

# Goal 7 Environmental Sustainability

**Target:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

**Indicator:** Development and implementation of a national strategy for sustainable development by 2015; proportion of land area covered by forests; ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area; proportion of population using solid fuel as major source of energy; proportion of the population with access to improved water source (urban/rural); proportion of the population with improved sanitation (urban/rural); and, proportion of households with access to secure tenure.

## STATUS AT A GLANCE

### Will the Goal/Target be Met

Potentially Unlikely Insufficient Data

### State of Supportive Environment

Strong Fair Weak but improving Weak

Tracking the Goal for Environmental Resources: Monitoring and Evaluation Environment

Elements of monitoring environment	Assessment		
Data gathering capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Quality of recent survey information	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical tracking capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Statistical analysis capacities	Strong	Fair	Weak
Capacity to incorporate statistical analysis into policy, planning and resource allocation mechanism	Strong	Fair	Weak
Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Strong	Fair	Weak



## Status and Trends

Swaziland covers an area of 17,364 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 11 percent is arable. Both the NDS and SEAP reiterate the Government's commitment to "provide a climate and infrastructure that will progressively maximise the quality and security of the life of the people of Swaziland and make the best use of the country's

natural and human resources". About 49 percent of the total land area is vulnerable to desertification and degradation. Erosion is prevalent in all the agro-ecological zones, but more so in communal grazing Swazi Nation Lands. Overstocking and cattle movement are the major contributing factors to this problem. A programme for the improvement of degraded Swazi Nation Land involving communities, the Government, non-governmental organizations and a team of experts from the JICA has initiated programmes in 3 target pilot areas covering 618 km<sup>2</sup>.

Emphasis is on income generation for communities, improvement of living conditions and environment conservation in and around communities in the target areas. Specific projects are: community gardens, grazing control, soil conservation, forest management, water source protection and technology transfer for efficient energy use.

Since 1994, approximately 4 percent of total land area is protected for bio-diversity. Recent surveys and recommendations have identified protection worthy areas, which, if proclaimed, would result in a total of 10 percent protected land area. According to the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, forests cover 45 percent of total surface area.

Data from the 1995 SHIES suggests that the proportion of the population using wood fuel as the main source of energy for heating and cooking stood at 65 percent and 66 percent respectively. Rural homesteads were the highest users at 92 and 93 percent. The Swaziland Environmental Authority estimates that by 2010, the use of wood fuel will increase by 33 percent.

Access to sanitation has fluctuated between 63-80 percent between 1985-1998. Access to water has declined from 60 percent in the mid-1990s to 56 percent in 1998. Trends for rural water and sanitation suggest an improvement.

In overall, an estimated 49 percent of the population does not have access to safe water, and 30 percent lack proper sanitation, leading to high incidence of water-borne disease (MICS 2000). National data on a disaggregated level is not available.

The NHDR 2000, estimates that of the 30 percent who live in urban areas, over 60 percent live in unplanned townships, without safe water and sewerage. Government is committed to improve the housing.

Year	Water		Sanitation
	Urban	Rural	Rural
1997	89	40	40
2000	84	48	4
2001	84	49	51
2002	84	50	50

It is estimated that 30 percent of Swazi households have low standard of accommodation. There are significant differences between rural and urban housing standards. However, since the inception of the Urban Development Programme, up to 100,000 people have benefited from improved housing and service provision.

## Major Challenges

Existing Challenges on Environmental Issues are:

- ◆ Limited of collaboration between government sectors concerned with water, sanitation and health.
- ◆ Inadequate planning of grazing, farming and habitats, and lack of enforcement of legislation. There is need for improved early warning system to improve on food security.
- ◆ Limited utilisation of indigenous knowledge systems in central planning and management activities.

- ◆ A lack of baseline information which can be used to gauge the impact of biodiversity interventions that have been put in place.
- ◆ Worsening environmental degradation and lack of awareness on environmental issues.
- ◆ The preparation of a solid waste management strategy needs to be expedited in order to halt environmental damage attributed to unsafe waste disposal.
- ◆ The protected land area is 4 percent, which has been stagnant; the goal is 6 percent.
- ◆ Land covered by forests is low and declining.
- ◆ Increased risk posed by disposal of condoms, gloves, disposable napkins in the advent of HIV/AIDS.

## Supportive Environment

- ◆ The country has an environmental policy in place and a Department of Environmental Health in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.
- ◆ The government formulated SEAP, in support of sound environmental management and to honor its commitment to the environment through Agenda 21.

- ◆ Swaziland is a signatory to a number of International Conventions such as the UNCCD, UNCCC, UNCB, Montreal Protocol, Vienna Convention, CITES and Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Land Mines. A national steering committee on the UNCCD is established.

## Priorities For Development

- ◆ Development of water supply schemes in rural areas.
- ◆ Capacity building for environmental management and monitoring especially statistical data collection and analysis.
- ◆ Financial resources needed to extend and replicate the programme for up-grading peri-urban and other residential areas and improve service provision.
- ◆ Up-scaling programmes for land rehabilitation and involvement of communities.