Sustainable development in Southern Africa:
Progress in addressing the challenges

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Abstract

This paper reviews the progress made in establishing institutional framework for sustainable development in Southern Africa, identifies the major successes and challenges in implementing sustainable development policies and programs and suggests recommendations to enhance implementation of sustainable development policies and programs. Study findings indicate that since the UNCED Rio, 1992, Southern African countries except for Zambia have made progress in establishing sustainable development bodies to co-ordinate sustainable development. In Zambia, each sector has its own responsibility to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development into their policies and programs. Major successes of sustainable development activities implemented by some of the countries include development and implementation of poverty reduction policies, enforcement of environmental impact assessment schemes for all development sectors, development of biodiversity conservation programs and launching of the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) strategy. The major challenges to implementing sustainable development activities include lack of adequate financial, human and material resources, lack of supporting legislation, poor coordination and institutional capacity, inadequate understanding of sustainable development issues, lack of mechanisms and capacity for monitoring and evaluating progress, and difficulties in creating a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development. The paper suggests recommendations that can enhance implementation of sustainable development in the sub-region.

Introduction

The concept of Sustainable Development emerged in the 1970s, following concerns about the impacts that unrestrained economic growth and development were having on the environment. The most widely used definition of Sustainable Development comes from the 1987 *Brundtland Report* published by The World Commission on Environment and Development which states that *it is the kind of development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.* The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 identified three pillars of sustainable development, which include environmental protection, social development, as well as economic

development. Sustainable development has to meet the demands of all three pillars: the environment must not be damaged, there must be benefits to society and sustainable development must bring about economic growth.

The UNCED meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 agreed on Agenda 21, a plan of action that serves as a general framework for the implementation of sustainable development. The primary aim of Agenda 21 is to assist communities and governments in creating programs and policies that would achieve social, economic and environmental sustainability through development of national strategies, plans, policies and processes. Agenda 21 also called for all governments to produce National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) by 2002. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 adopted the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) aimed at promoting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and reaffirmed the full implementation of Agenda 21.

Since UNCED Rio, 1992, environmental awareness in Southern Africa has improved. The Southern African member states have ratified important international and sub-regional sustainable development conventions some of which include: Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) and The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems (see annex 1 for details).

Both Agenda 21(1992) and the WSSD (2002) called on all countries to take immediate steps to formulate and implement. They recommended that Governments immediately enact and enforce clear and effective laws that support sustainable development, develop and strengthen the necessary infrastructure, and promote public participation in implementation (UN, 2003). It is important at this point to review the progress that countries have made in implementing sustainable development as called for in Agenda 21 and WSSD. Specific questions that need answers include the following: What are the institutional structures that have been developed to co-ordinate and implement sustainable development at national level in Southern Africa? What have been the successes and challenges experienced by countries in implementing sustainable development? What are the emerging recommendations to ensure successful implementation of sustainable development policies and programs? Answers to these questions can provide governments and development partners with crucial information required to guide the efficient implementation of sustainable development programs in the member states.

This paper reviews the progress made in establishing institutional frameworks for implementing sustainable development in Southern Africa, identify the major successes and challenges experienced by countries in implementing sustainable development policies and programs and suggest recommendations that enhance the overall implementation of sustainable development.

Methodology

The study methodology involved a combination of primary and secondary data collection. A questionnaire was used to obtain information from 10 Southern African countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, South Africa, Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana). The questionnaire elicited information on institutional and legal framework, policies and strategies, stakeholder involvement and successes and challenges in implementing sustainable development. Secondary data analysis involved collection and synthesis of existing country level literature on progress reports on sustainable development.

Results

What institutional structures have been developed to co-ordinate and implement sustainable development?

Institutional structures and mechanisms are the vehicles through which the goals of sustainable development can be realized. Experience in several countries shows the establishment of an appropriate institutional framework, such as an interministerial committee or a national council, to develop a national strategy and subsequently fine-tune it. The main mandate of such an institution should be to provide a high level national focus on sustainable development policy development, implementation and monitoring. Such a framework ensures that the priorities set are actually the result of the involvement of government at all levels and of all stakeholders (local authorities, NGOs, scientific circles, private sector). The establishment of focal points in government departments and in related organizations can also reinforce the institutional framework for sustainable development.

To assess the progress in the creation and strengthening of national institutional mechanisms questions were asked on the presence, location and operation of the sustainable development body. As indicated in table 1 all responding countries except Zambia have established a sustainable development body responsible for coordinating sustainable development activities in the country. These sustainable development organs appear to take three forms: (1) a national council or agency (Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho), (2) an inter-ministerial committee (Malawi, Mauritius, Zimbabwe and South Africa), and (3) a special institution in the president's office such as the National Planning Commission in Namibia, whose task is broader involving planning the priorities and direction of national development.

In Zambia each sector has its own responsibility to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development into their policies and programs. The Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources and two statutory bodies, Zambia Forest Industrial Corporation (ZAFICO) and Environmental Council of Zambia (ECZ), undertake environmental management and planning. The potential implications of not having a body that coordinates activities around the three pillars of sustainable development are poor integration of all the three pillars of sustainable development into national development programs, and difficulties coordination of sustainable development activities leading to duplication of activities. An emerging recommendation is to encourage countries where there is no sustainable development body such as Zambia to establish a sustainable development body or network that can coordinate sustainable development issues at national level.

Table 1.   Presence of a permanent body at national level responsible for coordinating
                sustainable development activities in the country

Country	Name of sustainable development body	Year established	Location of Sustainable Development Body	Does body have decentralised structures?
Botswana	The National Conservation Strategy Coordinating Agency	1992	Ministry of Lands Housing and Environment	No
Lesotho	National Environment Secretariat	1994	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	No
Malawi	National Council on Environment	1995	Ministry level Inter-ministerial	No
Mauritius	National Network for Sustainable Development	2002	Prime Minister's / President's office	No
Mozambique	National Council for Sustainable Development	1997	Prime Minister's / President's office	No
Namibia	National Planning Commission	1990	Prime Minister's / President's office	Yes
South Africa	The International Relations, Peace and Security (IRPS) Cabinet Cluster	2002	Inter-ministerial Cabinet Committee	Yes
Swaziland	Swaziland Environment Authority	1992	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	No
Zambia	Not present			
Zimbabwe	National Sustainable Committee	2002	Ministry of Environment and Tourism	No

Source: Survey Results

Mandate of the sustainable development body

Countries reported that the general mandate of the sustainable development body was to coordinate sustainable development and to promote sound environmental management (see annex 2). In some countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland), the mandate is broader including ensuring that the three pillars of sustainable development are adequately integrated into national programs. This is important because it shows that the sustainable development body is not falling into the trap of just coordinating the environment aspect of sustainable development, but inclusive of all the issues. In some countries for example Malawi and Mozambique, the mandate includes enforcement of legislation and providing guidance for the ratification of international conventions related to sustainable development.

Placement and decentralization of the Sustainable Development Body

Of great importance in determining the status of the sustainable development body in terms of its autonomy and authority to influence policy and operate independently and effectively is its location. Placements in high government office indicate that the sustainable development body is awarded political and national importance. Three of the countries, Mozambique, Namibia and Mauritius, have positioned the sustainable development body in the President's or Prime Minister's office, while the remaining countries have the body at the ministerial level. In Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, the sustainable development body is housed in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, while in South Africa and Malawi it is inter-ministerial. Even though it was the environment pillar that has been weak in sustainable development, one major question is whether placing the body in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism will not bias its work towards the environment pillar alone.

Many of the countries lack decentralized structures to effectively reach all parts of the country and ensure that sustainable development programmes being implemented are relevant to all. For example in Botswana the National Conservation Strategy currently lacks the structures to allow continuous feedback to and from community, district and regional levels and the national level (Government of Botswana, 2002). Only two countries Namibia and South Africa indicated that the sustainable development body had decentralized structures. Literature has indicated that successful programmes on some sustainable development programmes are those that devolve power to local levels and give local communities control to manage and use their resources as with community based natural resource management (Leach, et al. 1997, Grimble, 1997). Hence decentralization will increase popular participation, local decision-making processes, and local ownership of initiatives. However a critical component of the decentralisation/devolution process is ensuring that the local level institutions are effectively empowered through an appropriate legal framework and

coordination mechanism and the provision of skills and resources needed to implement sustainable development programmes.

Composition of the Sustainable Development Body

In many of the countries the sustainable development body has representatives from diverse line ministries, the most frequently reported being those dealing with the environment, minerals, water and natural resources, agriculture, industry and commerce and local government (see Annex 3). The NGOs, academia and the private sector were also represented in the sustainable development body in some countries. Some countries however indicated that other institutions need to be represented in the sustainable development body these include: Ministry of Justice in Swaziland (for law enforcement), representatives of youths in Botswana (to raise awareness and appreciation of the sustainable development in youths), provincial government or local government in South Africa and Malawi (since implementation takes place at their level and its crucial to speed up decentralization), Ministry of Gender in Malawi (to improve gender integration into sustainable development). The countries with the most diverse representation are Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Mauritius, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.

Only one country, Swaziland indicated traditional leadership to be part of the sustainable development body. Yet despite the rise of elected governments, chiefs and other traditional leaders still wield considerable power in many Southern African countries and sidelining them can yield sub-optimal results for sustainable development. Traditional leadership often play a key role as community advocates and in sensitizing the community of new initiatives. Sustainable development bodies should try to forge closer ties with traditional leaders.

Legal framework for sustainable development

Within the broad framework of sustainable development, various legal provisions (laws, regulations, guidelines) have to be made to minimize environmental impacts, and promote natural resource conservation. All countries that have a sustainable development body (with the exception of Lesotho where the legal framework is not yet operational and Botswana, where the sustainable development body is still waiting for the Act that will give it authority to co-ordinate the various Government departments) have an Environment Act, which provides for the establishment of the sustainable development body as shown in Annex 4. For example the Environment Protection Act (EPA) 2002 of Mauritius provides for the setting up of a National Network for Sustainable Development to ensure coordination and effective implementation of governmental policies in relation to environmental protection and conservation (Government of Mauritius, 2002). However since most of the sustainable development bodies have their legal framework in an environment act, their work tend to be biased to the environment pillar.

Funding of the Sustainable development Body

Financial resources are necessary if the process of implementing sustainable development is to be successful. All countries with exception of Zambia and Botswana indicated that the government provided funding for the sustainable development body. Nearly all countries (with the exception of Mauritius whose allocation is 3% of GDP) indicated that government funding was not adequate for implementing sustainable development plans and programs. The major activities, which received funding, include policy or strategic planning, legislation review, information and education activities and some sustainable development projects.

The major sources of funding are the Global Environmental Fund, World Bank, UNDP and bi-lateral partners and others. Most major development partners and lending institutions are now incorporating sustainable development in their assistance programs. What is clear from this information is that government funding for sustainable development programs is inadequate reported in each of the countries with the exception of Mauritius. An emerging recommendation would be the need for widening the source of funding by building partnerships with the private sector, NGOs and the philanthropy sector. Few partnership initiatives between the government and the private sector in sustainable development were reported for South Africa and Namibia.

Strategy for Stakeholder participation

Stakeholder participation in resource management and decision-making is an integral part of sustainable development because regular and open dialogue can help to raise the general public's awareness on sustainable development, build broad consensus on policy decisions, and mobilize resources to achieve set objectives. Agenda 21 states that, "One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making."

The presence of a strategy to promote participation of all major groups in the implementation of sustainable development activities was evaluated based on questionnaire responses from countries. The main strategies adopted by countries to promote stakeholder participation include: having civil society and other stakeholders as active members of the sustainable development body, wide consultations with civil-society and the general public before decisions are made (ie. consultative forums), legislations that make provision for the participation of all stakeholders, and through smart partnership.

Major successes of sustainable development

The major successes of sustainable development activities that have been implemented by the countries include the ones listed below.

Long-term national development plans that incorporate sustainable development concerns

All countries have developed-long term plans that integrate sustainable development, indicating a commitment to implementing sustainable development. For example Mauritius has a Vision 2020, Swaziland has a National Development Strategy, 1999, Lesotho is finalizing their Vision 2020, Mozambique has an Action Plan for Reduction of Absolute Poverty (PARPA which is also their PRSP) adopted in 1994, South Africa is adopting a new ten-year vision in 2004 for the period 2004 – 14 and Malawi has a vision 2020 and Botswana has National Development Plan 9 for the period 2003/04 – 2008/09 which integrates the three pillars of sustainable development. Namibia is currently implementing a second 5-year National Development Plan, which covers 2001-2006, although sustainable development principles are not included in the preamble or main objectives, they were integrated under specific sectoral sections of the plan. Although it does not have a sustainable development body, Zambia has a Transitional National Development Plan (2003-2008) that address some sustainable development issues.

Development of sustainable development bodies and the legal framework to support their operation

Since UNCED Rio, 1992, all countries apart from Zambia have developed bodies to coordinate sustainable development activities in the country. This indicates that the UNCED has had an impact. All the countries with a sustainable development body apart from Lesotho and Botswana have developed legislation to support the functioning of the sustainable development body.

Development and implementation of poverty reduction policies and plans

All the countries have established poverty reduction programs and policies. Given that one of the major sustainable development challenges the sub-region is facing is high poverty, existence of national poverty reduction strategies is an indicator of commitment to integrating the social aspect of sustainable development into national plans and programs.

Enforcement of environmental impact assessment schemes for all development sectors

Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique and Swaziland have successfully developed a legal imposition of EIA prior to implementation of any activity that can impact the environment. In Namibia Environmental Impact Assessment has been widely adopted and implemented for most development projects and legislation in support of the EIA policy is in the final stages of development.

Biodiversity Conservation programme

Swaziland, South Africa, Namibia and Lesotho have successfully developed biodiversity conservation programmes.

Launching of the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) strategy

Malawi, Namibia and Botswana successfully launched the CBNRM strategy countrywide. **CBNRM** aims to: promote wise and sustainable use of natural resources: to devolve rights over and responsibilities for wildlife and tourism to rural communities – creating enterprise and income generating opportunities; and to encourage and assist communities to acquire skills to manage their areas and actively pilot their own future. Through the national CBNRM program rural communities have been given an opportunity to benefit from the CBNRM policy by forming conservancies and developing high earning, low impact wildlife and tourism enterprises on their land.

Stakeholder participation in sustainable development programmes

Stakeholder participation and involvement in sustainable development processes since UNCED, 1992 has improved in all countries.

Challenges

Financial, human and material resources

The most common challenge reported by member states is the lack of adequate financial, human and material resources to implement the planned programmes. Intensive skills training and capacity building in different areas of sustainable development is vital to the effective performance of the sustainable development body in countries like Botswana and Namibia which are heavily reliant on expatriate personnel. Countries need to find ways of funding their own sustainable development initiatives even as they look to development partners for assistance. For example public-private partnerships (including joint ventures, the private sector, and civil society groups and organisations) hold great promise for improved efficiency regarding service provision and resource management.

Legislation, Poor coordination and institutional capacity (cited by Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique, and Swaziland)

This results in multiple parallel processes as indicated by South Africa, duplication of activities, conflicting legislations and mandates as indicated by Swaziland and Malawi and overall delay in implementing agreed upon national sustainable development strategies. Namibia indicated that implementation of sustainable development usually demand the co-operation of more than one agency, the major challenge is to clarify the responsibilities and accountabilities to minimise repetition. In Botswana, there is still no legislation to give the sustainable development body authority to allow the sectoral ministries to work together. While co-ordinating bodies can work, they need more legal authority so that they can achieve their objectives.

Interest and inadequate understanding of sustainable development issues

Some countries (Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland) indicated lack of interest and inadequate understanding of sustainable development issues among key stakeholders and policy makers to be a major stumbling block. This could be the result of inadequate communication and dissemination of sustainable development issues to key stakeholders and policy-makers. The challenge therefore is need for governments to actively engage in sensitisation and education campaigns to improve the general public's knowledge on sustainable development.

Mechanisms and capacity for monitoring and evaluating progress made in implementing sustainable development

Mauritius indicated that there was a lack of capacity in monitoring and evaluating progress made in implementing sustainable development. Namibia indicated that Ministries and departments have not yet developed specific criteria for rigorously monitoring progress towards meeting sustainable development objectives. Irregular monitoring, missing data and inadequate indicators make it extremely difficult to assess the impacts of policies and programmes. The United Nations has developed 58 indicators that can be used by countries to monitor and evaluate progress in sustainable development. It is important to encourage countries to adopt the indicators and help build their capacity to undertake the work. A sub-regional organisation can also help closely monitor the implementation of sustainable development in member countries.

Shocks and marginalization from the external environment

Globalisation and external forces can constrain sustainable development in member states because of their negative impacts on their economies. Mauritius reported that income at national level depends on external trade and commerce therefore the economy is externally driven and is vulnerable to shocks brought about by the global markets. Some of the member states are struggling with a heavy external debt burden, food insecurity, lack of market access for their products in the developed world, as well as the negative impacts of developed country trade protection through subsidies. As a result they are increasingly marginalized from the global economy thus negatively impacting sustainable development.

Overburdening

Generally countries indicated that overburdening of work for Ministries, NGOs and other stakeholders regarding the issues that they have to consider as relevant for sustainable development has emerged to be a major challenge. This has become crucial given the added responsibilities provided by the MDGs.

Creating a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development

Countries indicated that integrating the three pillars of sustainable development is a major challenge since both the social and the economic sector have their separate coordinating mechanisms at the same level as the environment coordination mechanism. Thus integration of all the pillars is the major challenge, and the lack of this point of integration is a setback, particularly since each pillar has clearly defined strategic objectives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Since the UNCED Rio, 1992, Southern African countries have made progress in integrating the pillars of sustainable development into their national policies and plans. All countries, apart from Zambia, after undertaking the national assessments have established sustainable development bodies to co-ordinate sustainable development. In Zambia each sector has its own responsibility to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development into their policies and programs.

The study has revealed that the mandate of the sustainable development body in some countries (Botswana, Mauritius) only captures the environment pillar of sustainable development. In order for the sustainable development body to successfully spearhead sustainable development in a holistic way, it is important that their mandate addresses the other pillars of sustainable development.

Achievement of sustainable development goals depends on adequate allocation of resources to implement the programs. While Governments in the sub-region do allocate resources for the activities of the sustainable development body, the study has revealed that public funding is not adequate. The development community has been reported to contribute to funding of sustainable development efforts in all the countries. Governments need to explore ways of raising additional funding, one way will be through partnership arrangements with the private sector.

Major successes of sustainable development activities that have been implemented by some of the countries include development and implementation of poverty reduction policies/plans, enforcement of environmental impact assessment schemes for all development sectors, development of biodiversity conservation programs and launching of the Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) strategy.

The major challenges to implementing sustainable development activities reported by member states include: lack of adequate financial, human and material resources, lack of legislation, poor coordination and institutional capacity, lack of interest and inadequate understanding of sustainable development issues, lack of mechanisms and capacity for monitoring and evaluating progress made

in implementing sustainable development, external shocks and marginalization of the countries from the global environment, work overburden, and difficulties in creating a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development.

Recommendations

Based on the findings in this study, the following recommendations to enhance implementation of sustainable development programs are suggested.

Recommendations requiring attention at national level

- Encourage countries that have not yet done so to establish a sustainable development body or network that can coordinate sustainable development issues at national level;
- Ensure that the mandate of the sustainable development body encompasses all the pillars of sustainable development;
- Encourage countries that have not yet done so to provide the legal authority to sustainable development bodies so that they can achieve their objectives;
- Explore new and creative ways of financing the sustainable development programs both nationally and internationally;
- Improve co-ordination mechanisms between government departments and other key stakeholders so as to strengthen the role of the sustainable development body;
- Encourage sustainable development bodies to forge closer ties with traditional leaders in trying to implement sustainable development;
- Forge partnerships with civil society, the private sector, and development agencies to ensure that national sustainable development activities are relevant to local needs and in order to raise additional resources;
- Undertake capacity building and development of training personnel in the different disciplines related to sustainable development;
- Engage in sensitization and education campaigns so that the public becomes more articulate, knowledgeable and better able to participate in sustainable development decision-making processes;
- Monitor and evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development policies using appropriate quantitative and qualitative indicators; and
- Ensure the participation of women in sustainable development programs.

Recommendations requiring attention at sub-regional level

- Facilitating formation of partnership initiatives at regional and international levels.
- Spearheading sharing of best practices within the region and internationally.

- Monitoring the implementation of sustainable development in member countries to ensure that some progress is made. Production of a periodic publication that gives an update of the situation.

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Annex 1.   The Main International Conventions acceded to by Southern African Countries

Country	Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC)	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)	The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems
Angola	X	X	X			X
Botswana	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lesotho	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malawi	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mauritius	X	X	X	X		X
Mozambique	X	X	X	X		X
Namibia	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Africa	X	X	X	X	X	X
Swaziland	X	X	X	X		X
Zambia	X	X	X	X	X	X
Zimbabwe	X	X	X	X	X	X

Source: Chipeta, 2001.

Annex 2.   Mandate of sustainable development body

Country	Mandate of sustainable development body
Botswana	Foster the conservation of natural resources/natural capital and the monitoring of resource stocks and flows through the National Development Planning and implementation processes. More specifically: to prepare regular State of the Environment reports; ensuring that proper Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are carried out; advising Government ministries, departments and local authorities on how to discharge their environmental responsibilities at both national and local levels; ensuring that, where necessary, planning and other authorities prepare conservation and resource strategies at district and local levels.
Lesotho	To ensure that all developments in the country are environmentally and socio-economically sustainable
Malawi	Ensure that the three pillars of sustainable development are adequately integrated in national programs.
Mauritius	To ensure the protection and management of the environmental assets of Mauritius so that their capacity to sustain the society and its development remains unimpaired and to foster harmony between quality of life, environmental protection and sustainable development for the present and future generation
Mozambique	To pronounce upon the sectoral policies related to the management of natural resources; To issue comments on proposals of legislation that is related to the Environmental Framework Law proposals to establish or to revise sectoral legislation concerning the management of the Nation's natural resources; to pronounce upon proposals for the ratification of international conventions related to the environment; to prepare proposals for the creation of financial or other incentives that would stimulate economic agents to adopt environmentally sound procedures in the daily use of the Nation's resources; to propose mechanisms for the simplification and efficiency of the process of licensing activities related to the use of natural resources; to formulate recommendations to the ministers responsible for the management of natural resources in different sectors on matters relevant to the sector; to serve as a forum for the resolution of institutional differences related to the utilisation and management of natural resources; and to carry out all other duties given to it under this law and other environmental legislation.
Namibia	To plan the priorities and direction of national development in Namibia. The NPC also mobilizes and coordinates international resources and advises the President and the Government on the general course of social and economic development. To direct the development of policies and plans into programmes and projects for execution, including public sector investment programmes, and from an economic planning viewpoint, advising on the mobilization and allocation of public sector resources and on the appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes.
South Africa	Setting up permanent coordinating mechanism for sustainable development on South Africa, coordinating interim efforts towards the development of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, development of a National sustainable development institute to address the country's sustainable development research capacity needs, interim coordination of the country's global and national follow-up to the major sustainable development multilateral agreements, and marketing and communication of sustainable development issues.
Swaziland	To ensure that Swaziland 's development is economically and socially sustainable by means of promoting sound environmental policies, practices and development, which meets appropriate national and international standards.
Zambia	No sustainable development body
Zimbabwe	Coordinating all sustainable development activities involving all stakeholders in the country.

Source: Responses from the questionnaire

Annex 3.   Institutions represented in the sustainable development body

Institution	Botswana	Lesotho	Malawi	Mauritius	Mozambique	Namibia	South Africa	Swaziland	Zimbabwe
Ministries									
Environment, Wildlife and Tourism	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Finance and Planning	√	√	√		√			√	√
Education	√								√
Foreign Affairs							√		√
Minerals, Energy, Water Resources/ Natural resources	√	√	√	√			√	√	√
Industry,/Commerce	√	√		√	√				√
Local Government	√	√		√				√	√
Agriculture	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
Health and Social Welfare		√	√	√			√		
Forestry and Land Reclamation		√							
Public Works & Housing				√	√				
Fisheries					√				
Transport and Telecommunications		√		√	√				
NGOs	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
The academia/ research groups	√		√		√		√		√
Private sector	√		√					√	√
The Media	√								
Traditional Authorities								√	

Source: Responses from the questionnaire

Annex 4: Presence of a legal framework to support the sustainable development body

Country	Legal framework Formulated	Is the legal framework operational yet?
Botswana	Waiting for the National Conservation Strategy Act	
Lesotho	Environment Act 2001	No
Malawi	Environmental Management Act (1996)	Yes
Mozambique	Environmental Framework Law, 1997	Yes
Mauritius	The Environment Protection Act 2002	Yes
Namibia	National Planning Commission Act of 1994	Yes
South Africa	National Environment Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)	Yes
Swaziland	Environment Management Act, 2002	Yes
Zambia	None	No
Zimbabwe	Environment Management Act 2002	Yes

Source: Responses from the questionnaire