, academic and research institutions, private sector and civil society. In most cases, the same membership to UNCCD NSC is also represented in other NSCs such as Climate Change and CBD. This is largely due to overlaps and crosscutting issues found to be common concerns amongst the three Rio Conventions.

The NAP uses the same operational committee to guide its formulation and implementation. A taskteam was established in 2002 by the NSC for the NAP formulation. Members of the taskteam comprises some relevant NSC members as well as recruited from outside based on relevant expertise in technical areas related to land. The taskteam is absolved by decision of the NSC as and when necessary.

Regarding status of information, the NSC through its taskteam is responsible for relevant data and information retrieval from own sector he/she represents in the team and deposit it with the NFP. The NFP is responsible for coordinating and networking data and information sharing through circulation and dissemination to NSC members as well as the media and local communities. This is made possible through the use of emails, media, websites and mail delivery.

2.4 Institutional Frameworks for Coherent and Functional desertification Control

Samoa understands the importance of operating its national activities within effective institutional frameworks at the higher level. And implementing the NAP requires that it adopts similar frameworks as other Conventions. These frameworks stem at the political level where cabinet, aside from parliament with legislative power, makes ultimate decisions on national issues affecting the implementation of UNCCD and the NAP. Some of the institutional bodies comprising the higher level are noted as follows;

- **Cabinet Development Committee (CDC)** –The Cabinet Development Committee (CDC) is the principal advisory body to Cabinet. It plays a vital role in the mainstreaming of sustainable land management issues into national development plans and initiatives. It is a higher level committee of the Cabinet which comprises Ministers of the Cabinet and government CEOs.
- **Environment Board / Land Board / PUMA Board** – These institutional bodies hold pivotal roles in facilitating the promotion and recognition of environmental (NAP) issues at the higher level and ensures that protection and conservation measures are in place and are well-implemented.

Samoa, since the last reporting which barely took account of any significant institutional framework or measures taken to address land degradation, has instituted a number of strengthening setup mechanisms in the area of sustainable development and management

of environmental and natural resources. Some of these institutional setups occurred within the MNRE due to expansion of its core and support functions in recognition of the need for integrated approach to sustainably manage growing environmental concerns;

i) *Planning and Urban Management Agency (PUMA)*

The PUMA was enacted under the PUMA Act 2004 as a response by government to the growing concern for urban planning in view of the need to put in place an integrated planning system to address the growing expansion of public good operations and services and to meet the demands of a fast growing urban population. The PUMA mandate also extends to rural lands irrespective of the land tenure type.

ii) *Forestry and Meteorology Divisions – Resultant Public Sector Reforms*

Public sector institutional reforms have resulted in the realignment of government ministries and their core functions. It resulted in the physical transfer of Forestry and Meteorology Divisions to MNRE from MAF and resultant focus from a commercially driven orientation to the need for sustainable management and development of environment and natural resources.

iii) *Water Resource Division (WRD)*

The setup of WRD in 2006 as part of MNRE is a five-year plan project which will culminate in its automatic devolvement as a government institution. The division was enacted under the Water Sector Support Programme (WaSSP). This initiative is an integrated approach for water resource management that will ensure provision of high quality water supply, safe disposal of wastewater, and sustainable management of water resources in Samoa.

Other government institutions such as Education, Agriculture and Tourism have since embraced environment significance to the development of their sectors. Environmental issues have been incorporated into teaching schemes and curricula at all levels and agriculture encourages sustainable practices of agroforestry and mixed cropping and most farmers have trialed organic farms on their lands. Tourism on the other hand through implementation of its Tourism Development Plan 2002-2006 has strived to achieve its key objective of developing a practical and user-friendly system for monitoring sustainable tourism in Samoa.

At the local level, government has placed greater emphasis on the importance of creating strengthened partnerships with local communities in the management of natural resources. Through the MWCSO as the first point of contact between the government and communities, partnerships with communities through village mayors have been established and strengthened through awareness programmes and trainings. Awareness on the Convention and land degradation has been made possible as well as substantially through this channel. Through seminars, workshops and public consultations, communities have been imparted with substantial knowledge on their role in the fight against the degradation of lands.

Institutional changes that have taken place as well as increasing awareness and understanding of the public of environmental significance to development, since the last reporting, certainly has potential for strengthening the enabling environment for achieving coherent and functional control over desertification and land degradation problems.

2.5 Coherent and Functional Legal and Regulatory Frameworks

The principal legislations that guide the implementation of the Convention and the NAP are noted in the first few pages of this report. Chiefly amongst the present laws are the Lands and Environment Act 1989 currently under amendment and the PUMA Act 2004. The latter has greater assurance for coherence as it forms the basis for ensuring greater responsibility by all stakeholders in particular the local populations and landowners to be good managers of their lands. The PUMA Act mandate the use of land through the development consent process (DCP) prior to establishment or implementation of a development on land. Every stakeholder goes through this process for DCP which dictates submission of EIA or PEAR for a proposed development. The NEMS policies on the other hand have complementary roles in strengthening the enforcement of legal measures in place.

The enforcement of environment legislations lacks full force especially the implementation of PUMA powers to implement the planning of use, development, management and protection of land. This is largely due to the newness of the planning concept and the idea often comes under attack by informed Samoans.

A number of environmental related laws are undergoing current legislative reviews and amendments. Some of the current amended Acts exist in Bills such as MNRE's principal Act (LSE Act 1989) now MNRE Bill, Forest Act 1967 and efforts have also been made to change from the old deed system of land registration to the torrent system. While Samoa is undergoing a transitional period of change from the deed system to the torrent system of land registration, a formal legislation is under current drafting to enact legally the existence of the torrent system. Other new laws such as the Land Valuation Bill, Biosafety and Biodiversity Bills also exist. Policies and codes of practices such as EIA and Logging are under current reviews.

3. Participatory Process in support of Preparation and Implementation of Action Programmes, particularly Processes involving Civil Society, NGOs and CBOs

For any quest to meet reporting obligations to a Convention in the context of pursuing sustainable development of environmental natural resources, Samoa has been using a broad-based participatory approach in the formulation and development of any national document. The formulation of the NAP pursued this approach which was wide-ranging and potentially covered full participation of both national and local level stakeholders. National stakeholders are defined by government institutions, academia, NGOs and the

private sector while local level stakeholders include local communities represented by village institutions.

3.1 *Effective Participation of Actors in defining National Priorities*

The government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment coordinated and facilitated the implementation of the NAP formulation process. The NCB initiated the process upon establishment of a Taskteam to undertake initial stages of the NAP formulation. A series of interaction meetings and workshops occurred during which a partial NAP draft existed by efforts of the Taskteam. A subsequent formal NAP draft existed by work of a consultant recruited on the basis of relevant technical expertise. The consultant was required to utilize all sectoral data and published materials available.

The NAP draft by the consultant initiated the flow of subsequent participatory consultations until the final stages of its existence. The first of these NAP draft consultations was a national stakeholder workshop which was well-attended by over 30 participants. Substantial feedback was generated during this forum and was used to revise the NAP draft by the consultant.

Local level consultations subsequently followed and were attended by over a thousand local participants. Local participants were representatives of local communities sourced variously from all village institutions. Each village institution was represented by six village groups identified as existing in a traditional village structure. Each village group was represented by one participant to public consultations that were held for one week for the whole of Samoa.

The public consultations of local perceptions took one week; two days for Savaii and two for Upolu. Consulting the input of local participants includes awareness on the Convention, enlightenment on the NAP goals and objectives and flipchart questionnaire was used to consult views of participants on causes and effects of land degradation and on appropriate solutions to combat land degradation as they perceived it as fitting. The exercises also include prioritization of issues and recommended appropriate actions as well as identification of capacities required to be built at the individual, institutional and systemic levels.

4. Consultative Process in support of the preparation of national action programmes and partnership agreements with developed country Parties and other interested entities, particularly mobilization and coordination of both domestic and international resources.

Samoa received substantial assistance and support in terms of guidance and advice from UNDP Apia Office and SPREP during the preparation of the NAP. Samoa's NCB for UNCCD extended membership to the mentioned regional and international organizations and often are represented in meetings, workshops and national stakeholder consultations. UNDP and SPREP often advice on financial matters where the channeling of donor funds are concerned and on financial reporting obligations.

4.1 *Effective Support from International Partners for Cooperation*

International partnerships with developed country Parties is limited except through regional action programmes wherein this case Venezuela is committing US\$2millions for the formulation of a regional action plan for the Pacific.

The GEF has been supportive of the NAP formulation. Through UNDP, it co-financed the NAP formulation process which valued at US\$8,000.00. The GEF also has mobilized its funds to finance some NAP actions through the approved MSP-SLM. The GM is known to be a financial mechanism for UNCCD. Together with the UNCCD Secretariat, it co-financed the development of the First National Report 2003. Further mobilization and coordination of both domestic and international resources remain to be seen until after the NAP's official existence. Samoa is with the ultimate view that once the NAP becomes operational, substantial coordination and mobilization of domestic and international resources is envisaged.

5. Measures taken or planned within the Framework of National Action Programmes, including measures to improve the Economic Environment, to Conserve Natural Resources and Promote their Sustainable Use, to Rehabilitate Degraded Lands, to enhance Knowledge

5.1 *Adequate Diagnosis of Past Experience*

Samoa has undertaken previous work on assessment of land degradation through the ADB funded programme of capacity development initiatives for the three Rio Conventions (CC, CBD & CCD). Related efforts include improved GIS on forest inventory and in the production of landuse and land capability classification maps. In the area of environmental and natural resource management, Samoa has progressed competently through multiple implementations of donor-driven environmental projects and programmes which together functions for the protection and conservation of its environment. Samoans are well informed of the importance of preserving the environment through numerous capacity building and awareness programmes. Samoa has done well in addressing national concerns in areas of climate change, conservation of biodiversity, water resources, and other land-based ecosystems. Local populations including farmers and landowners have oriented their agricultural practices towards use of sustainable landuse measures. All past and existing efforts have critically complemented anti-land degradation efforts and contributing significantly in one way or another to the gradual reverse of growing land degradation problems in the country.

5.2 *Established technical programmes and functional integrated projects to combat land degradation*

Samoa is implementing a number of technical programmes with support from regional and international partners. A number of these programmes are noted in Table 2 above and implemented in collaborations with communities which are in line with NAP goals and aspirations and in accordance with the spirit and provisions of the UNCCD Convention. The NAP projects do not seek to duplicate past and ongoing programmes undertaken under other Convention or national frameworks but rather aimed at projects that would be complementary to past and existing efforts in natural resource

management. The NAP contains technical programmes and some functional integrated projects but which at this stage is still under finalization at the management level.

5.3 *Action Programmes Implemented in Compliance with Priority Fields Set Out in the Convention*

The following are broad land management areas under which action programmes contained in the NAP appropriately formulated. The NAP would be officially submitted to the Head Secretariat of the Convention by end December 2006;

- Sustainable Land Management
- Management of Degraded Coastal Areas
- Forest Resource Management
- Sustainable Management of Watershed Areas
- Soil Management and Conservation
- Management of Agricultural Practices
- Management of Drought/Flood Prone Areas

6 Financial allocations from National Budgets in support of Implementation as well as Financial Assistance and Technical Cooperation including their Inflows. Processes to identify their requirements, areas of funding and setting priorities.

6.1 *Adopted Financial Mechanisms*

Samoa understands that the principal financial mechanisms for UNCCD are the Global Mechanism and UNCCD Secretariat. However, GEF had recently made land degradation one of its focal areas through the Operational Programme¹⁵. It's the main active financier for most national projects and programmes on natural resource management under the auspices of other Convention frameworks. These efforts not only directly related to land degradation but relatively complementary to anti-land degradation efforts.

National budgets also have budgetary allocations in support of MEAs implementation in Samoa. It contributes 10% of the total annual budget for MNRE on annual launch of awareness on environmental issues for the general public. Operational costs for implementing the Convention is also covered by national budgets as and when necessary.

6.2 *NAP Financing*

Samoa has completed as well as already approved by GEF its MSP on Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management. The MSP-SLM would be the financing mechanism for some of the NAP actions while other action programmes in the NAP will be sought from other bilateral and multilateral donors. The MSP is a GEF-funded project with funding up to US\$500,000.

6.3 *Technical Cooperation Developed*

Samoa will develop as well as seek technical cooperation with regional and international organizations and/or donor partnership once the NAP becomes officiated with submission to UNCCD.

7 **Review of Benchmarks and Indicators utilized to measure Progress and an Assessment thereof**

7.1 ***Operational mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation***

Operational mechanisms have been established for the NAP but it is still undergoing validation processes at the national level.

7.2 ***Scientific and Technical Desertification Control Activities***

These would be formulated during the NAP project implementations. However control activities in the area of soil and water conservations as well as coastal protections are indicated in the NAP formal draft.

7.3 ***Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology***

This would be a first time review of the NAP by the Committee once it is submitted to the Head Office.