

ZERO 2004 ANNUAL REPORT



Make Trade Work
for people
& the environment



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ACRONYMS

ACTS	African Centre for Technology Studies (Kenya)
AFRODAD	African Forum and Network on Debt and Development
AFSC	American Friends Service Committee
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AYINET	African Youth Initiative Network (of AFSC)
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBT	Cross Border Trade(r)
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CLACC	Capacity Strengthening of Civil Society in the Least Developed Counties on Adaptation to Climate Change
COP	Conference of Parties
CORN	Community Organisations Regional Network
CSIR	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CURES	Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of Environmental Stewardship (Zambia)
CZI	Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
EAPEM	Enhancing Agricultural Production and Environmental Management
EECZ	Energy and Environment Concern for Zambia
ELF	Environmental Liaison Forum
ENDA	Environmental Development Action in the Third World (Senegal)
EU	European Union
GCSF	Global Civil Society Forum
GED	Action Group for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development (Mozambique)
GEF	Global Environmental Facility (UN)
GEFSP	Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Programme
GEO-4	Fourth Global Environment Outlook
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDS	Institute of Development Studies (UK)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFI	International Financial Institution
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
InWEnt	Capacity Building International (Germany)
IOM	International Organisation for Migration (of the UN)
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
JPI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LCA	Linking Climate to Adaptation

LDC	Least Developed Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MWENGO	Mwelekeo wa NGO
NANGO	National Association of Non Governmental Organisations
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NASCO	National Agroforestry Steering Committee
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NSC	National Selection Committee
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RDC	Rural District Council
RING	Regional and International Networking Group
RTFP	Regional Trade Facility Partnership
SARCAN	Southern African Regional Climate Action Networking
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAFAIDS	Southern African AIDS Information and Dissemination Service
SAFIRE	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources
SAPES	Southern African Political and Economic Series Trust
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIFEM	United Nations Women's Fund
WLZ	Women and Land in Zimbabwe
WSSD	World Summit for Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Organisation
ZERO	ZERO Regional Environment Organisation
ZIBF	Zimbabwe International Book Fair
ZIMCBONET	Zimbabwe Community Based Organisation Network
ZIMTRUST	Zimbabwe Trust
ZIPAM	Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management
ZSF	Zimbabwe Social Forum

Statement by the ZERO Chair

ZERO is the premier environmental research, planning and implementation agency operating in the Southern Africa region since 1987. ZERO coordinates, catalyses, facilitates and evaluates all types of development projects at all levels.

ZERO has continued to play an important, though modest, role in the complex and changing social and political transformations of the Southern Africa region. ZERO reinforced its role as a civil society leader in debate and action on rural and urban development matters, continuously linking the past to shape the future. The majority of both rural and urban people continue to be challenged by poverty, lack of significant resources for rural development, very little real progress in improving livelihoods, and the HIV and AIDS pandemic. The planet's capacity to sustain itself is eroding. The global problems are well known – deteriorating agricultural lands, shrinking tropical forests, diminishing supplies of clean water, dwindling fisheries and the threat of growing social and ecological vulnerability from climate change. While the threats are global, their impacts are most severe in the developing world, especially among people living in poverty.

2004 was a highly reflective year for ZERO, as the Organisation questioned itself on how to translate global commitments such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into action on the ground. How do we seriously fight poverty through sustainable development? Promoting economic growth to address poverty in a sustainable manner is difficult, yet crucial. If people are marginalised and national economies are weak, that factor contributes to environmental degradation, alongside misuse of natural resources by industry. If the environment is abused and resources are over consumed, people suffer and economies decline.

All those committed to poverty reduction must ask themselves three questions: how can we build on what already works, design institutions and change institutional character so that they support the marginalised people's own initiatives to lift themselves out of poverty; how can their connectivity with institutions be increased so that they are heard and represented in programmes and policy making at local, national and global levels; and, how can the knowledge, resources and power at local, national and global levels be used to support poor people's own efforts?

Decades of development assistance have not achieved very much of a sustainable nature. Initiatives that are meant to benefit communities do not reach their target. There is an urgent need for communities to represent and define a role for themselves. The poverty and backwardness of Africa stand in stark contrast to the prosperity of the developed world and the continued marginalisation of Africa from the globalisation process and the social exclusion of the vast majority of its peoples constitute a serious threat to global stability.

Questions of sustainability and ownership that must be addressed with the people of the country are: how do we integrate communities as generators of products and make them key players at a speed that is in sync with global development; and, how do we leap frog the slow processes of community development?

An honest response to this whole reflection and interrogation is that we have much work to do if sustainable development is to become a reality for developing countries, particularly the poor.

ZERO faces major challenges in the years ahead, particularly regarding the realisation of its drive to position itself at the epicentre of decision making, allowing ZERO to more effectively catalyse change. Firstly, to improve its relevance and design appropriate strategies to achieve and maintain this, then, the challenge of improving the capacity of personnel to operate in a contested environment while maintaining sustainable levels of funding.

Improving the understanding of gender and development is ZERO's priority. During the year under review, tireless efforts were made to integrate gendered perspectives into all the programmes.

The informal sector has increasingly dominated the region's economy as millions of people seek refuge in this sector. In this context, ZERO hosted the Community Organisations Regional Network (CORN) regional workshop to discuss issues around cross border trade and design strategies to support this sector aimed at building bridges and dialogues between the affected parties and stakeholders.

2004 may be remembered as the year climate change descended from the sky; the year we irrefutably documented how carbon in the atmosphere is disrupting ecosystems down on earth, lowering productivity, worsening access to clean water, energy and food and hitting the poorest the hardest. It was also the year that nations began to respond to climate change as a unified community and to prepare

for collaborative effort. The renewed recognition of the centrality of climate change and HIV and AIDS, underpinned by the increased focus of African states and developed countries on this sector, opened opportunities for ZERO to reopen and broaden its innovative energy programme. It is in this context that the Organisation's expertise on areas such as energy efficiency and renewable energy will help ZERO remain a preferred partner in sustainable development.

The Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) was the major highlight of the year under review. Despite the negative effects on the economy, ZERO successfully showcased itself at this annual event. The ZIBF provided ZERO the opportunity to purchase new publications on HIV and AIDS, Gender, Development, Agriculture and Trade. Collection of sustainable development literature for the library continued unabated.

In 2004, ZERO continued to strengthen and improve its programmes, advocacy, linkages and alliance and policy dialogue, while at the same time responding to the ever changing internal and external environment. ZERO is in a continuous cycle of re-focusing, re-positioning, re-energising and re-engineering itself to stay relevant and current. ZERO hopes that these efforts will allow the Organisation to position itself well into the future of sustainable development.

Fannie Mutepfa and Nelson Marongwe left ZERO to pursue other professional interests. The organisation was able deal with this by recruiting two new senior level professionals.

On behalf of the Regional Board of ZERO, I would like to thank ZERO management and staff for their sterling efforts in steering and repositioning the organisation to ensure its relevance for years to come.

Professor Sam Moyo
Chairperson.

The Economic Stimulus

Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Management Project

The ZERO team worked tirelessly to finalise the IFAD funded Msasa Resettlement Scheme project entitled, Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Management (EAPEM). The final report has been submitted to the IFAD.

The project was implemented in Msasa Resettlement Scheme, Seke District, in Mashonaland East Province. The overall goal of the project was to promote sustainable use of land and natural resources management in resettlement schemes.

The specific objectives of the project were to:

- Study the overall performance of selected resettlement schemes in terms of agricultural production, other livelihood support activities and environmental management;
- Assess and determine community capacity enhancement needs with respect to environmental management, agricultural production and other livelihood options;
- Assist communities in the establishment of sustainable local level institutions for improved natural resource management in the resettlement schemes.



A woman at work in Msasa Resettlement area

The Project Successes

Critical to the success of the project was the establishment of sustainable local level institutions for improved natural resource management in the resettlement schemes, in the form of Development Trusts five of the villages, the sixth village having already had a Development Trust since 2001.

Smallholder farmers had an opportunity to access financial resources to assist them in the purchase of fertilisers, agro-chemicals and farming equipment.

Because agricultural inputs were scarce, ZERO volunteered to purchase these on behalf of the Trusts for the current year. This was successfully accomplished before the main planting season.

The provision of fertiliser was important because it was used in the maize fields, where mostly women participated because their efforts were concentrated on producing food for their families, and therefore promoted household food security.

In brief the major out puts from this project were:

- Enhanced capacity of farmers to manage their community revolving fund;
- A training manual translated into the vernacular on how to manage the finances of the trust and for personal financial management;
- Enhanced institutional capacity of communities to undertake development of projects and promote environmental management through setting up of legal entities called 'trusts'; and
- Provision of fertilisers to assist farmers in enhancing their productivity.

The end of this project saw the publication of a Policy Brief aimed at influencing policy on agricultural productivity and natural resources management within and outside Zimbabwe. This publication was distributed and overwhelmingly well received nationally, regionally and internationally. There has been a lot of positive feedback from Parliamentarians, environmental experts and local level policy makers.

The Gender Perspective

Improving the understanding of gender issues is one of ZERO's priorities. ZERO managed to engender the EAPEM policy brief focusing on agricultural dynamics. A deliberate effort was made in the project to ensure that women were in key decision making positions. Together with men and the youth, women were also included in the business entrepreneurial skills training workshop.

Power from Wind: Promoting Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

Origins

The Organisation worked extensively in the development of the Power from Wind: Promoting Sustainable Rural Livelihoods proposal under the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme. Preliminary assessment and site visits to the Dumbamwe project site were conducted. In June, ZERO conducted meetings with various stakeholders of the project i.e. community members, Rural District Authorities and the Africa 2000+ Network. The project seeks to contribute towards climate change mitigation and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for the Dumbamwe community, through the provision of renewable energy. The end of 2004 saw the project being approved for funding worth US\$ 50 000 and awaiting the disbursement of funds to begin work in January 2005.

ZERO is a member of the National Selection Committee of Africa 2000 and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP). As a result of its participation in this committee, ZERO seized the opportunity to resuscitate the Wind Project in Dumbamwe Ward 20. With a plan to include the Dumbamwe Secondary School and Clinic, ZERO submitted a proposal for funding which was approved during the same year, towards the end of 2004. Project implementation is on course.



Climate Change Issues

The renewed recognition of the centrality of rural development and energy is underpinned by the pledge of increased support to African states by developed countries. This presents a wider opportunity for ZERO to continue identifying partners who can support innovative energy initiatives. ZERO tailored its approaches to match the differing needs of its strategic partners.

As the environmental implications of climate change become wider, ZERO's expertise in areas such as energy efficiency and renewable energy will help the Organisation to remain a preferred partner in sustainable development.

The RING

The Regional and International Networking Group (RING) is a global alliance of research and policy organisations that seeks to enhance and promote sustainable development through a programme of collaborative research, dissemination and policy advocacy

RING's objective is to ensure that international sustainable development policy making processes and institutions are informed and influenced by local realities. Hence it is supportive and enabling of local action. The RING works to ensure the full participation and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of all major stakeholders in the environment and development policy making process, including the private sector, the state and civil society.

The objectives of our climate change work are to:

- Improve the understanding of climate change impacts among both policy makers and poor groups in developing countries;
- Improve the decision making capacities in vulnerable developing countries to cope with the impacts of climate change;
- Improve the negotiating capacities of poor developing countries in the climate change negotiations through analysis of issues relevant to them;
- Improve the sustainable livelihood opportunities of poor communities in developing countries in light of possible climate change impacts.

ZERO as a member of RING got support from the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) to pursue the climate change and development agenda in Southern Africa.

Strengthening Civil Society in Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change

The year under review saw ZERO getting support to participate in a RING project entitled Capacity Strengthening of Civil Society in Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC).

This is a multi-country project being implemented by RING and managed by IIED. A number of international development partners are assisting with financial support. This project is ongoing.

The main objectives of the CLACC project are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of civil society in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to adapt to climate change and foster adaptive capacity among the most vulnerable groups;
- Establish an information and knowledge system to help countries deal with the adverse impacts of climate change;
- Integrate adaptation to climate change into the work of key non governmental institutions and mainstream the National Action Plan (NAPA) process with these institutions.

ZERO was one of the organisations chosen to benefit from this initiative, in the capacity of a regional partner for Southern Africa. Other regional partners are shown in the table below.

CLACC Regional Partners and Countries

Region	Partner	LDCs Represented
South Asia	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Bangladesh	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal
West Africa	Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), Senegal	Senegal, Gambia, Mali
East Africa	African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Kenya	Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan
Southern Africa	ZERO Regional Environment Organisation, Zimbabwe`	Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia

In early 2004 a ZERO staff member spent two months as a CLACC fellow in the North with regional CLACC organisations. The

representative, Johannes Chigwada, was hosted by the PIK, Potsdam Climate Change Institute in Germany. He had the opportunity to meet with other CLACC fellows for a week in June 2004 at the Subsidiary Board 20th Meeting (SB20) in Bonn, Germany. The SB20 is part of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) conducting preparation meetings for a Conference of Parties (COP). Mr Chigwada benefited by learning climate change issues and the United Nations Framework on Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s areas of operation, focus and procedures.

CLACC SADC Fellowship

As part of CLACC project assignment, ZERO identified the following NGOs in the three respective countries whom they will work with:

- Malawi – Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of Environmental Stewardship (CURES).
- Mozambique – The Action Group for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development (GED).
- Zambia – Energy and Environment Concern for Zambia (EECZ).

While in Germany, the ZERO representative reviewed the adverse impacts of climate change and the existing development challenges of twelve countries, and produced case studies of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. The case studies investigated whether the countries were mainstreaming climate adaptation into their development plans. The review included:

- The present level of activities and the policy domain addressing climate change including variability of climate and extreme weather events;
- Identification of gaps and the necessary measures in integrating adaptation policy into all development activities for addressing climate related stimuli and stress to reduce vulnerability.

The three countries' reports and policies on the Initial National Communications to UNFCCC, Implementation of Convention on Desertification, Implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers as well as the Millennium Development Goals were reviewed as a basis for the assessments.

The following are the brief findings and conclusions from each country's assessment. Full reports are available on the ZERO website, www.zeroregional.com

Malawi

Malawi's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) is a very positive document which has been prepared using the participatory approach and is, therefore, owned by the people. Human and financial resources are required for its full implementation. The public-private sector partnership should be enhanced for the flow of resources into the priority areas. As Malawi has already started the process to enhance agricultural production, changes to the Constitution should be speeded up to increase land allocation to the rural people through land reform. The National Safety Net Programme must be enhanced by the incorporation of measures to protect vulnerable people.

Mozambique

The Mozambique PRSP was produced through a participatory process resulting in the clear ownership of the process by a number of stakeholders. The Mozambican government, with support from interested parties, should work hard to acquire the ability to implement planned adaptation measures through an increased ratio of indicators and determinants in order to acquire adaptive capacity. This calls for the mainstreaming of adaptation in all developmental programmes.

Zambia

The Zambian government is on the right path to development as it has mobilised all stakeholders to participate in the economic development of the country through the implementation of the PRSP, which is agriculture based, to stimulate a ripple effect. All that remains is to make sure that agriculture is weather proof, i.e. not affected by drought. Water storage and irrigation infrastructure should be promoted to yield the desired results.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding between the local NGOs, regional and international research organisation IIED, was developed and agreed to by all parties. Dates for the fellowship programme, which will take place in the first quarter of 2005, followed by a regional workshop on climate change, were agreed on.

Linking Climate to Adaptation

ZERO also participated in another RING project – Linking Climate to Adaptation (LCA) – being funded by the UK Department of International Development (DFID) and coordinated by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) based at Sussex University, Brighton, England. The launch of the project took place in October 2004 at IDS.

The project aims to facilitate interaction among adaptation experts and affected communities through a collaborative research network and by carrying out a series of case studies. It is being undertaken in six countries, namely Bangladesh, China, India, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The project is looking at community initiated adaptation to climate change.

The first project workshop to launching the project was held from 4 to 6 October 2004 in Brighton, England. Participants agreed on the common framework and outline to be used when reporting the case studies.

In 2004, ZERO identified Tongwe Ward in Beitbridge district as its case study for documenting community adaptation.

RING Learning Exercise

ZERO was also involved in the RING Learning Exercise for the purpose of self-evaluation of the Network. Two forms of questionnaires were sent to ZERO and filled in by staff members involved in or with knowledge of RING activities. A total of three questionnaires were produced and these were e-mailed to Tufts University the research partner for RING in November. All partners, including ZERO, benefited financially from participation in this exercise.

Southern African Climate Action Network

A regional meeting of NGOs working on environment issues took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, and created the Southern African Climate Action Network (SARCAN). Due to its experience and profound interest in climate change issues, in October 2004 the Chair of SARCAN was awarded to ZERO.

Opportunities

It is hoped that there will be a spill over from this position for the Organisation when the Kyoto Protocol comes into force on 16 February 2005.

ZERO has become a national and regional standard setter and leader, as well as a depository of best practice on sustainable development initiatives. This has strengthened the Organisation's ability to help other civil society organisations (CSOs) in dealing with their problems as network members and stakeholders.

The Millennium Development Goals

Overview of the Millennium Development Goals

Since 1990, the United Nations has held a series of world summits and global conferences with a view to laying out a comprehensive, rights based development agenda. This series of conferences culminated in the adoption of the new Millennium Declaration by 189 Heads of State in September 2000.

The declaration committed countries, rich and poor, to do all they can to eradicate poverty, promote human dignity and equality, and achieve peace, democracy and environmental sustainability.

Emanating from the UN Millennium Declaration are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Millennium Development Goals are comprised of quantitative goals, time targets and numerical indicators for poverty reduction and improvements in health, education, gender equality, the environment and other aspects of human welfare. They also include actions to reduce debt, and increase aid, trade and technology transfer to poor countries.

When adopted by communities, the Goals can spur democratic debate about government performance, especially when impartial data is made available, e.g. by being posted on the door of every village hall. They can also become campaign platforms for politicians and civil society groups, including community organisations, professional associations, women's groups and networks of non governmental organisations. The implementation of the Goals, however, requires capable, effective states able to deliver on their development commitments, as well as popular mobilisation to sustain the political will for achieving them.

At country level, working within the MDG structure is a good strategy as it provides a coherent national planning framework for ascertaining poverty eradication and development.

The Millennium Declaration and Development Goals offer even further opportunities for CSOs in Africa. The MDGs provide measures for assessing the effectiveness of policy reforms. They also offer the opportunity to facilitate the national and regional debate and dialogue that is essential for identifying policy alternatives to address specific

poverty, governance and other issues at local, national and regional levels.

The Millennium Campaign, established by UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has taken the words “We, the people” from the UN charter to heart. Determined to galvanise support for, and stimulate public debate on, the Millennium Goals in the North and South, the Campaign advocates holding governments and other key actors accountable to the Millennium Goals at both the global and national levels. In the South, the focus is on the rights of poor people to realise the Goals. Key issues include having appropriate policies in place, institutions responsive to the legitimate aspirations of poor and marginalised people, adequate public accountability and transparency in budgeting processes.

The credibility of the global Campaign hinges on mobilising rich countries to deliver on Goal 8 commitments, including additional and more effective aid, more sustainable debt relief and increased trade and technology for the poor. The Campaign recognises the need for rich countries to adopt specific targets and deadlines, well in advance of 2015, for poor countries to have any chance of realising the Goals. The Campaign is geared towards targeting wealthy countries whose pro-development policies need most immediate reform to realise the Millennium Goals.

Working Towards a Civil Society Millennium Campaign

The Millennium Development Campaign Workshop

In 2004, ZERO was identified by the United Nations, through MWENGO, as an organisation with experience in trend setting. ZERO was mandated to conceptualise, plan, organise, lead and coordinate Zimbabwe’s civil society for a multi-stakeholder CSO workshop on Millennium Development Goals.

The overall objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among civil society and other stakeholders on the MDGs and provide a platform to develop a campaign strategy for engaging in the implementation and monitoring of the initiative.

In this context, the workshop sought to meet the following sub-objectives:

- Update civil society organisations on the importance of the different dimensions of development included in the eight goals, eighteen targets and over 40 different indicators that constitute the MDGs;
- Examine the role of civil society organisations in the implementation and monitoring of MDGs;
- Design a Zimbabwe Civil Society Millennium Development Goals Campaign framework.

ZERO hosted the Millennium Campaign workshop on 7 and 8 July 2004 at the Harare International Conference Centre. The workshop was organised by ZERO and MWENGO and supported by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Campaign Project. It brought together over 80 participants from all corners of the country, representing government institutions, CSOs, UN agencies, private sector, trade unions, and faith and community-based groups.

During this workshop, ZERO was further mandated to continue to lead civil society organisations in the discussion of issues around the Millennium development Goals. The workshop saw the expansion of the Sustainable Development Core Group to a National Task Force for nationalising the process. Sectors like Labour, Education and Media were also incorporated.



Salil Shetty addressing the workshop participants



MDG workshop participants

A video depicting the various elements of the Goals and views from the public and experts was also presented during the workshop. An open dialogue on issues raised by presentations enriched the workshop proceedings and contributed to the development of a framework action plan that would need follow up by the designated lead institutions.

At this workshop, ZERO took the opportunity to present the Sustainability Watch (Suswatch) project as a model that is in existence and could be adopted for the expanded monitoring of the progress of MDGs.

At the end of this historic workshop, the CSOs rubber-stamped ZERO's leading role in bringing them together.

The Sustainability Watch Project

Background

The Sustainability Watch Network is the second phase of an international project initiated by the Danish 92 group (MS, Ibis, Nepenthes, OVE and WWF-Denmark), a consortium partly funding the project. The first phase of the project, the 'Rio+10 Project', which aimed to support a network of NGOs and CSOs based in Asia, Africa and Latin America, in their preparations and participation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, ended on 30 June 2004. After the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) the Network decided to launch a second phase of the project, entitled the Sustainability Watch Network project.

The ultimate goal of the Sustainability Watch Network is to increase public participation and civil society networks' advocacy in order to influence and enhance the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI) at national, regional and international levels. The project draws upon the Millennium Development Goals, 1, 7 and 8 as the main approach to promoting sustainable development in favour of the poor. The monitoring will focus on Goal 7 (Environmental Sustainability) as it relates to Goal 1 (Poverty Eradication) and Goal 8 (Global Partnerships and Development). The Network seeks to engage in qualitative monitoring and watchdog activities as well as participating in constructive dialogues at the national and international levels. The main output of the network activities will be National and International Sustainability Watch Reports which will focus on the implementation barriers to the JPI from an MDG perspective.

Some of the key planned outputs and products are:

- A consolidated national **civil society network**;
- An **assessment of implementation barriers** regarding sustainability concerns in key policy instruments in the national context;
- A brief assessment report on sustainability aspects focusing on MDGs 1, 7 and 8 as well as on analysing implementation barriers to be presented in the UNDP country **MDG Report**;
- Production of the first annual **national Sustainability Watch Reports**, assessing governments' performance in approaching selected targets of the 3 MDGs and JPI;
- An agreed **plan for advocacy, lobbying and public information** aimed at increasing public awareness of the goals/targets, as well as influencing parliaments, various line ministries and other relevant stakeholders;
- **Strengthening of Southern civil society's capacity** for networking and influencing regional and international forums and institutions regarding sustainable development.

Achievements

The year 2004 saw the taskforce being expanded to include other organisations not necessarily working on environmental issues. A draft project implementation plan was circulated to the Network members for their input before finalisation and submission for funding.

Challenges

During the year under review, it was difficult getting all the Network members to attend meetings. The major challenge was energise the rather passive lead organisations tasked with handling some of the Goal theme groups.

Cross Border Trade

Adding Value to the Cross Border Sector

In the year under review the Regional Secretariat for Community Organisations Regional Network (CORN), in partnership with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Zimbabwe Cross Border Traders Association, hosted a regional workshop for SADC informal traders, under the theme Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Development through Trade in Harare for the purpose of discussing issues around regional integration, informal trade and sustainable livelihoods. The goal of the workshop was to raise awareness on regional issues which impact negatively on the ability of informal traders to maintain a sustainable livelihood from trade and explore interventions to circumvent problems faced. The ultimate aim was to provide an enabling trade environment for this sector.

With assistance of the communication team, an eighteen-minute documentary was produced prior to the workshop and shown to the participants to spark debate. The video highlighted the problems men and women involved in cross border trade face as they strive to make a living. These problems were related to policy, capacity and access to finance. It was also meant to spark a debate around informal trade issues.

Media Relations

CORN managed to bring in media personnel from reputable media houses in Zambia and Zimbabwe, the *Star* and the *Herald* respectively. They attended the workshop to capture the outcomes and have been trying to cover the stories on trade issues as well as general sustainable development issues. Several articles have been featured in these newspapers.

Post Workshop Initiatives

Production of Workshop Report

A workshop report was produced and disseminated worldwide. The report caught the interest of several organisations, such as the NPA, South Africa as well as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) South Africa. The latter showed interest in pursuing the subject further and exploring ways of working with CORN.

Multi-Stakeholder National Committee Meeting

It was recommended in the February regional workshop, in Zimbabwe, that all countries hold a similar meeting and nominate a committee that would drive the cross border trade agenda. A Multi-Stakeholder National Committee was formed and subsequently a successful meeting was held. One of the outcomes of this first meeting of the Zimbabwe Committee, held on 12 March 2004, was a recognition of the need to repackage the report and other materials into a simplified publication which could be used for lobbying within the different countries. Several planning meetings have been held around the production of a simplified document that could be consumed by policy makers, researchers and the grassroots.

Production of Fact Sheets

To this effect, CORN initiated four Fact Sheets aimed at highlighting the challenges facing cross border traders, as well as exploring possible solutions. (For more information see the section on publications).

Both the regional workshop and the information pack provided important steps in the journey to recognition of the role of cross border traders and the informal sector in SADC economies.

Opportunities

The Pack could be adapted into several different types of campaign materials for advocacy purposes on different poverty reduction platforms. There is potential for further funding to tackle the problems of cross border traders at a higher level and the Fact Sheets could be used as a tool for lobbying SADC governments to facilitate free movement of both goods and people within the region.

Constraints

Delays in decision making and lack of timely communication by AFSC staff led to some delays in publication of the Fact Sheets.

Charting the Way Forward for Community Based Organisations

CORN and ZIMCBONET

With the assistance of ZERO, the Zimbabwean Chapter of CORN Zimbabwe Community Based Organisations Network (ZIMCBONET) received funding from Norwegian Peoples Aid, to host a national consultative workshop with stakeholders in ZIMCBONET. The workshop was held on 24 and 25 September 2004 at the Zimbabwe Women's Bureau. The workshop provided a platform for members of the National Committee of ZIMCBONET to engage in dialogue and debate around vital issues regarding the future of the organisation and other issues affecting sustainable growth. With the assistance of ZERO, a six month Action Plan and the Constitution were drafted and finalised. This included, the possibility of setting up an office and operationalising the activities set out at the workshop.

The workshop ended with a day long field visit to a farm owned by Dr. Ngwenya, a well known herbal therapist. The participants had an opportunity to learn about self sufficiency, through agricultural productivity, food value addition and food processing techniques.



The network members got the opportunity to learn about some food processing techniques

Communication and Information

The end of 2004 brought about a moment of reflection on the activities of the communication and information team, its successes, challenges and opportunities.

Annual Reports

The 2003 Annual Report was consolidated and completed and is accessible through the ZERO website. However, late submission of the component reports and rushed submissions led to poor quality reporting and lack of understanding of the reporting format

ZERO Web Site

The ZERO web site continued to be updated, with material on MDGs, and trade reports being uploaded. A new project to re-vamp the ZERO web site was embarked upon from the beginning of 2004. The new-look site is user friendly, enabling users to navigate smoothly and having lots of colour and interactive pages. It is characterised by animation to attract users to explore it further. A sub-site for CORN was also created for easy accessibility by CORN members. The new site was nearing completion by the end of 2004.

Opportunities

The new-look site will increase ZERO's visibility. It is a strong marketing tool and offers opportunities to disseminate information widely and quickly.

Resource Centre

Seventeen years after its establishment, the Resource Centre still has a significant role to play as the organisation's information hub.

Collection development for the library continued as usual. New publications on HIV and AIDS, Gender, Development, Agriculture and Trade were added to the existing collection. A total of 40 books and 33 newsletters and periodicals were received in the library. The library acknowledges support from organisations such as the Royal Tropical Institute, CIVICUS, UNFCCC, IIED, DFID and many others who continue to value information exchange and dissemination.

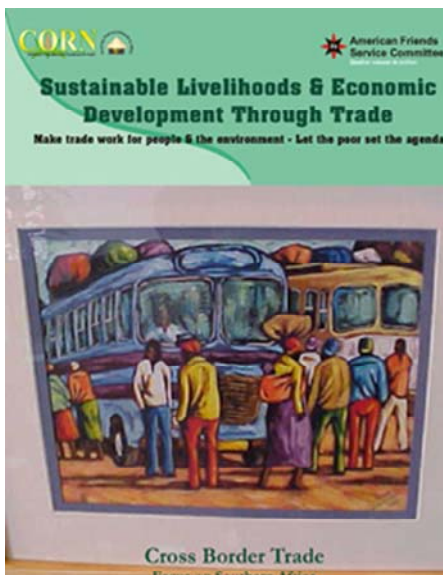
The resource centre recognizes that the true measure of value of the resources and services it has to offer is the value that various stakeholders assign to those resources and services.

The year 2004 had its own challenges. The Internet and World Wide Web throughout the globe have resulted in an influx in the production of paper records, which prompts a need for greater storage space. The ZERO library has not been spared from this challenge and the archive had to be used to house excess copies of publications received in the resource centre.

Information Dissemination

Publications

A Policy Brief entitled *Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Performance through Agrarian Reform* was published in 2004. It aimed to influence policy on agricultural productivity and natural resources management, within and outside Zimbabwe. A total of 263 copies of the policy brief were distributed and overwhelmingly well received nationally, regionally and internationally. There was very positive feedback from Parliamentarians, environmental experts and local level policy makers.



The CORN/AFSC project saw the publication of yet another exciting publication (Information Pack). This publication is composed of a series of fact sheets targeting local and regional partners in trade and development. It focuses on the challenges faced in cross border trade (CBT) as well as exploring possible solutions to these challenges. Some testimonies from cross border traders operating in SADC countries are included. Issues covered included gender as well as the economic role of CBT in the SADC economies.

Sixty posters entitled *Fighting Poverty Through Sustainable Development and 23 on Power from the Wind* were distributed to students and various other stakeholders.

Meetings, Fairs and Exhibitions

Local, Regional and International Relations

Meetings and fairs are important in enhancing ZERO's visibility and image. They assist ZERO to re-focus, re-engineer, re-position and re-energise. ZERO believes that besides sharing experiences, workshops assist staff to emerge with better skills in some aspect of their jobs.

Important Meetings Attended by ZERO

In 2004, ZERO was invited to attend a number of meetings in which ZERO's interventions were well received and most of the Organisation's recommendations were taken on board for use in influencing policy. These were local, regional and international meetings and included high powered meetings like the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn, Germany, EU Global Sustainable Development meetings, Parliamentary, COP 10, MDG Progress meetings and National Civil Society Forum for Sustainable Development meetings. These events were linked to various ZERO projects and, therefore, added value to ZERO's day to day work. They are outlined in the tables below.

International Meetings and Workshops

EVENT	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS/PURPOSE
AFSC	USA 23 June	D Manuel	First Annual Bill Sutherland Training
Global Compact Leaders Summit	USA 24 June	D Manuel	Plenary sessions and roundtable discussions to harness the potential of markets and business leadership through shared values and collective action so that global markets can be made to work for all.
IDS Climate Change Workshop	Sussex, England 4-6 October	J Chigwada	Climate Change Workshop ZERO presented the Tongwe Case Study at this meeting
GEF	USA, 14 November - 2 December	D Manuel	D Manuel presented Climate and Adaptation in NGO/GEF Secretariat Consultations
IIED	Bangkok, Thailand 14,15 November	J Chigwada	RING Annual Meeting
IUCN - World Conservation Congress	Bangkok, Thailand 17-25 November	R Makunike	World Conservation Congress
COP	Buenos Aires, Argentina 1 -17 December	J Chigwada	

Regional Workshops and Meetings

EVENT	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS/PURPOSE
UNEP GEO-4	Nairobi, Kenya 13,14 September	T Furusa	Sustainable Development Africa 2004
CSIR	Stellenbosch, SA 13-18 September		
MWENGO	Maputo, Mozambique 15-19 September		Millennium Development Goals
MWENGO - MDGs	South Africa 20,21 September		Millennium Development Goals
SADC	Gaborone, Botswana 11-13 October	J Chigwada	Workshop on Agriculture, Inputs for farmers implementing the Dar es Salaam Plan of Action
UNEP	Windhoek, Namibia 1-3 November	R Makunike	Regional training workshop for Anglophone African countries on GEF's Sustainable Land Management Approach
RTFP	Gaborone, Botswana 2 November	D Manuel	
UNDP	Johannesburg, SA 3-6 November	D Manuel R Makunike	SADC Workshop - MDG Sub Regional

Local Workshops and Meetings

EVENTS	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS/PURPOSE
CIFOR	Wild Geese Lodge, Harare 2 June	R Makunike	½ day Visioning Workshop to generate insights for discussions at CIFOR's 10 year anniversary in September 2004
Institute of Water & Sanitation Development	Alexandra Park 4 June		Seminar on water allocation and conflict management in the Mupfure River Basin
University of Zimbabwe	Dept of Geography, 17 June		Seminar presented by Prof I Logan on Zimbabwe's Second Liberation Struggle - The Political Ecology of Words, Discourse and Food Aid Practice
Zimbabwe Social Forum	Anglican Church, Harare 19 June		½ day ZSF Council Meeting
AFSC AYINET	Troutbeck Inn, Nyanga 28-30 June	S Zvigadza	ZERO invited as a decision maker to consolidate a framed vision for youth leadership and participating in cutting edge peace and economic justice work in Africa and on African issues abroad
UNIFEM Gender Forum Meeting	Holiday Inn, Harare 13 July	S Zvigadza	Gender Forum meeting on developing women's leadership for conflict transformation and gender justice in Zimbabwe, gender mainstreaming in MDGs and taskforce report on women, girls, and HIV & AIDS

Local Workshops and Meetings continued

EVENTS	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS/PURPOSE
Ministry of Environment & Tourism UNCCD Task Team	DNR Boardroom, Harare 13 July	J Chigwada	ZERO elected by the UNCCD National Secretariat as a committee members on the task force participated to work on the terms of reference of the task force and 2004 UNCCD work plan formulation
AIAS	Sheraton Hotel 15-16 July	D Manuel J Chigwada	National Stakeholders Dialogue on Land and Agrarian Reform
Freidrich Naumann Foundation	Meikles Hotel 22 July		Attended this meeting on Creating Wealth Through Property Rights
Institute of Water & Sanitation Development WARFSA	Alexandra Park 23 July		Seminar based on results of projects carried out under the Water Research Fund for Southern Africa (WARFSA) one of the topics being discussed - Rainwater harvesting for sustainable agriculture in communal lands
SEATINI CSO Workshop on Globalisation & Trade Issues	Troutbeck Inn, Nyanga 27-30 July	T Furusa	Workshop to update on the post Cancun movements especially negotiations at the WTO and the Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU, and to prepare for the 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference, Hong Kong
Zimbabwe Agroforestry Stakeholders	Harare Club, Harare 29 July	J Chigwada P Chikuni	To receive from National Agroforestry Steering Committee key elements of the National Agroforestry Strategy, review composition and functions of NASCO, elect new committee members etc
ELF	Mukuvisi Woodland, Harare 29 July	R Makunike	Plenary Meeting
IUCN	Bronte Hotel, Harare 3 August	J Chigwada	To share and discuss NEPAD Environment Initiative and Wetland Strategy and Action Plan, and Zimbabwe civil society's possible areas of collaboration with the NEPAD Environment Initiative, in particular the Wetland Strategy and Action plan
CZI	Harare 3 August	H Makahamadze	47 th Annual General Meeting
AFRODAD Poverty Reduction Growth Facility	3-4 August	T Furusa	To discuss outcomes of the study on the IFIs' new low interest lending facility to developing countries, its implications on financing debt and poverty reduction and way forward for African policy makers dealing with IFI issues of conditionality and poverty reduction
SAPES	Harare 4 August	P Chikuni	Attended the launching of a number of new publications at ZIBF
IUCN	Seasons Restaurant, Harare 5 August	D Manuel	Reception for Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN
NSC & AFRICA 2000, GEF/SGP	NSC Offices 17 August	J Chigwada	Country Programme Strategy Board Meeting - Africa 2000
Women & Land in Zimbabwe	Bronte Hotel 17 August	S Zvigadza	½ day Seminar

Local Workshops and Meetings continued

EVENTS	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS/PURPOSE
BSAP	Zimtrust Boardroom 24 August	J Chigwada	Pre-workshop meeting
IUCN	24 August	D Manuel	National Committee Meeting
Manyame RDC	26 August	J Chigwada	J Chigwada invited to attend Full Council Meeting
Ministry of Environment & Tourism	Boardroom 26 August	J Chigwada R Makunike	10th Meeting of the National Committee for Sustainable Development
IUCN	27 August	D Manuel	National Committee Meeting
Zimbabwe Social Forum	Anglican Church 28 August	D Manuel	Council Meeting
Women & Land in Zimbabwe	Belgravia 7-9 September	J Chigwada	Attended this 3 day training workshop with the main objectives being to develop skills for gender analysis, mainstreaming in WLZ and its network members and to help integrate gender into WLZ and its strategic partners, policies and organisational practice
New Zealand Ambassador, Warren Searell	Vistrama, Avondale 8 September	D Manuel & J Chigwada	D Manuel and J Chigwada attended this function hosted by the New Zealand Ambassador, Warren Searell
Parliament of Zimbabwe	Parliament 9 September	J Chigwada S Zvigadza	Portfolio Committee on Mines, Energy, Environment and Tourism - Half Year Budget Performance - Ministry of Energy & Power Development
Zimbabwe Social Forum (ZIMCODD)	Anglican Church 11 September	J Chigwada	Council Meeting
Manyame RDC	Manyame RDC 16 September	J Chigwada	Agriculture & Natural Resources Meeting
Meikles Hotel	Meikles Hotel 23 September	S Zvigadza	Mini exhibition initiated by hotel management to share new developments at the hotel
CIFOR	St Lucia Park 23 September	D Manuel J Chigwada	Workshop on People and forests in Africa - In search of a forest research agenda for the next ten years.
Secretary for Environment and Tourism	Fairmile Hotel, Gweru 26-28 September	J Chigwada	To validate the 2004 NAP progress report on the implementation of the UNCCD in Zimbabwe.
Women & Land in Zimbabwe	Bronte Hotel 28 September	J Chigwada	To present the draft position paper to network members, make further inputs into the position paper and come up with a team which will present the position papers to the Lands Portfolio Committee
Centre for Total Transformation	Dzimwe TC, Chiweshe 29 September		3rd Annual Seed Festival
Parliament of Zimbabwe	Parliament 7 October		Portfolio Committee on Mines, Energy, Environment and Tourism - Environmental Policy

Local Workshops and Meetings continued

EVENTS	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS/PURPOSE
NANGO	Quality International Hotel, 7 October	S Zvigadza	Gender Mainstreaming Research Report
NANGO	Exhibition Park 7-9 October	S Zvigadza	National NGO Symposium and Exposition
SAFIRE	Milton Park 8 October	D Manuel	SAFIRE's 10 Years Celebration
Parliament of Zimbabwe	Mutare Holiday Inn, 15-18 October	J Chigwada	Pre Budget Seminar: 2005 Budget ZERO presented on Pro-Poor Budget
Zimbabwe Social Forum	Anglican Church 16 October		
UNDP	Takura House 18 October	S Zvigadza	Gender Audit Workshop for UNDP Implementing Partners
ZIMTRUST	Wild Geese Lodge 21 October	D Manuel	Environmental Sector Strategic Planning Workshop
YWCA Sub Regional Meeting	YWCA Westwood 24-30 October	S Zvigadza	Women and HIV & AIDS Access to Treatment
YWCA	YWCA Westwood 22 October	S Zvigadza	Official opening of the YWCA sub-regional meeting
Manyame RDC	Manyame RDC 28 October		Ordinary Full Council (Budget) Meeting
Zimbabwe Trust Environment Sector	Zimtrust Boardroom 28 October	T Furusa	Strategic Plan Workshop
SAFAIDS	Avondale 29 October	S Zvigadza	Launch of the Improved SAFAIDS Regional Information Resource Centre
Manyame RDC	Manyame RDC 4 November		Agriculture & Natural Resources Meeting
Women & Land	Pamuzinda 4-5 November		Strategic Review meeting to report and reflect on the 2004 activities, identify opportunities, develop 2005 annual work plan and strategic plan, map strategies and update network members on WLZ status
UNDP - GEFSP	Wise Owl, Mutare 15-19 November	T Furusa	Stakeholder Workshop - Thematic Areas
Ministry of Environment & Tourism	ZIPAM, Darwendale 17-19 November	S Zvigadza	SADC Regional Wetlands Conservation Project Phase II: National Training
Women & Land	24 November	T Furusa	Presenting Paper - MS Sector Meeting
ZCBTA	ZIMPAM, Norton 29 November	P Chikuni	Launch
IUCN	Imba Matombo 8 December - 2.		1/2 day session, Futures Dialogue on Water Resource Management in South Africa

Meetings Hosted by ZERO

ZERO Regional Environment Organisation hosted several meetings in Harare in 2004. These ranged from Climate Change to Sustainable Development issues. The Climate Change meeting held at the IUCN discussed weather forecasts and how these can be understood and utilised to promote enhanced agricultural production by farmers in Zimbabwe.

Local Meetings

SAFIRE Ten Year Celebrations

On 8 October ZERO was invited to attend the celebration of SAFIRE's ten years of existence. The Celebrations took place at the SAFIRE Offices in Harare. The occasion was meant to share the experiences of the past ten years as well as looking to the future.

The major highlight was the launch of SAFIRE's five year Strategic Plan and the discussion of key issues around sustainable natural resources management.

The other highlight was SAFIRE's presentation of certificates of appreciation to its strategic partners for the last ten years. ZERO was not among the recipients of the awards. However ZERO's partnership with the occasion was characterised by a technical workshop and an exhibition of SAFIRE's work with rural communities and partners.

Lessons Learnt

ZERO needs to continue creating and enhancing partnerships locally to create some good opportunities with other locally based strategic partners.

Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming Workshop

ZERO attended this Women and Land in Zimbabwe (WLZ) organised, three day training workshop from 7 to 9 September. The main objectives were to develop skills for gender analysis and mainstreaming in WLZ and its network members and to help integrate gender into WLZ and its strategic partners' policies and organisational practice.

Opportunities for ZERO

Skills for ZERO staff were enhanced and ZERO staff members felt more confident in gender analysis and mainstreaming.

Regional Meetings

Southern Perspectives on the EU's Sustainable Development Policies

The aim of this workshop, held in Maputo, Mozambique on 7 and 8 June, was to assess the EU's contribution to global sustainable development. The workshop was organised by RING and InWent. It brought together 60 participants, mostly representatives of civil society, government and the EU, who are actively engaged in the sustainable development field.

The specific intentions of the workshop were to:

- Acquire a better sense of the sustainable development priorities in the region;
- Assess how the impact of the EU is perceived;
- Identify focused messages for the EU and future objectives for the project

Opportunities for ZERO

This workshop gave ZERO an opportunity to meet and hold one-to-one discussions with potential donors, like the European Union. Other RING partners were also met, and discussions took place on how best RING could enhance its support to long time active partners like ZERO.

Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on the Fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4) Process and Report

This meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 13 and 14 September. The purpose of the meeting was to seek guidance from key stakeholder groups on how to strengthen the policy relevance of GEO-4. The consultations were held within the framework of the UNEP Governing Council decision to strengthen synergy between policy and science.

The meeting focused on UNEP Assessment Activities and Africa Environment Outlook, Science Initiative and the GEO Assessment Framework. Government policy makers, scientists/universities, private sector, civil society and youth made up the workshop participants.

The workshop offered the opportunity to evaluate the use of assessment reports, particularly GEO reports, in bridging the gap between science and policy,

The following were the critical outputs from the workshop:

- The adoption of a more scientific approach by GEO-4 that is relevant to policy implementation and not the other way round. On the other hand, private sector called on researchers to base their predictions on verifiable data rather than romanticising findings to lobby for policy change.
- Widening stakeholder participation by including private sector priorities in developing the report, which is relevant considering that they are one of the major polluters of the environment. It also raises awareness on the state of the environment beyond a profit making resource and creates a coordinated approach to funding processes for private sector research and the mainstream research carried out by universities and other research institutions on the environment.

The impact of trade on the report was emphasised. There is a need to adopt market based approaches to environmental valuation, particularly of the activities causing degradation.

Most importantly, the adoption of the Sustainable Development principles as a baseline for developing the GEO-4 was emphasised at the meeting. The report quoted the Brundtland Report on the need for development that meets the needs of the present without comprising those of future generations. What this implies is that the report will be more human focused than the previous reports and will recognise that it is not practical to treat environmental issues in isolation.

International Meetings

Global Compact Leaders Summit

These roundtable discussions were held in the United States of America on 24 June. They sought to harness potential of markets and business leadership through establishment of shared values and collective action so that global markets can be made to work for all.

The objectives were to:

- Make the Global Compact principles part of business strategy and operations everywhere;
- Promote an inclusive and sustainable globalisation that works for the world's poor and for future generations;
- Support multilateral cooperation to enhance the efficiency and equity of national and global governance.

Opportunities for ZERO

This summit was important for ZERO in that, as the Regional Secretariat for CORN, the network would benefit from the ideas accrued from the workshop to feed into their work which also covers issues around the Small Business Development pillar.

The Sixth Global Civil Society Forum

Subtitled Engaging Civil Society in the Governing Council /Global Ministerial Environment Forum, and held on 14 October, this forum recognised that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) owes a lot to the NGOs. Its creation in 1972 during the Stockholm meeting is largely due to the pressure and commitment of civil society. Most of the multilateral environment agreements (Basel Convention, Montreal Protocol, Kyoto Protocol) exist because of the hard work of NGOs.

Therefore, it is essential that the NGOs also engage in the policy design of UNEP and, as a consequence, strengthen UNEP itself. UNEP needs to be strengthened because there is a clearly visible imbalance of power in international governance which disfavors environmental concerns.

ZERO was invited to attend the meeting because it sits on the UNEP-Africa Committee. ZERO seeks to strengthen this position regionally and locally.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions play an important role in strengthening the Organisation's advocacy work. ZERO continuously uses international exhibitions and fairs, like the Zimbabwe International Book Fair, to showcase its progressive work to the outside world.

The Zimbabwe International Book Fair, Africa's premier book industry showcase, was held in Harare from 31 July to 7 August 2004. The theme for 2004 was *Voices, Dialogues Across Nations*. As is the tradition, ZERO displayed publications to market the Organisation's programs and to raise its profile. The EAPEM policy brief was again disseminated at this high profile platform.

The Book Fair also created an opportunity for the library to acquire resources in various fields such as Trade, Gender and Sustainable Development.

Policy Advocacy and Lobbying Activities

The EAPEM policy brief was presented at the various parliamentary Portfolio meetings, as a way of sharing experiences and lessons learnt on the. The presentations were also meant to influence policy formulation in the areas of agricultural productivity, environmental management and new ways of enhancing community ownership.

Officials in the Policy Unit, housed in the President's Office also received ZERO's publications. These were received positively, as it was noted that they would assist the Unit to formulate policies in the various sectors of the Zimbabwean economy.

In pursuance of the objective of promoting the role that cross border traders play in the SADC and COMESA countries, ZERO continued lobbying and networking with SADC governments, Embassies and NGO partners. The Trade workshop report was distributed to Ministries of Finance, Industry and International Trade, Department of Immigration, various SADC embassies and the COMESA office. The Deputy Ambassador of the Malawi Embassy moved swiftly by convening several meetings with fellow SADC trade attachés and Ambassadors to steer the processes of harmonising trade and minimise some of the trade barriers at the borders.

Our partner, American Friends Service Committee, used the Fact Sheets to lobby policy makers in different ways. Copies were taken to COMESA office in Zambia, whilst some were sent to the Quakers headquarters, Philadelphia, USA. This was important for the recognition of the sector in both SADC and COMESA, as well as mobilisation of funds for the sector.

Other documents ZERO continues to send out to policy makers include, the Macroeconomic Reforms, Tourism and Sustainable Development in Zimbabwe, Policy brief, the Perspectives on Land Reform in Southern Africa newsletter as well as another publication entitled, Conservancies as Complementary Land Reform Models in Southern Africa.

Pre-Wiring

ZERO realises the importance of local leadership and its policing role in making sure that there is transparency in the activities played by different development stakeholder in most rural areas. ZERO held self

introductory meetings with the local political leadership in the rural areas it has been operating in “pre-wiring”. This was done to foster acceptance and promote full participation by of the community and d leadership in the area

Fund Raising Initiatives

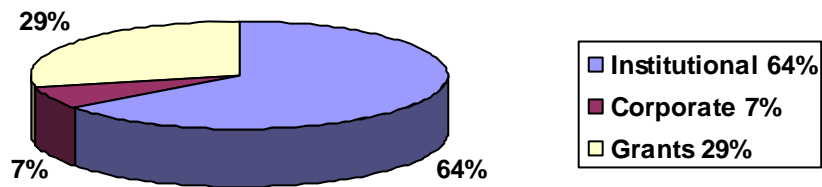
Proposals

In an effort to make sure that the communities get as much support as possible, ZERO embarked on a fund raising campaign. A number of project proposals were developed and forwarded for possible funding. Though the donors have not been forthcoming, the zeal continues.

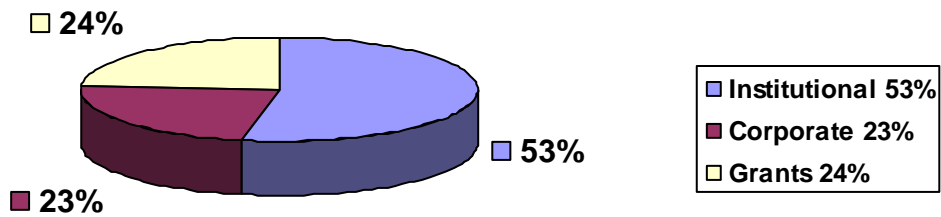
ZERO Regional Environment Organisation

Financial Review 2004

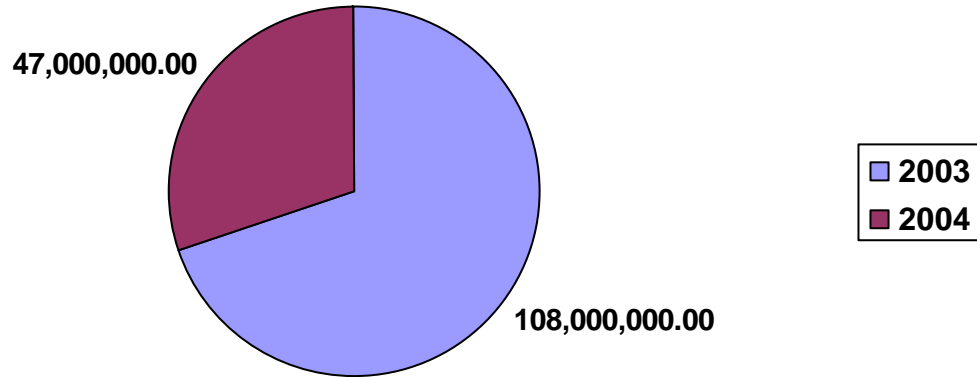
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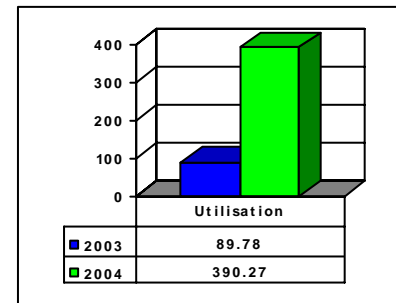
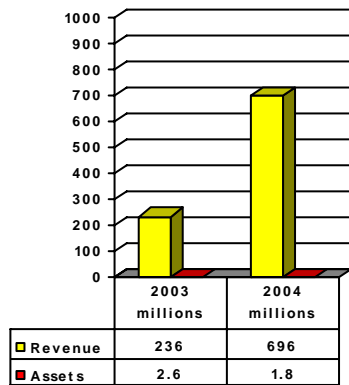


VALUE ADDED (millions)



ASSET UTILISATION - MANAGEMENT OPERATING EFFICIENCY (millions)

	2003 (millions)	2004 (millions)
Revenue	236 000 000.00	696 000 000.00
Assets	2 600 000.00	1 800 000.00
Utilisation	89.78	390.27



These graphic representations are drawn from the 2004 Audited Financial Statements which are available at the ZERO offices.

