

## **Introduction**

1. Madam Chairperson, let me present chapter 7 of the Mid Term Review of NDP10 on Sustainable Environment to this Honourable House. The chapter focuses on initiatives geared towards maintaining and improving the capacity of natural systems to function within ecological limits while supporting the development aspirations of current and future generations.
2. The main areas of concern include climate change, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, water resource and ozone depletion, pollution, land degradation, desertification and over exploitation of natural resources. This therefore calls for robust measures to manage our biodiversity, ecosystems as well as natural and cultural resources. Under this thematic area, we have identified three national priority areas namely; Pollution Prevention and Control, Sustainable Utilisation of Natural and Cultural Resources and Climate Change/Global Warming.

## **Pollution Prevention and Control**

3. Madam Chairperson, in our pursuit of economic and social development, we have over time experienced increasing levels of activity in various sectors including

agriculture, industry, energy and transport. This has in turn led to an observed increase in the release of pollutants to the environment. The focus during NDP 10 has been on improving existing regulatory instruments and provision of waste and sanitation infrastructure.

4. We are providing regulatory platforms through implementation of management plans and supporting initiatives, such as Energy Efficiency Programme, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the National Implementation Plan (NIP) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), waste water recycling for agriculture and renewable energy programme. This will assist in managing pollution and waste while reducing the health impacts associated with waste and pollution.

### **Sustainable Utilization of Natural and Cultural Resources**

5. Madam Chairperson, our country has abundant biological resources that are under increasing threat from a variety of inappropriate land use practices. The main threats to Botswana's biodiversity are habitat destruction; indiscriminate disposal of waste; over-exploitation of natural resources such as sand, firewood; and poaching of wildlife. These threats are exacerbated by periodic droughts, wild fires and climate change leading to increased land use conflicts, decline of some

wildlife species, environmental degradation and loss of forests.

6. It is important to commit towards sustainable use of biological resources for now and in the future. To this effect, sectors that are key to sustainable environment are in the process of reviewing existing legislation. So far I can report that the Environmental Assessment Act of 2011 has now taken effect to regulate performance of developers towards environment conscious operations. The National Meteorological Services Act is being reviewed.
7. Other initiatives being undertaken include land rehabilitation, restocking of species at risk of extinction, anti-poaching, reduction of human-wildlife conflict and implementation of natural resources management plans for specific key areas. In addition, over 400 000 trees have been planted in the first phase of the national tree planting programme.
8. We have developed an Environmental Information System to avail coherent and timely information to various stakeholders in accordance with Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. The system is expected to enhance the

process of integrated environmental assessment and reporting within the country.

9. We are in the process of developing a database with a view to capture data on land ownership and land use through Land Administration Procedures Capacity Building and Systems (LAPCAS). Further, the intention during NDP 10 is to develop 29 settlement plans. To this end, we have prepared 16 plans and revised the National Land Use Plan. As regards land for agricultural use, 2.1 million hectares of land have been gazetted. A further 960 900 hectares of agricultural land has been identified for gazettelement countrywide.
10. Encroachment of other uses into agricultural land and unavailability of serviced and suitable land remain a challenge to availing of land for different uses. This challenge is being addressed through the ongoing review of the National Policy on Agriculture.
11. Madam Chairperson, we continue to promote public safety and environmental sustainability through elimination of hazards posed by old un-rehabilitated mines. Over the past three years, a total of 270 old mine shafts and 29 mine dumps were identified and surveyed. Of these, 158 shafts and 28 dumps were rehabilitated.

12. Government remains committed to supplying good quality water in an equitable and sustainable manner for various uses. However, these efforts are undermined by inefficient use and management of water resulting in high water losses. At the beginning of NDP10, there was a loss of more than 46% of developed water attributed to various forms of losses and inefficient water use. I am happy to report that during the first half of NDP10 we have made significant progress and managed to reduce water losses to an average of 34% through the use of technology. Let me at this point urge Honourable Members to continue assisting in sensitising the public on the importance of efficient management of the scarce water resource.
  
13. We are currently developing the National Water Policy and reviewing the Water Act to include amongst others; provision of incentives, rebates, and building control standards and codes to support water conservation and demand management measures and practices. Further, development of Integrated Water Resource Management Water Efficiency Plans is underway. These plans will address both national and trans-boundary water management priorities.

14. Efforts to augment the current water supply by recycling waste water are continuing. To this end, at least 15% of waste water is being utilized out of a potential of 23Mm<sup>3</sup> (Million Cubic Meters) mainly driven by wastewater recycling at the Glen Valley water works. The target is to recycle 50% by 2016. The feasibility study for waste water re-use options in agriculture commenced in April 2012. The draft final feasibility report for Shoshong and Mahalapye cluster is expected to be complete by end of May 2013 afterwhich construction will commence.
  
15. Madam Chairperson, transboundary management of water resources is an imperative for Botswana. Work is on-going to develop transboundary water management programmes, protocols and guidelines under the auspices of the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission, Orange-Senqu Commission and Zambezi Commission. This will ensure maintenance of good water quality, sustainable use and effective management systems of our shared water resources.
  
16. Madam Chairperson, understanding the economic value of natural resources is an important step in pursuing sustainable natural resources management and integrating the value of natural capital in development planning, budgeting and decision-making. We are

therefore in the process of developing flow and monetary accounting for sectors such as water, energy, agriculture land and tourism. These activities are in direct support of the Gaborone Declaration of 2012. Botswana's participation in global programmes such as the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) and the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) will add value to determining the value of natural resources and ecosystems to socio-economic development.

17. As regards energy, the main challenge is the mismatch between power supply and demand. We have therefore embarked on a number of initiatives including the development of energy efficient building design guidelines, encouraging use of alternative sources of energy and monitoring energy consumption of selected audited institutions.
  
18. In answering to the need for diversification of the economy, monuments and heritage sites continue to be preserved and opened up for cultural tourism. These heritage sites have a potential to contribute to the economy and poverty alleviation for local communities through the sale of curios, guiding and entrance fees, and other joint activities between communities and the private sector. In order to give impetus to the

contribution of monuments to the diversification of the economy, the Regulations of the Monuments and Relics Act will be gazetted. The Community Based Natural Resource Management model that was designed for renewable resources has proven to be relevant in heritage conservation.

### **Climate Change/Global Warming**

19. Madam Chairperson, Climate Change poses a threat across the country's ecological zones and economic sectors. The objective of NDP10 is to strengthen the resilience of economic sectors, communities and institutions and to enable them to adapt to the changing climatic scenarios. This will be achieved by including adaptation and mitigation measures in all sectoral development plans.
  
20. A Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources and Climate Change has been established. Further, we have, through Botswana's Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) identified sectors of the economy which emit greenhouse gases and also mitigation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Communication also shows the

climate vulnerability of key economic sectors including forestry, crops, water, livestock, rangeland and health.

## **Proposed Policy Reforms and Programmes for the Remainder of NDP 10**

21. Madam Chairperson, efforts geared towards conservation of natural resources will continue. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development, National Energy Policy, and Land Infrastructure Servicing Policy will be formulated. The reviews of the Land Policy, Wildlife Policy and Forest Act will be completed by the end of the plan period.
  
22. Community participation in conservation strategies remains crucial to promote sustainability of resources. Hence, implementation and review of the Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRM) will continue. In addition, strategies geared towards conservation such as tree planting, land rehabilitation, and forest inventories will continue.
  
23. To ensure that adequate water is available for future developments, there is need for continuous review of the Botswana National Water Master Plan Review (BNWMP). We will therefore be undertaking the second review of the Plan. Implementation of water sector reforms will continue during the remainder of NDP 10.

24. During the remainder of NDP 10, we will implement measures to promote reuse, recycling and reduction of water use in all sectors of economy. These measures will include rainwater harvesting, control of evaporative losses, waste and grey water recycling and water pricing.
25. Efforts to curb the illegal mining of sand will continue to be intensified. Alternatives to sand will be explored. The Mines and Minerals Act will be reviewed to deal with current complexities and challenges of mining.
26. Madam Chairperson, I am aware that waste management is still a challenge. We will intensify enforcement of the waste water and solid waste legislation. In addition, emphasis on recycling rather than disposal will be pursued through, among others, the implementation of Solid Waste Recycling Guidelines. I would however, hasten to mention that the success of these efforts depends on the contribution of different stakeholders, including the general public, private sector, civil society and the public sector.
27. In our continuous effort to address pollution, we are developing a Waste and Sanitation Policy and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Act. These are expected to be completed within the plan period. We will also

intensify monitoring at strategic locations to measure air and water pollution.

28. As regards climate change, the main focus in the remaining years of the Plan will be to develop a National Climate Change Policy, Comprehensive National Climate Change Strategy and an Action Plan. This will inform effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures country-wide. This process will also provide an opportunity to mainstream climate change considerations into macroeconomic and sectoral policies as well as planning and budgeting for such development initiatives. For instance, the transport sector will reform its road network designs and explore taxation measures in an effort to minimise carbon emissions.
  
29. Madam Chairperson, our Thematic Working Group was allocated a budget ceiling P1,134,597,000 for the remainder of NDP 10. Priority has been given to ongoing projects amounting to P267,267,000 and new projects to the tune of P642,024,000 as shown in **Annexure A**. This leaves a balance of P225,306,000 to be considered for use by other Thematic Working Groups.

## **Conclusion**

30. Madam Chairperson, in conclusion, let me indicate that the dependence of the economic sector and livelihoods on the natural environment calls for robust measures to be put in place in order to avoid irreversible degradation. These measures include sensitisation of the general public, business community, and non-governmental organizations to adopt environment friendly practices. It will also require that supportive legislation be reviewed such that they are relevant to the changing environment and prevailing circumstances. It is only when sustained environment, economic and social development are in harmony that we will realize sustainable development that our country so much aspires.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.