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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Africa Resources Trust
AU	African Union
CASS/LTC	Center for Applied Social Science/ Land Tenure Centre
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
CBRNM	Community-Based Natural Resources Management
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CIDC	Community Internship Development Centre
CORN	Community Organisations Regional Network
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CTDT	Community Technology Development Trust
DLA	Department of Land Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDT	Farmers Development Trust
GPA	Global Plan of Action
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HIVOS	Humanistic Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forestry
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IRED	Development Innovations Network
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
IUCN-ROSA	The World Conservation Union-Regional Office for Southern Africa
IUPGR	International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources
LRNSA	Land Rights Network of Southern Africa
MWENGO	Mwelekeo wa NGO
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NETCAB	Regional Networking and Capacity Building Initiative for Southern Africa
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
NLC	National Land Committee
NSCD	National Council for Sustainable Development
ORAM	Rural Association for Mutual Support, Mozambique
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PLAAS	Programme for Land and Agricultural Studies
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RDCs	Rural District Councils
RLRSF	Regional Land Reform Support Facility
RIIC	Rural Industries Innovation Centre
RING	Regional and International Networking Group
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAFIRE	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources
SARDC-IMERCSA	Southern African Research and Documentation Centre - India Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for southern Africa
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TRIPS	Trade Related Intellectual Property Systems
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation
ZERO	ZERO Regional Environment Organisation
ZIBF	Zimbabwe International Book Fair
ZIMNET	Zimbabwe National Environment Trust
ZWB	Zimbabwe Women's Bureau

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear associates, it is with some degree of enthusiasm and excitement that this report greets you.

Although there were many ups and downs, much has been achieved. When you step back and look at the bigger picture we have a great group of bright, young people who are working hard and having fun while they do good and important work. During the last 24 months, the Board and staff continued to display outstanding dedication and contribution to the organisation.

In the period under review, ZERO successfully implemented several community driven projects. The organisation also participated in workshops both at home and abroad, published books, policy briefs and electronic newsletters on sustainable development. The major highlights of the decade are chronicled in this annual report

The goal of sustainable development remains as elusive as ever. The disintegration of the African economies has become a feature of the continent's landscape. This economic stagnation has threatened our very existence. Inflation, which stood at 198,8% in December 2002, has severely eroded the ability of the organisation to meet its aspirations. Fuel shortages also impacted negatively on project implementation. However, I can confidently report that we are ready to weather the storm and to face the challenges of the post-World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) era. ZERO is poised to strive for an economic viability that reduces dependency on partners.

ZERO's struggle for equitable land distribution remain. It stems from the realisation that land is central to poverty eradication. The complex causes of land imbalances and conflicts within the region call for innovative and integrative approaches that support cross class and sectoral inclusiveness.

ZERO's land projects helped to create solutions by learning from previous policy deficits and extracting these lessons for good policy formulation and practices. The sustainable use and management of such a resource requires that women, men and youth (communities) are consulted and engaged in any policy over land resources.

ZERO took a decision to mainstream gender into its strategic processes as well as ensuring genderisation of its programme cycle. This decision was in acknowledgement that ZERO is located within the current dynamic and evolving external environment where organizations are faced with the challenges of reengineering to ensure relevance in an ever-changing environment. Ever since its inception ZERO has had the principle of gender equity included in various organizational strategies and plans. The truth of the matter however is that ZERO has always had to rely on external gender experts and gender analysis continued to be treated as peripheral and a sometimes-cosmetic exercise. ZERO was affirmative that, this status quo had to change.

ZERO's own relevance is highly dependent on strong partnerships with other civil society organisations. ZERO looks to these partners to enable marginalised communities including women, men and youth to become proactive and resolute in how they mark out the path to land reform.

ZERO has a long history of active involvement in the civil society debate surrounding issues of sustainable development. ZERO's coordination and participation opened up exciting and rare opportunities for Zimbabwean Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), to present their position at various forums at the national, regional and international platforms.

ZERO has a very simple agenda and objective. ZERO's dynamic vision, values and mission statement reflect and are innovative to shifting paradigms and changing environments within local, social and global economies. A testimony to ZERO's relevance were some of its landmark achievements in which ZERO demonstrated its unique ability to catalyse, evolve and impact new ideas that result in change that translates into action. ZERO is a trendsetter, a convenor and a facilitator in the developmental arena. It has changed with time.

To our donors and funders without your support ZERO can add no value to the living standards of the disadvantaged women, men and youth. And to our vast pool of associates, consultants and partners in Zimbabwe and throughout SADC, who worked tirelessly to meet sometimes-tight deadlines, "Keep up the good work".

Dr Yemi. Katerere  
*CHAIRPERSON*

## FROM RIO TO JOHANNESBURG

### ZERO AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

In the 10 years since Rio, ZERO has made great strides in promoting sustainable development at the grassroots, national and regional levels. In fact ZERO was the first NGO in the southern African Region, which pioneered work on the inter-relationship between the environment and development. Most of our work over the past decade has been achieved through research, policy advocacy, capacity building and information dissemination.

To contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of disadvantaged rural women, men and youth in southern Africa, ZERO implemented several projects over the last decade, ranging from the Tsootso stove to wind technology. The latter project was tested in the delivery of electricity to rural communities. ZERO also helped to factor wind and other energy sources into policy.

One of ZERO's greatest achievements has been to highlight the plight of the poor, and women in particular, in terms of access to and control over land and land-based resources. By serving as a bridge between community-based organisations individuals and institutions engaged in research and policy-making, including governments, ZERO succeeded in raising partnerships to new levels of co-operation.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

In the 24 months under review, several projects were initiated by ZERO and jointly implemented with partner organisations under the following strategic themes: Transboundary Resource Tenure and Security; Land and Rio + 10 otherwise known as WSSD. Our success rate was analysed using the Result Based Management technique.

Research in Transboundary Resource Tenure and Security included studies in Transborder Natural Resource Management and conflicts in the Zambezi and Limpopo basins, Cross-border Trade and Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management.

Despite substantial advances in Zimbabwe's land reform programme, land remains a highly emotive issue. It is also at the central point of ZERO's research and advocacy work. In the two-year period reviewed in this report, ZERO investigated the root causes of land conflicts in Zimbabwe and examined the feasibility of incorporating conservancies into the land reform programme.

In response to criticism of the fast-track resettlement programme, ZERO is currently researching "Alternative Land Reform Models" in partnership with the Center for Applied Social Science/Land Tenure Center (CASS/LTC). Another project, "Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Management in Resettlement Areas" examined the opportunities and constraints faced by resettled farmers in their bid to restore Zimbabwe's status as the region's breadbasket.

Many of the projects described in this report owe their success to ZERO's longstanding commitment to massaging its partnerships. During 2001-2002, and as previously mentioned, ZERO in collaboration with four SADC NGO's strengthened its partnerships with the Community Organisations Regional Network (CORN); the Regional and International Networking Group (RING), the Global Environmental Facility NGO Network (GEF); Land Rights Network of Southern Africa (LRNSA); and implemented a project on "Strengthening Participation of Rural Communities in Policy-Making and Management of Land-Based Resources"

## LAND ADVOCACY

Although in recent years a number of southern African countries have taken up the challenge to address the land issue by initiating land reforms, the region is still experiencing land based conflicts arising from gross inequity over land and land resources. Given that 70 % of the region's population depend directly on land for their sustenance, it is important that governments and civil society in the region engage in concerted efforts aimed at resolving the land question. ZERO believes a comprehensive response to land conflicts requires research, advocacy and building the capacity of rural communities and institutions to participate effectively in the management of land resources in southern Africa. ZERO also believes that genuine land reforms must take place through a transparent process in which communities participate in making policies and decision making processes that affect them.

Conflicts over land and other natural resources, alternative land reform models, conservancies and productivity in resettlement areas were the main subjects of ZERO's research on land in the period under review.

### CONFLICTS OVER LAND AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

Zimbabwe historically has been steeped in conflicts over land, dating back to colonialism. Conflicts over land and other natural resources fall into one or more of the following categories: State versus communal people, village versus village, brother versus brother, landless peasant versus commercial farmer and game warden versus poacher.

The nature of these conflicts were analysed in a three-year study, funded by the Ford Foundation. Commissioned in 2000, the study spawned from the desire to provide a holistic analysis of land conflicts on freehold land, communal land, state leaseholds and State lands.

The findings and recommendations are contained in a 102-page book entitled "Conflicts Over Land and other Natural Resources in Zimbabwe" published in 2002. Feedback received on this publication to date has been very positive.

### ALTERNATIVE LAND REFORM MODELS

A joint effort between ZERO and the University of Zimbabwe's Centre for Applied Social Sciences, the project "Alternative Land Reform Models" was initiated in 2001. This project aimed to provide a critical and conceptual review of current resettlement models on land acquired by the Government of Zimbabwe since independence in 1980. The purpose was to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the resettlement models.

Although it was not possible to start implementing the project in 2001, some preliminary consultations and desk research was undertaken. This helped the research team to reflect on some of the key challenges of the project, notably the prevailing politically charged atmosphere and the controversy surrounding the land reform programme. The project is expected to run until 2003.

### **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY- MAKING AND MANAGING LAND-BASED RESOURCES**

Funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and implemented in partnership with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe, the project was aimed at improving communities' understanding of their role in policy formulation through participatory dialogue.

The project revealed that, except in Botswana, local women, men and youth were in dire need of capacity building, particularly in the training of natural resources management, improved agriculture production, project management, leadership and entrepreneurship. In South Africa, the project witnessed a strengthening of partnerships between the community and the Department of Lands Affairs (DLA) and an appreciation of each other's problems.

In Zimbabwe, the major benefits of the project included the strengthening of partnerships between ZERO, Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB), Women and Land Lobby Group (WLLG), Farmers' Development Trust (FDT), and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM Association); and reactivation of the functions of government extension officers.

### **ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN RESETTLEMENT AREAS (EAPEM)**

Thousands of landless Zimbabweans have been resettled on 11 million hectares of land since independence in 1980. The fast-track land resettlement exercise, which recently came to an end, saw over 300 000 people resettled under the A1 model and at least 51 000 under the A2 model.



Conceived in the context of the ongoing land reform programme, the specific objectives of a project entitled "Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Management in Resettlement Areas" aimed to assess community needs with respect to environmental management, agricultural production and other livelihood options; as well as assist resettled farmers to engage in sustainable and natural resource management.

But perhaps, the biggest problem for resettled farmers was lack of tenure, which made it difficult to access loans from commercial banks. This anomaly is an issue required to be addressed within a policy framework. "There is need to look at security of tenure to enable A2 farmers to get credit," attested the Midlands Chief Lands Officer, a view echoed by the Provincial Governor, Ceiphas Msipa.

Concurrently, an environmental disaster is looming in the resettlement areas as a result of indiscriminate cutting down of trees and gold panning. In some cases, the number of settlers now exceeds the sustainable carrying capacity due to either unchecked influxes of people or "bungling" in land allocations.

### CONSERVANCIES AS COMPLEMENTARY LAND REFORM MODELS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

At the height of the farm occupations in Zimbabwe, some landless peasants and war veterans took over private conservancies in the south of the country. Wildlife conservationists, who insisted that conservation and land reform did not mix, did not welcome this. Landless peasants did not agree, insisting that wildlife had actually been introduced in some commercial farms to frustrate land reform.

Not surprisingly, conservancies have always been viewed as pro-wildlife and anti-people. In an effort to find some common ground between these antagonistic perceptions, ZERO, in partnership with IUCN-ROSA, initiated a study on conservancies in Zimbabwe and Namibia. The principal aim of the study was to explore the policy, legal and institutional frameworks for participatory wildlife management in the SADC region and to develop a model for conservancy-based land reform.

Given that the majority of the over 200 million people in the 14 SADC countries live in communal areas, the study recommends that governments should seriously consider and promote conservancies as a land-use option. However, what is clear is that solutions for conservancies have to be stakeholder driven. For this to succeed, say the study authors, it is necessary to integrate agriculture and conservancy development in a manner that is both holistic and sustainable.

## TRANSBOUNDARY RESOURCE TENURE AND SECURITY

In 2001 ZERO embarked on two research projects to study how communities live and interact with each other in transboundary border areas. The study areas were the Zambezi River Basin in the north and the Limpopo River Basin in the south.

The two basins were broadly similar, being characterised by a highly mobile and interactive population, which relied on natural resources. In 2000 during the cyclone Eline both rivers caused widespread damage in the region.

### ZAMBEZI RIVER BASIN

“Transborder Resource Tenure and Security” was the title of the initial study carried out in Chapoto in north-eastern Zimbabwe, Luangwa in Zambia and Zumbo in Tete, Mozambique.

Commissioned by IUCN-ROSA under the second phase of NETCAB, the overall aim of this study was to establish how the policy and legislative environment hindered or promoted human security in transborder areas. More specifically, the study looked at policy and legislation governing the use and management of land, forestry, wildlife, and water and fishery resources. The question asked was, how could these communities’ connectivity with institution be increased to enable their representation in programmes and policy decisions and the ultimate derivation of benefits to enhance their livelihoods?

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY OF THE LIMPOPO BASIN

A study conducted by ZERO in the Limpopo Basin in 2001, aimed to examine the socio-economic, political and institutional factors, which influence the management of the Basin.



The project, part of a larger study on the state of the environment coordinated by Southern African Research and Documentation Centre - India Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for southern Africa (SARDC-IMERCSA), was a collaborative effort between ZERO, the Kalahari Conservation Society (Botswana), the Institute of Environmental Studies (Zimbabwe), NET (Mozambique) and the University of Waterloo, Canada.

For ZERO, the two studies presented many useful lessons. Perhaps, the most important lessons learnt being the realisation that there must be broad consultation in developing policies on land use and natural resources management.

This approach was given prominence in a ZERO poster on sustainable development, which stated that: “Ordinary people must be given a stake and a voice in policy and decision making on resource allocation from the grassroots to the national level. Only then will they commit themselves to development initiatives.”

According to ZERO, involving locals helps them to better define and understand their development problems and issues; assists in tapping from the knowledge base of the people; facilitates joint formulation of by-laws and regulations; and also establishes a degree of accountability and ownership for all stakeholders involved. The involvement of local people becomes the action and the justification.

### **MANICA-MANICALAND INITIATIVE**

The focus of this project is Manica Province in Mozambique and Manicaland in Zimbabwe. Apart from sharing identical names, the two provinces face similar challenges, such as the negative impact of gold panning, deforestation, forest fires and illegal cross-border trade.

As long as the people of the two provinces remain poor, the environment will be the victim. Closer co-operation is therefore needed between the people of Mozambique and Zimbabwe to effectively counter these challenges. The connectivity with governing institutions is essential for the marginalised voices to be heard in decision-making and policy implementation, asserts the study.

The overall aim of the Manica-Manicaland Initiative and funded by OXFAM America, is to provide greater livelihood security to economically vulnerable communities, especially women. It hopes to facilitate cross-border trade and service exchange with Manicaland in Zimbabwe. This is yet another linkage with the Community Organisations Regional Network (CORN) initiative.

The first phase of the project was launched in 2002 with the commissioning of a poultry project. While the people of Manica welcomed the poultry project, their Zimbabwean counterparts gave it an indifferent reception. For the latter, cross-border trade in scarce basic commodities (sugar, cooking oil, soft drinks, even cigarettes) was apparently a more lucrative business.

The future of the project currently hangs in the balance following a readjustment of OXFAM America's funding priorities.

### **CORN: PILOT PROJECT ON LAND REFORM, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CROSS BORDER TRADE – CHIMANIMANI/CHIPINGE**

Following the premature end to the Manica-Manicaland Initiative, ZERO is currently working on the above-mentioned project. The overall goal of the project is to improve community understanding of policy and legislation concerning cross border, agriculture and land and natural resources and assist in lobbying for policy changes in this context.

Funded by the Kellogg Foundation, the specific goal of the pilot project is to promote wealth creation within selected communities in Chipinge and Chimanimani districts through viable cross-border trading and sustainable use and management of land and natural resources.

The specific objectives defined within this context are:

- 1) To assess and understand the local economy of the project area and provide a platform for consensus building on opportunities for wealth creation;
- 2) To provide channels through which information relating to cross border market access, input sourcing, commodity availability, commodity pricing is made easily available to communities;

- 3) To build the capacity of and organise communities to engage in efficient and viable land and natural resource based production and cross border trading for which there is competitive advantage;
- 4) To improve the understanding of policy and legislation concerning cross border trade, agriculture, land and natural resource management;
- 5) To assist in lobbying for policy changes in the context of cross border trade and land and natural resource management; and
- 6) To develop best practices of cross border trade and land and natural resource management from this pilot project for use within CORN.

ZERO, as a founding member of CORN, noted that despite political commitment to regional rural integration and the sharing of common customs and culture, communities were not given the “freedom” to interact across borders.

A strong argument for Cross-border trade is that it could assist women, men and youth struggling with similar developmental problems in different parts of the region to get to know of solutions developed by some innovative and creative communities or individual communities in other parts of the region.

During the period under review, activities included baseline studies, field assessments, capacity building, lobby and advocacy for policy changes, such as decriminalising cross-border trade and an end to the humiliating body searches on female informal traders at border posts.

### **WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD)**

The year 2002 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rio, 1992 and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. ZERO, then was the focal point for southern African NGOs in the run-up to the Earth Summit. Since then, confidence in ZERO has grown and the organisation has worked tirelessly to promote sustainable development at the local, national and regional levels.

It had been hoped that hosting the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in southern Africa would bring solutions relating to environmental degradation, pollution, climate change, loss of biological diversity, and the crippling debt. Sadly, this did not happen.

Over the last two years, there has been a growing consensus that the world in general, and Africa in particular, needs to assess its implementation strategies and to take collaborative steps to tackle the perennial problems of poverty, underdevelopment, skewed trade relations, desertification, loss of biodiversity, the HIV/AIDS scourge and food security, to name but a few.

In the light of this poverty, the United Nations convened the WSSD from 26 August-4 September 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to review the world's progress in implementing sustainable development over the past decade, and re-chart the path to sustainable development.

### **THE ROAD TO JOHANNESBURG**

ZERO was mandated to lead and co-ordinate civil society's retrospective assessment of Zimbabwe's past efforts in trying to meet the challenges of sustainable development and to raise national awareness of the WSSD among different stakeholders.

In compliance, ZERO organised a number of stakeholder workshops and meetings in preparation for the WSSD. Participants at these workshops were drawn from government, the private sector, civil society, the media, community representatives and local level organisations. The objective was to bring stakeholders together to narrate and share their experiences on the implementation of Agenda 21, a blueprint for saving the world and to document such experiences for sharing with colleagues at the World Summit.

ZERO also simplified Agenda 21, the major International Conventions, designed posters, published an electronic newsletter and kept the debate on sustainable development vibrant in the country's psyche by using both the electronic and print media.

The long journey to Johannesburg began on 2 April 2001 with a meeting for civil society representatives to discuss and agree on civil society's contribution to the national assessment report. The meeting also aimed to; select members of a National Preparatory Committee on WSSD as well as identify and agree on the critical issues as spelt out in Agenda 21.

Scores of meetings were convened nationally, regionally and on the international podium to help in the identification of the critical issues.

### **CIVIL SOCIETY POSITION**

The key challenges for sustainable development in Zimbabwe, which formed the basis of civil society position, were identified as: Sustainable agriculture; Food security and food safety; Biodiversity and forestry; Development, globalisation and poverty reduction; Climate and energy; and Institutional reforms, good governance and civil society involvement in policy-making. It culminated from two workshops held on the 31<sup>st</sup> July at Bronte Hotel and Monomatapa Crown Plaza from the 1st to 2nd August 2002 respectively. The latter saw the CSO agreeing on the national report and then adopt it as their position paper. The position remained the key point of reference for the post WSSD period for the Zimbabwean CSOs. The long and complex deliberations marked a new beginning of commitment to sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION: THE CASE STUDIES**

ZERO collaborated with Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE), Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB), Development Innovations Network (IREN), Africa 2000, Environment Africa and Africa Resources Trust (ART) in carrying out case studies on sustainable agriculture, food safety and food security; biodiversity and forestry; development, globalisation and poverty reduction; climate and energy, including brown issues; institutional reforms, good governance and civil society participation, including community empowerment, planning and implementation

The purpose of the case studies was to assess the factors that either promoted or hindered local initiatives in sustainable development. The case studies were also aimed at showcasing sustainable development in action.

Through a project entitled "Envisioning Sustainable Development", co-ordinated by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Boston, RING partners compiled country reports chronicling the history of sustainable development since 1992 and undertook case studies of community-driven sustainable development projects, notably the Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources

(CAMPFIRE), Zvishavane Water Project (ZWP), Development Trust of Insiza (DTI) and "Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods Through Power from the Wind". (For summaries of the case studies, see Sustainable Development in Action: Case Studies ([www.zero.org.zw/rio](http://www.zero.org.zw/rio) project)).

### WSSD IN RETROSPECT

The World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26th August-4 September 2002, focused the world's attention on the difficult challenges of improving people's lives and conserving natural resources in a world facing accelerating environmental, social, economic and political pressures. The Summit brought together about 40 000 participants, including heads of states and delegates from NGOs, civil society, big business and other major groups.

Despite a great deal of optimism, the WSSD exposed the increasing gaps between the North and South, the rich and the poor. Rather than unite delegates in tackling universal problems such as drought, poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the Summit became a platform where hostilities of many kinds converged, both within states and among states.

### POST-WSSD INITIATIVES

The outcomes of the WSSD were a disappointment to many participants and observers alike. In fact, there is already speculations of another World Summit, "Johannesburg + 10" to correct the previous anomalies. But whether or not this takes place, it is important for Africa not to lose sight of Agenda 21. In the words of one delegate: "It does not take a World Summit to see that a river is polluted."

ZERO, nevertheless with its indomitable community driven engine, has been responsible for keeping the spirit of Johannesburg alive by engaging in a number of post-WSSD initiatives.

### POST-SUMMIT REFLECTION AND AGENDA SETTING WORKSHOP

Meikles Hotel, Harare was the venue of a post-Summit reflection meeting held on 17 September 2002 for civil society organisations to (a) share experiences and insights from their participation at the WSSD; and (b) to enable CSOs to review the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and chart the way forward.

One of the most abiding lessons from the Summit was that civil society and governments should engage in regular consultation and work with more commitment to strengthen existing and emerging partnerships.

### THINK-TANK POST-SUMMIT REFLECTION

Again on 5 December 2002, ZERO hosted a one-day think-tank reflection workshop on possible strategies for implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Action. A broad representative of stakeholders from NGOs, academia and civil society attended the meeting. Presentations included, Wealth Creation, Gender Integration and Empowerment in the Context of the Johannesburg Summit. The workshop concluded that the WSSD, being a follow up to many other International commitments to social development and the betterment of human kind, it is at best an international advocacy tool against which nations can measure themselves against. It provides internally agreed targets which when achieved a country could be said to be contributing towards the betterment of the generality of its people.

In this regard, the social sector targets of the WSSD can be taken as adequate proxy indicators for measuring a country's trajectory towards wealth creation or alternatively poverty reduction, attainment of gender integration as well as general empowerment of the generality of its population. The challenge therefore is for all stakeholders to come up with action plans that will address these constraints collectively.

Also presented at the workshop was a paper entitled, "Exploring Challenges of Developing Appropriate Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development as part of the WSSD Implementation Plan". The presentation concluded that, events in the country over the past three years clearly showed that quick solutions do not exist for complex social, economic, technological, environmental and political problems such as land reform and sustainable agriculture. There is need for on going policy processes rather than policy prescriptions. Policy processes that integrate multiple perspectives and emerging lessons require facilitatory institutional frameworks that consciously engage communities and their organisations in effecting sustainable changes in their lives and communities. Institutional frameworks and policy processes bring about a level of consciousness and modesty (especially in political leadership hard pressed to deliver on promises) that recognises the bounds of what is possible within one generation if we are not to destroy the livelihood base of the next generation.

Another paper on "Protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development in Zimbabwe: the post Johannesburg summit scenario" recommended that:

- a) There is increased recognition of the importance of natural resources in economic development by government and other stakeholders
- b) Political will to implement the Johannesburg Plan exists.
- c) There is need for technocrats to craft a practical programme of work that rides on government's goodwill and takes advantage of the Johannesburg Plan

A paper on "Regional Integration and Institutional Reforms" also attested that, for regional integration to bring about sustainable economic development there is need to solicit private sector and NGO involvement in the implementation of its programs. Zimbabwe's stance on NEPAD has always been controversial. The response to NEPAD has mainly been reactionary. However it should be noted that it is rather more sufficient to garner a consensus towards an alternative.

The SADC region has a number of smaller states. These states tend to exhibit particular characteristics that influence their participation in the regional and international trade arrangements. These include a small domestic market, reliance on one or few commodities, high vulnerability to fluctuations in world prices and limited human and financial capital. Smaller countries entering in the regional trade arrangements need assurances that their vulnerability will not be exacerbated by their participation in the regional trade area. The SADC region has the further distinction of having the highest incidence of poverty in the world.

There is therefore a need for SADC countries to continue to strive for collective capacity, responsibility and action in the pursuit of deeper regional integration, and minimize the risks faced by small economies while exploiting opportunities offered by the globalised world? In this presentation Ramsamy (2001) was quoted as saying that, SADC should be consolidated into a vibrant regional economic and trading bloc and maintain solidarity in multilateral negotiations which address key

issues such as market access, debt burden, technology transfer, private and official financial resource flows. All these issues have a bearing on SADC efforts to come up with a regional framework to eradicate poverty within the region.

For regional integration to yield results, it is imperative for SADC member states to spell out clearly how it should be done. Whether within the framework of market economies (given that more than three quarters of SADC states have liberalised their economies) or under the aegis of “just muddling through approach.” As Zimbabwe, our acceptance of a process to which we despise will either result in the death of the initiative and/ or the death of one of its disciple (Zimbabwe)

#### **WSSD PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION IN A GLOBALISING WORLD**

Thus in order to implement the Johannesburg Plan, it is essential for Zimbabwe to also focus on African individual and collective self-reliance and to lessen dependence on external resources.

## NETWORKS/COMMUNITIES

*Chapter 23 of Agenda 21 states: "Critical to the effective implementation of the objectives, policies and mechanisms agreed to by governments in all programme areas of Agenda 21 will be the commitment and genuine involvement of all social groups."*

From promoting renewable energy technologies such as wind power to combatting desertification, ZERO emphasises a participatory approach to research that involves local people in defining their own development problems and thereafter finding and determining solutions for these issues.

By bringing community members, women, men and youth from all walks of life into the research process, ZERO aims to forge genuine social partnerships for sustainable development. The key benefits of partnerships are sharing institutional capacity and comparative advantages; and exchanging knowledge on policy and practices. During the period under review ZERO participated in the following networks and coalitions:

### COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS REGIONAL NETWORK (CORN)



A colourful spectacular ceremony in Durban, South Africa saw the launch of Community Organisations Regional Network (CORN) on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2002. This was preceded by a three-

day workshop. Hundreds of local and regional community-based organisations attended the event, and at that instance, the ongoing African Union (AU) summit was in the backdrop. The launch was strategically timed to coincide with the formation of the AU.

Marked by cultural activities and exhibitions, it was attended by several dignitaries including the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs (South Africa), Dr Dhlamini Zuma, the Mayor of Durban, His Worship Obed Mlaba; and King Zwelithini of KwaZulu-Natal.

Many others had travelled by car, bus or simply walked to witness the official launch of this new "vision for development", or Iso Lenthuthuko" in Zulu.

CORN, a network of community-based organisations with a focus on rural communities in southern Africa, has its core membership drawn from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. It seeks to spread membership throughout the region. Its existence translates into action, decades of rhetoric on community participation in sustainable development initiatives. The acronym CORN in itself is a statement about the organisation. As a grain crop it is unique in its origin, adaptability, versatility and high productivity.

The main objective of CORN is to enable rural communities to carve out their own development strategies in consultation with other communities in the region. In this respect, its programmes are not only community-based but also community-driven. CORN's national programmes are anchored on five pillars: Social mobilisation; Nutrition and Food security; HIV/AIDS/STD and Tuberculosis (TB) and other communicable diseases, primary health care as well as business enterprises. Regionally, CORN focuses on three thematic areas: Land Reform and Food security; Regional Integration: Wealth creation with focus on Cross Border Trade; and Capacity building.

CORN and ZERO are intrinsically linked and have a common thread that binds them and as you read about our programmes this will become clear. Both organisations build on what already works within the existing institutions and advocate for change that supports the initiatives of the marginalised.

Both seek to increase connectivity with institutions to better represent more communities in policy decisions and programmes at the national, regional and global levels.

Both translate local knowledge resources and power to support the marginalised peoples' own efforts.

CORN meetings have regularly been taking place since 2000. They were convened by ZERO the Regional Secretariat and culminated in the three-day workshop at the University of Natal, South Africa, from 4-6 July 2002. This workshop aimed to consolidate the network's strategy and programmes and to redefine development perspectives. Highlights of the three-day workshop included the presentation of Merit Awards.

ZERO Board Member Professor Sam Moyo was one of the three individuals and two institutions honoured in recognition of their efforts in the creation of CORN in 1996. The other recipients of the prestigious Merit Awards were: the South African Foreign Affairs Minister, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs (South Africa), Dr Dhlamini Zuma,; Laila Nicolaissen of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA); Kellogg Foundation (for giving aid without prescription or conditionalities); and the University of Natal (for giving CORN a home, where "we grew, we developed and you nurtured us").

In her speech to mark the official launch, the network's Chair, Ms Doris Sikhosana, noted that the disadvantaged were not entirely to blame for the region's problems. "The marginalised historically work hard, are remarkably resourceful and show grit and determination in providing for their families."

There is an urgent need for communities to represent and define a role for themselves, she said, adding: "The most potent and powerful examples of real sustainable development come when we are able to recognise and respect the true wealth of communities and people – their indigenous knowledge in managing the natural resources around them and ultimately their own livelihoods."

In her concluding remarks, the Chair, Ms Doris Sikhosana lamented the continued marginalisation of Africa and the social exclusion of the vast majority of its peoples, which, she said, constituted a serious threat to global stability.

The official launch of CORN simply declared, "We (communities) have now arrived at the centre stage of decision-making at both the economic and political level. We are here to stay!"

### **LAND RIGHTS NETWORK OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (LRNSA)**

The Land Rights Network of Southern Africa (LRNSA) is the southern Africa chapter of LANDNET Africa, an Africa-wide networking initiative. LRNSA's mission is to contribute to the realisation of the land rights of disadvantaged women, men and youth in southern Africa by developing and promoting equitable and sustainable land policies, legislation and implementation processes.

ZERO serves as the information node of the network, which counts MWENGO (Mwelekeo wa NGO) and the Programme for Land and Agricultural Studies (PLAAS) among its key partners. Historically ZERO has been a leader on the debate on land reform in the region and has conducted detailed research, publications and workshops in this arena. However, the first highlight of the reporting period was the publication of "Who is Doing What in Land Rights Issues in Southern Africa", a comprehensive directory of institutional and individual land experts in southern Africa.

The second highlight was the exploration into setting up of the Regional Land Reform Support Facility (RLRSF). This facility would be established specifically to assist SADC member states to correct colonially inherited land redistribution imbalances.

ZERO as the foremost-undisputed facilitator and convenor in the Land Reform arena organised a Land Civil Society workshop in May 2002. The well-attended workshop aimed to raise civil society awareness of the intention to set up the Regional Land Reform Support Facility (RLRSF); to solicit initial responses to the Facility; to discuss its proposed roles, functions and structure.

Envisioning was of an operational RLRSF to give support member states in the implementation of land and agrarian reforms; strengthening the capacity of national agencies charged with the reform process; facilitating exchange of information and experiences amongst diverse groups; and to providing a regional information network.

### REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING GROUP (RING)

During the period under review, the Regional and International Networking Group (RING) activities were devoted to preparations for the WSSD including a review of the UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO 3).



Regional and International Networking Group  
of organisations working for sustainable development

The culmination of these activities was a joint statement by RING members, in August 2002, in which they expressed their collective disappointment at the lack of progress in implementing Agenda 21. The coalition described the period since the 1992 Rio

Earth Summit as "disappointing"; and as one characterised by "dashed hopes, failed promises, and missed opportunities".

The role of local communities in sustainable development is unequivocally acknowledged by RING. "Sustainable livelihoods cannot be planned, commanded or controlled from the top. However, they can, and must, be supported and strengthened. The most meaningful role of governments and NGOs is to create an environment in which local communities can themselves go through a process of empowerment in their quest for sustainable livelihoods," the statement noted.

### GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY NGO NETWORK (GEF)

ZERO became the focal point of the Global Environment Facility NGO Network (GEF) after succeeding EnergyWise, a South African NGO. It was in this capacity that ZERO attended the network's meetings in Washington (May 2001) and Beijing, (October 2002).



**Global  
Environment  
Facility**

During the period under review, ZERO also participated and contributed papers to various workshops hosted by its local and regional partners. The presentations were mainly on land reform, capacity building, agriculture and food security, globalisation and Agenda 21.

In addition, ZERO led five SADC NGOs in implementing a multi-country project to strengthen community participation in policy-making and managing land-based resources.

## TRAINING

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Although ZERO has always been gender-sensitive in its mission, vision and employment practices, no substantive policy existed on mainstreaming gender within the organisation. This shortcoming was addressed during the period under review with the holding of several staff training workshops on gender mainstreaming. The inaugural workshop was the Gender awareness raising training workshop, which was followed by the gender Analytical Skills Training Workshop. The purpose was basically to expose ZERO staff and partners to gender concepts in a bid to create gender awareness as well as equipping partners with skills to integrate gender during formulation, implementation and evaluation of programmes and projects. This culminated in the development of a genderised mission statement and objectives for ZERO.

ZERO recognises that gender mainstreaming means focusing on both women and men and their relationships with each other, land and land resources, and working in a global perspective that allows for and appreciates regional diversity.

ZERO is well aware that mainstreaming gender means creating an enabling working environment that will attract and retain gender sensitive staff. ZERO also recognises the need to analyse and understand the differential roles and responsibilities, relationships, needs and visions for women and men as forming the basis of a gender inclusive development process. Gender equality is a fundamental and integral part of democracy and shall therefore be mainstreamed and promoted.

To confirm ZERO's commitment to gender, the organisation is currently strengthening links with its traditional partners, both at home and in the region, such as the Zambia Alliance of Women, (ZAW) and Rural Association of Mutual Support Mozambique (ORAM), the Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB), Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (ZWRN) and Women and Land Lobby Group (WLLG).

### RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

In addition to the gender drive, in 2002 ZERO staff underwent training in Results-Based Management (RBM), a participatory and team-based approach to management that emphasised on results orientation in planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The focus of the training sessions was on the definition of realistic expected results, based on appropriate analysis; the identification of programme beneficiaries and designing programmes to meet their needs; monitoring progress towards results and resources consumed, with the use of appropriate indicators; and identification and management of risks, while keeping in focus and bearing in mind expected results and the necessary resources.

The staff appreciated that RBM can make a difference when results are mutually defined and agreed upon; a participatory approach ensures buy-in, commitment and a common understanding of what the project or programme is trying to achieve; interaction and flexibility allowed project implementers to change strategies during midstream to ensure development results were achieved.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

One staff member from ZERO also attended a one-day Environment Reporting seminar organised by SARDC (20 April 2001). It was meant for writers, research-writers, journalists and communicators dealing with environmental issues. The need to put a human face to the story/article in order to make it come alive and relevant as well as producing balanced and reliable articles by consulting various sources was emphasised.

### LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Lobbying and advocacy training workshop was conducted from 18-22 June 2001 at Mbizi game park, Harare. It was held in response to a recommendation from a RIO+10 Preparatory meeting where it was said that there was a need to equip civil society with advocacy and lobbying skills. It had been recognised that Southern NGOs particularly those from Africa were weakest in terms of lobbying and advocacy, hence this particular training aimed to correct this issue. The overall objective of the workshop was to provide participants with a framework to analyse and plan future advocacy and lobbying initiatives, and to enhance their skills in key aspects of the process.

### DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCE 2002: ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, 2-22 APRIL 2002.

One staff member also attended a conference dubbed "Alternative ways to combat Desertification". The first part of the conference was marked by a week long training from 2 to 7 April 2002. The training module attended was entitled, "Methodology and Implementation of National Action Plan."

This training workshop addressed the importance of Monitoring and Evaluation in the framework of the Convention to Combat Desertification implementation. The course covered basic concepts and definitions, components of monitoring- evaluation developed in the field of desertification control, building a Monitoring and evaluation system, and a tool for qualitative evaluation of National Action Plans.

### MACROECONOMIC REFORMS, TOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ZIMBABWE TRAINING OF RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

The aim of the training held in 2001 was to provide feedback results of the project and training to the identified stakeholders including Rural District Councils (RDCs). Based on the project recommendations several themes were identified that culminated in the development of the following training modules: *Understanding policy making processes; Use of market based instruments for natural resources and environmental management; Project life cycle; Conflict management and conflict resolution techniques; and Understanding the concept of sustainable development.* ZERO then conducted a series of training workshops in Chiredzi, Kadoma and Bulawayo that targeted local authorities (RDCs) from Masvingo, Beitbridge, Manicaland, Mashonaland, Matebeleland and Midlands.

### INTERNSHIP SCHEME

As part of its social responsibility and contribution to student empowerment and development, ZERO offers an internship programme to local Polytechnic and University students. During their period of attachment, interns provide valuable input into every aspect of ZERO 's work, particularly research and information management. In return, they gain valuable experience and knowledge in sustainable development as well as Information management, which they can put to good use once they join the world of workers.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

One of the main goals of ZERO is to provide an ongoing forum for discussion and information exchange on the environment, land and sustainable development issues.

The main forms of interaction, communication, and information dissemination include: publications, newsletters, workshops, a regularly updated website, electronic newsletter, internships, participation in national and regional exhibitions, promotional and publicity materials, public relations and networking using the internet and e-mail.

### PUBLICATIONS

During the period under review, the Resource Centre facilitated the production and dissemination of the publications: "Conflicts Over Land and Other Natural Resources" and "Conservancies as Complementary Land Reform Models", "Who is Doing What on Land Rights Issues in Southern Africa: Basic Information Directory 2001" as well as the inaugural issue of the CORN Newsletter.

The "Basic Information Directory 2001" is a compilation of comprehensive information on regional NGOs, national land coalitions, research and academic institutions as well as individual experts working on land advocacy issues in southern Africa.

The first issue of the CORN Newsletter was published to coincide with the official launch of CORN in July 2002. Articles covered issues such as the structure of CORN, traditional communities in the Limpopo Basin; and CORN and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

As part of the awareness raising strategy under Rio + 10, ZERO produced an electronic newsletter. Two issues were published and electronically circulated to government and civil society organisations. Plans are underway to publish a post-WSSD edition focusing on the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. Not only was this process efficient, it also proved cost effective.

### PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

During the period under review the Communications team designed and produced full-colour posters and banners for the WSSD awareness raising campaign, the CORN launch and Zimbabwe International Book Fair respectively. The theme of the posters, printed in English, Shona and Ndebele, was: "Fighting Poverty Through Sustainable Development". A CORN newsletter was also published.



A three-page supplement featuring local success stories in community-based sustainable development was also published in the local press in August, hard on the heels of the media-briefing workshop. The supplement coincided with the National stakeholder workshop held from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> August at the Munhumutapa Crowne Plaza.

### EXHIBITIONS

ZERO participated in both Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) 2001 and 2002 and used this platform to raise public awareness on WSSD issues as well as its role in sustainable development.

Although attendance figures for the Zimbabwe International Book Fair decreased from 28 000 in 2001 to 23 000 in 2002, the number of people showing an interest in ZERO's work remained constant.

A total of 150 newsletters; 150 posters; 100 annual reports and catalogues were distributed during ZIBF 2002, whose theme was "A Celebration of Africa's Best 100 Books".

ZERO showcased its Wind energy posters as an alternative source of energy that aims at combating desertification, at a conference dubbed "Desertification 2002" held in Cape Town, South Africa and the Desert Research Foundation in Namibia. The posters attracted immense interest because they exemplified the simplicity of the technology that can easily be replicated elsewhere in Africa's rural areas



ZERO again exhibited its work at the IUCN Environmental Centre, in Sandton, during the WSSD in Johannesburg, South Africa. Pride of place went to the publication "Conflicts Over Land and Other Natural Resources in Zimbabwe." This publication generated considerable interest not only from landless South African and Namibian citizens, but also from other Summit participants from the South. A total of 250 posters were distributed at the Sandton, Nasrec and Ubunthu Villages during the WSSD.

### THE RESOURCE CENTRE

The number of people calling on the Resource Centre for research purposes or simply to browse around continued to grow. During the period under review, visitors to the Library included researchers, academics and journalists. Feedback received confirms that the Resource Centre is playing an important role in disseminating vital information on topical issues.

### ZERO WEBSITE

Information production and dissemination has always been paramount for ZERO, as it strives to maintain the recognition and impact of its work locally, regionally and internationally. The website was one crucial methodology the organisation used to achieve global visibility.

In addition to information about its activities and other networks, the ZERO website carries a number of useful resource paraphernalia on gender, energy, land and land-based natural resources, sustainable development and publications by ZERO and/or its partners and has links to other useful sites. These links proved particularly useful in disseminating information on Agenda 21, as civil society prepares for the 2002 WSSD. Some of the resources are full text files.

The website is a one stop-shop that facilitates knowledge sharing, best practices and lessons learnt from sustainable development projects ZERO has conducted. It has the following features: Programs; library database, southern Africa and Land and Energy Experts database; publications and news briefs, E-Discussion Forums, E-Newsletters and ZERO's Networks in Southern Africa

During the period under review, the ZERO website received a sizeable number of hits. Information on the Zimbabwean Civil Society pre and post WSSD initiatives was posted on the ZERO website. The virtual visitors were from North America, which recorded the highest number of visits, followed by Western Europe, Africa, Australia, Northern Europe, Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The least frequent visitor was Southeast Asia. ([www.zero.org.zw](http://www.zero.org.zw))

## CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

Land underpins the economic, social and political lives of the majority of their people (Moyo, 1995). Unless land related issues are addressed comprehensively, the inhabitants of rural areas in these countries will continue to live in “ a state of insecurity and uncertainty with regard to their land rights” (Ngwasiri and Nje, 1995)

It is imperative that land is moved to the centre stage of any substantive debate on sustainable development and poverty alleviation. It is also one of the chief resources of the marginalised.

### POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Since poverty reduction is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, ZERO will continue to give priority to pro-poor projects that generate income, promote informal sector trade and boost agricultural productivity.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the proportion of people in 29 African countries (Zimbabwe included) living below US\$2 a day increased from 82% in the late 1960s to 87.5% in the late 1990s.

The upsurge in crime and other social ills, such as drug abuse and prostitution, is a direct result of increased poverty levels in the country. Reducing poverty levels is therefore a key challenge for ZERO, requiring both short and long-term interventions.

### DROUGHT

The SADC Regional Early Warning Unit has forecasted a regional maize deficit of 3.48 million tones against last season’s shortfall of 1.16 million tones. According to its bulletin, up to 13 million people will need food assistance between now and the next harvest.

In the absence of sufficient food, the SADC region is likely to see increased dependence on natural resources, especially forests, for food. The challenge for ZERO and its partners is to educate communities to use natural resources in a manner that preserves them for future generations.

### HIV/AIDS

In sub-Saharan Africa today, HIV/AIDS is no longer merely a health issue; it is a serious obstacle to sustainable development. At least one adult in 10 is already infected with the virus; 14 000 new infections occur every day.

In Zimbabwe and Botswana, for example, infected adults already account for more than 25% of the population. Needless to say, the HIV/AIDS pandemic will have far-reaching effects on sustainable development in SADC in terms of productive labour force lives lost and higher health budgets.

Although ZERO does not necessarily consider itself HIV/AIDS activists, this pandemic is one of the national pillars of the CORN initiative and hence ZERO is intrinsically bound to address this issue.

HIV/AIDS is an issue that every organisation in southern African region must address directly, both out of enlightened self-interest, and out of concern for those at risk or already affected. It has implications for programming in communities and the human resources’ capacity of many organisations.

As individuals in households and communities become ill with HIV/AIDS, it becomes difficult for them to conduct their normal tasks at home, in productive work, and in the community. The types of people who could potentially benefit from support are changing. More young people, orphans and elderly are gradually assuming the responsibilities of being breadwinners; hence there has been a shift for the clientele for institutions to work with.

At the same time, the capacity of organisations is under increasing threat. Staff members are themselves at the risk or affected by HIV/AIDS, with direct implications for human resources, productivity, financial solvency, and quality of work by organisations at all levels.

HIV/AIDS reduces the availability of physical labour, by the sick themselves, and diversion of labour of caregivers. There are also constraints on time available for work, especially by family and neighbours, due to funerals and traditional mourning periods. There is a decrease in availability of skills and knowledge base as people in the prime of lives prematurely. Women physiologically more susceptible to transmission; regressive social practices and power imbalances heighten risks of infection.

The strategy for ZERO will be to establish synergies with organisations working in this field so that HIV/AIDS is incorporated in overall poverty reduction, sustainable development and economic growth strategies. The integration of HIV/AIDS at organisational and programme level strengthens the effectiveness of Organisations such as ZERO in sustainable development management.

#### **GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS (GMOS):**

SADC countries are in a dilemma: They have the choice of either accepting genetically modified foods (GMOs) or watch their people starve. Both Zimbabwe and Zambia turned down offers of GMO maize in 2002 because of doubts about their safety. The rejection of GMOs exposed a policy vacuum, which needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Community efforts at sustainable development are often constrained by poor institutional capacity, infertile land, lack of sustainable environmental and gender policies, lack of transport and markets for their produce, poor management skills and other range of constraints often associated with the harsh macro-economic climate.

The challenge for ZERO is to empower these communities in their fight against poverty, hunger, environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS.

#### **THE WAY FORWARD**

What then, is the way forward? To begin with, worldwide consumption patterns have to be changed to forge positive links between economic efficiency, equitable distribution and the environmentally sound use of natural resources.

Secondly, the North-led "alliance against terrorism" must be replaced by a global "alliance against poverty", because social justice and economic security is the key to sustainable development in the South.

Thirdly, the international community must lend support to environmental strategies; initiatives and programmes devised by Africans themselves and abandon attempts to impose rival strategies.

Lastly, sustainable development must be driven from the grassroots; that is, it must be people-centred. This means creating sufficient space and opportunities to allow the active participation of the people in decision-making.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF ZERO REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATION**

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of **ZERO REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATION**, for the year ended 31st December, 2002 set out on page 2 to 11. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Executive Committee. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

#### **Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing which require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statement are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Executive Committee as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

#### **Qualification on inflation accounting**

The Zimbabwe economy is recognised as being hyperinflationary for purposes of financial reporting. These financial statement have not been prepared in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards in that the requirements of IAS 29, (Financial Report in Hyperinflationary Economies) have not been complied with. The Standard requires that financial statement of an enterprise that reports in the currency of a hyperinflationary economy should be stated in terms of the measuring unit current at the balance sheet date. The requirements of all other International Financial Reporting Standards have been complied with under the historical cost convention.

The financial effect of non-compliance with IAS 29 has not been formally established.

#### **Disclaimer of opinion**

In view of the pervasiveness of the matter referred to in the previous paragraph and the effective limitation of scope imposed on our work as a result of the absence of information that should have been extracted from the organisation's records necessary to assess the materiality of that non-compliance, we are unable to express an opinion on the financial statements are regards conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.

#### **Opinion on the historical cost financial statements**

The attached financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and would form the basis for the restatement in terms of IAS 29. In our opinion, the historical cost financial statement, in all material respects, give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Organisation as at 31st December, 2002 and of the results of its operations and cash flows, as measured by that convention.

*Kudenga & Co*  
KUDENGA & CO

Chartered Accountants (Zimbabwe)

HARARE

1st December, 2003

**BALANCE SHEET**  
as at 31st December, 2002

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment	4	3,811,104	4,479,695
Investments in subsidiary	5	100	100
Long term loan to subsidiary	6	4,136,989	1,081,771
		<u>7,948,193</u>	<u>5,561,566</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Deposits		24,138	24,138
Stock	7	1,324,796	372,489
Debtors	8	414,691	1,021,905
Bank & cash balances	9	6,543,844	5,412,206
		<u>8,307,469</u>	<u>6,830,738</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>\$16,255,662</u>	<u>\$12,392,304</u>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>RESERVES</b>			
General reserves		150,000	150,000
Capital reserves		978,952	773,350
Accumulated fund		299,435	6,821,584
Fund for specific purposes	10	3,660,182	1,290,852
		<u>5,088,569</u>	<u>9,035,786</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors - trade		7,728,551	3,043,958
-Other		3,438,542	312,560
		<u>11,167,093</u>	<u>3,356,518</u>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>		<u>\$16,255,662</u>	<u>\$12,392,304</u>

.....) EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

.....) EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**CASHFLOW STATEMENT**  
**for the year ended 31st December, 2002**

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
<b>CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS</b> for the year	(6,522,149)	(4,351,918)
<b>ADJUSTMENT FOR:</b>		
Interest received	(268,314)	(300,922)
Depreciation	1,296,805	1,234,242
Surplus on disposal of fixed assets	(907,747)	-
<b>Operating cashflows before working capital changes</b>	<u>(6,401,405)</u>	<u>(3,418,598)</u>
<b>CHANGES IN WORKING CAPITAL</b>		
Increase in creditors	7,810,576	2,557,569
(Increase) / Decrease in debtors	607,214	(911,485)
Decrease in short term investments	-	4,000,000
Increase in deposits	-	(12,000)
Increase in stock	(952,307)	(106,993)
Cash generated / (utilised) from operations	<u>1,064,078</u>	<u>2,108,493</u>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase in loan to subsidiary	(3,055,218)	-
Increase / (Decrease) in fund for specific activities	2,369,330	(2,375,171)
Increase in capital reserve	205,603	-
<b>NET CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>(480,285)</u>	<u>(2,375,171)</u>
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	1,131,638	(2,166,166)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 31 DECEMBER 2001</b>	5,412,206	7,578,372
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 31 DECEMBER 2002</b>	<u>\$6,543,844</u>	<u>\$5,412,206</u>

SOURCES OF INCOME FROM 2001 - 2002

Source of Income	December 2001 US\$	December 2002 US\$
a. Gifts, Grants, Contributions	\$228,697	\$323,363
b. Fee for Services Rendered	171,132	\$414,020
c. All Other Income	\$188,626	\$168,999
d. Total Income	\$588,455	\$906,382