

Process in the Establishment of the Facility

The establishment of the Facility has been driven by a SADC Land Reform Task Team comprising high level government officials at the level of Permanent Secretaries and Directors General or equivalent from five Member States; Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The Task Team was chaired by South Africa and met regularly to approve budgets and programmes and provide guidance on the process. The Task Team is now replaced by a Steering Committee comprising Permanent Secretaries of Ministries responsible for lands from all SADC Member States assisted by a Reference Group (Advisory Board) of eminent persons in land matters from within and outside the region.

Stakeholder consultations: a major thrust of the study was undertaking country visits to consult various stakeholders including civil society on land issues, organizational and programming aspects of the Facility. Ten of the fourteen SADC Member States were consulted including, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The consultations also included meetings with International Cooperating Partners.

Funding Mechanism

It is proposed to establish a Trust Fund where resources from different sources will be pooled for the programmes and operations of the Facility or to appoint an institution with experience in managing basket funding to take up this responsibility. In the interim UNDP Drylands Development Centre manages the funds. The Facility is examining a sustainable funding mechanism.

The establishment process was made possible through funding from DFID and UNDP.

The cost for the Facility for the first four years is estimated at US\$12.8 million. Resource mobilization for the implementation of activities is on-going.

Achievements

The following has been achieved:

- i. Institutional study, that includes consultations with 10 SADC members and other affected stakeholders completed and a report produced. The report provides recommendations for the structure, governance framework, implementation modalities, and human and financial resource requirements. Additionally it provides a five year phased programme in four main components policy support, capacity building, research, and information and communications
- ii. Consultation held with International Cooperating Partners to get buy in

- iii. Three meetings of SADC Land Facility Team held to present ideas, reports and get approval
- iv. Meeting of Permanent Secretaries responsible for land affairs held in September 2007 and institutional study recommendations reviewed and approved
- v. Meeting of Ministers responsible for land matters held in March 2008, study recommendations approved
- vi. Implementation of kick-start activities (development of databases, sharing of existing information, documentation of best practices, elaboration of component documents, and initiation of governance related activities) completed
- vii. Training on land redistribution and on land administration undertaken in collaboration with the World Bank Institute in July 2007 and in May 2008 respectively
- viii. Coordination, administrative, technical and financial support provided for regional assessments in southern Africa as an input to the AUC-AFDB-ECA spearheaded process for developing a pan African Land Policy Framework and Guidelines
- ix. Technical, administrative and financial support provided for a regional consultative conference on land policy in Southern Africa that took place in Windhoek, Namibia in August 2007
- x. A Multi-stakeholder conference on land reform for poverty reduction in convened in June 2008

Next Steps

The establishment process of the Facility which started in earnest in September 2006 has resulted in the development of a programme outlining outputs, activities, estimated budgets, financial and human resource requirements. The next steps are to:

- intensify resource mobilization to ensure sustained implementation of the programme
- Get approvals for the staff requirements and recruit
- Concretize collaborative mechanisms with relevant institutions
- Implement the developed programme for the Facility

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The Establishment of the SADC Land Reform Support Facility

**SADC Secretariat
Food, Agriculture and
Natural Resources Directorate**



Why a Regional land Reform Technical Facility?

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region faces a number of land problems that relate to differences in its colonial history, land use policies, population dynamics, and heterogeneity in land quality and investment. The issue of unequal access to land and control over benefits from its use and other natural resources has dominated discussions mainly in the former settler colonies such as Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. The other countries that experienced low intensity settler land occupation have mostly encountered issues that are linked to utilization.

Land problems have a potential to destabilize social and economic development almost certainly of the SADC region as a whole if not addressed. To preempt these problems in the region, the SADC Heads of State and Government in 2001 issued a directive to Ministers responsible for lands and agrarian reform to examine the land questions affecting individual SADC states as a basis for identifying and developing a regional strategy for addressing them. This led to a series of consultations with various stakeholders at government and community levels. Two major recommendations resulted from the consultations, these were, the need to establish SADC Land Reform Support Facility (Facility); and the need to integrate land issues into policies and programmes of the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate of SADC. The proposal for the establishment of the Facility was developed and approved by SADC Council of Ministers in 2003.

The Extra Ordinary Summit of 2004 called for the fast tracking of the establishment of the Facility after noting the significance of access to land to the achievement of sustainable food security

Objectives of the SADC Land Reform Support Facility

The objectives of the Facility are to mobilize technical and financial support for Member States to develop and/or implement pro-poor land and agrarian reform policies and programmes in support of their national development plans. The Facility recognizes the national specificities of land problems in the region and the difficulty in prescribing a “one size fit all” land policy.

In line with the inspirations of the SADC Regional indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) in particular its Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the Facility will contribute towards achievement of sustainable regional food security, and sustainable environment and land management



Making the Facility Operational

In September 2006 an institutional study to explore the possibilities for the establishment of the Facility was initiated based on Terms of References approved by the SADC Secretariat and the SADC Task Team. The objectives of study were: to build upon the recommendations for the establishment of the Facility with a view of modifying the proposed institutional structure along the lines of a “virtual facility”, together with recommendations for mandate, location, governance structure, personnel requirements and anticipated recurrent costs needed to make it effective.

The study was completed in April 2007, and a report entitled, “Establishing the SADC Land Reform Support Facility and Inception Activities” was produced. The report is based on consultations with SADC member states countries and the original proposals. It gives recommendations on various aspects of the Facility including the structure, governance framework, implementation modalities, and human and financial resource requirements. Additionally it provides a five year phased programme in four main components; policy support, capacity building, research, and information and communications.

The recommendations in the report have been reviewed and endorsed by Permanent Secretaries and Directors General of Ministries responsible for land matters in September 2007 and approved by Ministers responsible for land matters in March 2008.

Activities to be undertaken by the Facility

The institutional study identified a number of land issues that bear similarity in most of the countries consulted. This formed the basis for the development of a five year phased programme for the Facility. The programme consisted of a one year inception phase of implementing “kick start” activities that ended in June 2008. These include development of databases, sharing of existing information, documentation of best practices, elaboration of component programme documents, and initiation of governance related activities. The full programme is grouped in four components; these will be implemented over a four period. They include:

- Policy Formulation and Implementation Support;
- Capacity Building
- Information and Communications
- Research.

Structure of the Facility

The Facility is composed of a:

- i. Management Unit responsible for day-to-day operations. The Unit will comprise the Coordinator, the Land Policy Expert, a Communication /Database Manager, a Finance Officer and an Administrative Assistant.
- ii. High level Steering Committee comprising Permanent Secretaries/Director Generals of Ministries responsible for land matters from all SADC Member States. The Committee will be responsible for providing policy guidance and reporting to SADC policy-making structures for directives.
- iii. Reference Group which will have an advisory function to the Steering Committee.

In the interim, the Facility is located in the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate at the SADC Secretariat and in the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit.

The Facility will work in collaboration with network of partner institutions with relevant capacities in the areas of its jurisdiction.

