

ZERO NEWS

A Commitment To Land And The Environment

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ZERO FOCUSES ON THE LAND QUESTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZERO-Regional Environment Organisation has embarked on a five-year programme to research and advocate on issues pertaining to land in southern Africa.

The organisation, known for its extensive research and contribution to solutions on environment issues since it was established about 10 years ago, feels it should now focus on the land question. This follows intensive discussions with members of staff, the Board and collaborating partners.

‘Land is a critical issue in the political, social and economic relations in southern Africa and yet despite being the most significant environmental asset in the region, it is marginalised when the socio-economic changes taking place are being defined,’ says the five-year strategic document prepared by the organisation.

It is ZERO’s conviction that resolving land issues and contributing towards the sustainable use and management of land has to be at the core of any meaningful strategy towards a sustainable SADC.

The five-year programme focuses on four main areas. These are:

- * National land policies and sustainable development;
- * interstate land use, shared resources and sustainable development;
- * rural small scale enterprises, land and sustainable development; and
- * international conventions and land issues in southern Africa.

The Programme on land hopes to achieve the following:

- * better informed debates and policies on land and sustainability in the SADC region;
- * empowered rural communities, especially women, on land issues;
- * sustainable land management models, including conflict management and land use management tools;
- * collaborative partnerships that reinforce civil society agencies in debating land issues in SADC;
- * disseminated information on land and sustainability in the region through newsletters, technical documents; and
- * a well resourced ZERO.

ZERO looks forward to the full contribution of its past, current and new partners in contributing to this initiative.

Welcome!

As a process of improving internal communication, we will have a newsletter to encourage dialogue among members of staff, board members and selected partners.

It is sometimes not possible for people to sit around and give verbal reports on what they are doing due to time constraints. So the best way of doing it is through a newsletter.

Through informal discussions, people from the communications section will collect information for publication. However, those that feel they can contribute by way of writing articles about their activities may, by all means, do so.

Information sharing within an organisation is important. It is therefore crucial for all people involved in ZERO's work to know what others are doing with the hope that they will make positive contributions, which once incorporated would help the organisation achieve its objectives.

This is your newsletter and the information in it is for the benefit of everybody. I would therefore like to invite all readers, particularly members of staff to feel free to say what they would like to be included in the newsletter. To Board members, I would like to appeal for contributions in the form of information/publications collected from meetings and conferences both at home and abroad. The same applies to our partners.

ZERO NEWS will not in any way replace our quarterly magazine, Energy and Environment. However, unlike the magazine, this newsletter will mainly publish news about ZERO's activities. The Energy and Environment magazine will continue to look at environment issues, particularly land in southern Africa in a broader way.

I hope you will enjoy reading our very first internal newsletter.

Leonissah Munjoma
Editor

From the Director

Over the last 18 months, we have been working towards a more focused programme. This has been a long period which may have been frustrating but it is a process of change. Out of your endurance, the inputs of all members of staff and more critically, members of the Board, we now have finalised a working programme. However, the process of change and learning is ongoing - we can never finalise that.

May I urge each one of us to read the programme strategies document thoroughly despite the length - this was deliberate for clarity. Your attention is drawn to the summary and the logical framework.

This paper is guiding us in our project proposal and discussions with partners and with previous and potential donors.

Over the last several weeks, many donors have been approached with the intention of fund-raising. Resourcing ZERO is our main emphasis for the next several months. In this regard, we have held meetings with various donors including the European Union and SADC-ELMS

My hopes are that this newsletter is the beginning of a long new phase of implementation of our ideas as we are getting into the most challenging part of our work which, as in our summarised statement, is in four statements.

In future newsletters, we will outline what has been done. May I urge all members of staff and Board to contribute towards the success of this newsletter by writing articles and providing information.

May I also warmly welcome Leonissah Munjoma, our new Communications Programme Officer.

We wish her all the best.

J.Z.Z. Matowanyika

WIND ENERGY REVOLUTIONISED!

WIND can be turned into electricity not just in countries situated in coastal areas, but also in land locked countries like Zimbabwe. This is the finding of ZERO's research into wind energy.

A wind turbine has since been manufactured and erected, thanks to the work of ZERO researchers and the organisation's partners, Powervision. The turbine will enable the users, a clinic in Rusape, about 200kms East of Harare, to operate fridges for medicine storage and have running water which will be pumped using wind energy. They will also be able to operate a television and radio at the clinic. The power could also be extended to a nearby school and business centre.

Wind energy is one of the programmes being implemented in southern Africa by the Research and Development department at ZERO.

The first phase which has resulted in a 4kw wind turbine has been completed and work is underway to implement the second phase. However, this phase is dependent on the availability of funds, said Bheki Maboyi, Research and Development Programme Co-ordinator.

He said a proposal has been submitted to the Royal Netherlands Embassy who funded the first phase. He is optimistic funding will be made available bearing in mind the success of the first phase. His major concern, however, is time.

The second phase is planned for two years and at least nine sites are expected to have wind turbines, seven in Zimbabwe and two in Botswana and South Africa.

Powervision's role is to provide part of the funding for putting up the test turbine and to develop technology. For example, initially, they had developed a 750-watt turbine and have already developed a much bigger one of 4kw.

'ZERO's role in the project is to bring the community development aspect into all the technology designs. ZERO ensures that local communities benefit from new technology in

their areas by monitoring the situation and ensuring adequate community participation - enhancing community participation,' Maboyi said.

Zimbabwe's Department of Energy is also collaborating with ZERO and Powervision on the project. The department, apart from providing some technical advice, also acts as a facilitator for ZERO's efforts to raise funds at a global level.

Currently, the three partners are putting together a memorandum of understanding to define areas of facilitating working together. This is aimed at safeguarding exploitation. Each organisation/partner should be clear on what is expected from them.

Policy Briefs on Rural Industries

ANOTHER area of activity for Research and Advocacy has been preparation of Policy Briefs on Rural Industries in Southern Africa.

This is a follow up to the regional Rural Industries programme that ZERO has been involved in. The programme, covering five countries - Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe - involved a socio-economic analysis of biomass-based rural industries.

The research pointed to the need for a holistic approach to the promotion of rural industries in southern Africa. This would include:

- * provision of infrastructure, particularly roads and electricity supply.
- * appropriate technological innovations.
- * technical skills training.
- * business skills training.
- * accessible and affordable credit facilities
- * environmental awareness
- * gender sensitive promotion strategies.

Some of the recommendations made are calls for:

- * enabling policies and programmes at the national level.
- * adoption of appropriate programme strategies and implementation methodologies by the development agencies.
- * the empowerment of the target groups at the project level.
- * gender sensitisation at all levels.

Two publications on the rural industries project will be launched by December, Maboyi said. A vigorous fund raising campaign has already been launched for the second phase of the rural industries project with proposals having been sent to a number of donors.

Macro-economics for Sustainable Development

ZERO got a six-month contract to implement a project on macro-economics for sustainable development. This is the planning phase of a longer project.

The project being run in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International, based in Washington D.C. is expected to last for three years. ZERO has since identified a number of key individuals and institutions in the country with interest in the subject. These

will form a national advisory committee. These people were identified with the help of a member of the ZERO steering committee.

A concept paper has been written comprising a summary of the project and issues that will arise and points on the sector ZERO feels needs examining - the interaction between macro-economics and tourism and their impact on land and the environment. This paper will form the basis for discussion by the national committee.

National Land Policies Under Spotlight

ZERO has developed a methodology paper looking at national land policies in the region.

An initial draft has been completed and is being circulated. This paper is an in-depth literature review of work done around land issues. It tries to explore what has been done and needs to be done and what gaps are there. With this paper, it is hoped that a regional land programme which can be taken to donors for funding will be formulated.

Although there are several organisations working on land, ZERO feels it has a special role to play. A land reform proposal is being discussed with donors and partners including the Ford Foundation, Kellogg Foundation and IUCN-ROSA. A workshop is being planned to set off the project in Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

ZERO wins bid for State Of Environment Report (SOER) Land Chapter

ZERO has been contracted to write a chapter on Land as part of the book 'State Of the Environment Report' by Zimbabwe's Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

ZERO was appointed after bidding to do a chapter on land. The issues to be covered in this chapter include: agriculture, state of the land, land administration in Zimbabwe, government policies on land with particular emphasis on effects of tourism on the land resource base, macro-economic policy effects on land, the work of the land tenure commission, specific government programmes like the DEAP, NAP and even CAMPFIRE and the social economic pressures on land.

ZERO compiled the chapter with assistance of some consultants who are specialised in the covered topics.

ZERO's regional activities intensify

Due to its contribution to finding solutions to the land question in southern Africa, ZERO has been invited to work with the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty in the world. Zimbabwe is one of three countries chosen to represent the East and Southern African region and ZERO has been chosen to be the focal point for Zimbabwe. This entails co-ordinating the project and implementing it in Zimbabwe.

Nelson Marongwe, ZERO's Project Officer, who attended the initial regional meeting said the thrust of the project is to establish a global network that will share experiences on grassroots communities in various aspects of land reform and tenurial security - land redistribution, titling and inheritance rights, access to common property resources for the specific benefit of small farmers, rural workers, women and indigenous people.

From the experiences, the network is expected to identify the promising ones that can be replicated elsewhere.

Marongwe said the project is being implemented in two phases. Phase I, already underway, is compilation of information from various organisations by way of a questionnaire. Phase II will involve putting together a proposal for funding based on findings in phase I.

The involvement of ZERO in a project of global importance is an indication of the confidence its partners have in the organisation's capabilities.

This project will enable ZERO gain even more experience in interacting with various grassroots organisations and communities to whom issues of land are very crucial.

The three countries representing the East and Southern African region are Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. South Africa is the regional node.

ZERO will soon get into partnership with selected NGOs from Malawi, Swaziland, Botswana and Zimbabwe to implement a project aimed at ensuring rural communities derive increased benefits from the sustainable management of their natural resources by enhancing NGOs' capacity in the SADC region to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification.

The idea came from the realisation for a need to strengthen NGOs in areas of capacity building, co-ordination, policy advocacy and implementation of international conventions, said Ms Fannie Mutepfa, Programme Co-ordinator for Policy Analysis, Information and Communication.

The project will be funded by IUCN-ROSA's NETCAB programme and is expected to run for 10 months. The project has started and will end in September 1998.

This project signifies the beginning of more work in terms of implementing the CCD at the regional level.

Steering ZERO to greater heights

'THE Policy Analysis, Information and Communication department is geared to steer ZERO towards fulfilling its new mission of making meaningful contribution to sustainable and equitable use and management of land resources for the benefit of the disadvantaged rural communities in southern Africa,' Ms Fannie Mutepfa, Programme Co-ordinator for Policy Analysis, Information and Communication said.

This will be done through analysing relevant policies and publication of various papers on land and establishment of a database on land issues. The department will ensure that ZERO gets maximum publicity for its new focus.

Already, this division has been working on furthering the strategic document, proposals, drawing up ZERO's 1996-97 annual report, producing the new ZERO brochure, developing a project proposal for ZERO's five-year programme and producing two major workshop reports, in addition to assisting in the Rural Industries Policy Briefs and providing editorial services to the other units.

A new brochure has been produced and the annual report should be out within the next few weeks.

The division has also been working on putting together a communications and marketing strategy for ZERO. This strategy will enable the organisation communicate its activities with its target audiences in a systematic way. The marketing strategy will help ZERO sell its ideas and products. Already information on ZERO's focus on land issues has been sent to partners, both old and new.

There are plans to produce at least three publications soon. A proposal has already been forwarded to IUCN-ROSA for funding these publications. These will include a paper on Land Reforms in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, Land Use and Tenure in Southern Africa and Proceedings of the Renewable Energy Workshop at the World Solar Summit, 1996.

A proposal for a Land and Gender project has been finalised. This project aims at promoting sustainable land management policies that respond to gender needs in southern Africa. Its specific objectives are:

- * to create capacity at the decision making level in addressing land and gender in the region;
- * to promote land and gender issues as essential in sustainable land management through the establishment of a southern African network of NGOs on land and gender issues;
- ** to examine national land policies in the region and the extent to which they address the gender specific needs relating to access to land, security of tenure, access to credit and representation on decision making structures.

This project will be co-ordinated by Ms Fannie Mutepfa.

ZERO sets up SADC land issues information centre

Following ZERO's decision to focus more on land issues in southern Africa, the Library and Information department has gone on a campaign to acquire material on land. A section of the ZERO library has been set aside for material on land in southern Africa and the Librarian, Joseph Mutsigwa has appealed to staff, board members and partners to help bring in such literature. Some material is being sourced from some of ZERO's collaborating partners.

The ZERO library has been in operation since 1990 and it is home to more than 8000 published and unpublished papers, various books and receives at least 200 periodicals a year. The Library is computerised with the CDS-ISIS software package and has an extensive range of documentation on environment, land and land tenure systems, natural resources management and sustainable development issues.

'We have a lot of grey literature with information that is not easily accessible elsewhere and sometimes it is not even known,' Mutsigwa said. The Library is ZERO's key wing. Its objectives include being a reference research and information centre on land for the region and to provide backup in the form of factual, technical and scientific information to the organisation's staff and partners. It is open to all members of the public who have an interest in the subjects covered.

Website for ZERO on the cards

<http://users.harare.iafrica.com/~zero/>

Plans are underway to establish a website on the internet on which ZERO will publish some of its research findings. This initiative has been motivated by the Rural Industries project. Findings from this project will be published as policy briefs. These will be summarised and published on the internet. Other information to be published on the web will include ZERO's activities and projects.

ZERO on fund-raising mission

ZERO has embarked on a fund-raising mission to ensure implementation of both its old and new programmes. This calls for effective use of the recently published donors profiles, a publication that gives details about donors and guidelines for proposals.

Finance, Administration and Human Resources Manager, Dorothy Manuel said her department which is mainly concerned with finance management and budget reports would do all it can to assist in the fund-raising drive.

She said there was need for ZERO to use its financial resources judiciously bearing in mind a lot of work needs to be done to make ZERO's work more effective.

Employees' Handbook produced

An employees' handbook for ZERO has been produced after wide consultation among members of staff. The production of the handbook signifies the growth of ZERO as an organisation committed to the welfare of its staff and being a professional institution.

Dorothy Manuel, Finance, Administration and Human Resources Manager said other administrative systems such as those concerning contracts and proposals are being worked out. A reporting system for meetings/workshops attended by ZERO officers is also being worked out to ensure there is effective feedback.

Manuel suggested the holding of internal workshops by those that attend workshops as a way of imparting knowledge and promoting information sharing.

ZERO helps produce Donor Profiles

ZERO worked in partnership with IUCN-ROSA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to produce the Profiles of Donors Supporting Environment and Development Initiatives in Southern Africa.

ZERO's role was to compile and publish the book which centres on the need for organisations to integrate fund-raising into their work rather than treat it as something peripheral.

IUCN-ROSA through its NETCAB programme sourced funding from USAID.

The book was published after a realisation that information on sources of funding is an invaluable tool for empowerment. ZERO's Finance, Administration and Human Resources department played the lead in producing the book.

ZERO's Networking partners

ZERO has been and continues to be involved in a number of partnerships. These include being part of a team of NGOs working with the CBO Network in South Africa, jointly holding a National Land conference with other NGOs in Zimbabwe and forging links with other documentation centres such as the India Musokotwane Environment Research Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA). ZERO is on the interim committee of the newly formed Environmental Documentation Resource Centre Network (EDRCN) which is being spearheaded by IUCN-ROSA.

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