



2005 Annual Report

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIAS	African Institute for Agrarian Studies
AREX	Agricultural and Rural Extension Services
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
CAN	Climate Action Network
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CBT	Cross-Border Trade(r)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIVICUS	CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation
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
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CURE	Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (Malawi)
CZI	Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries
DDF	District Development Fund
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
EAPEM	Enhancing Agricultural Production and Environmental Management
EECZ	Energy and Environment Concerns for Zambia
ELF	Environmental Liaison Forum
ENRM	Environmental and Natural Resources Management
ESAMI	Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute
ESMAP	Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme
EU	European Union
GCAP	Global Call to Action Against Poverty
GCSF	Global Civil Society Forum
GED	Action Group for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development (Mozambique)
GEF	Global Environmental Facility (UN)
GEF/SGP	Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme
GESP	Gender Equality Support Programme
GTZ	German Technical Agency
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDS	Institute of Development Studies (UK)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IOM	International Organisation for Migration (of the UN)

ISTOM	Ecole d'Ingenieur d'Agro-development Internationale (France)
IUCN-ROSA	The World Conservation Union-Regional Office for Southern Africa
JPI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LCA	Linking Climate to Adaptation
LDC	Least Developed Country
MDG(s)	Millennium Development Goal(s)
MDP	Municipality Development Programme
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWENGO	Mwelekeo wa NGO
NANGO	National Association of Non Governmental Organisations
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NORAD	Norwegian Agency For International Development
N(O)VIB	n(o)vib Oxfam Netherlands
PHAMSA	Partnership on HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations in Southern Africa
RBZ	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
RING	Regional and International Networking Group
RTFP	Regional Trade Facility Partnership
SACTEN	Southern Africa Clean Energy Network
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARCAN	Southern African Regional Climate Action Network
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAFAIDS	Southern African AIDS Information and Dissemination Service
SAFIRE	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources
UCAZ	Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WSSD	World Summit for Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organisation
ZERO	ZERO Regional Environment Organisation
ZESA	Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority
ZIBF	Zimbabwe International Book Fair
ZIPAM	Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management
ZOIC	Zimbabwe Opportunities Industrialisation Centre

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Director's Vision 2005

The first formal meeting for 2005 was held on 26 January 2005. The Director welcomed staff and wished them the best for 2005, in both their personal and professional capacities.

The BIG PICTURE for the present and future organisational development for 2005 and beyond was defined, with expectations of changes in ZERO's *modus operandi* and ambitious goals for 2005.

The shared vision for ZERO was its positioning as the premier co-ordinating and implementing institution in the Southern African region. It was agreed that to achieve this required:

1. Everybody's sincere and energetic participation.
2. Everybody's consistent productivity.
3. Everybody to be conscious when interacting with anyone and projecting pride in their representation of ZERO as the premier coordinating and implementing institution in Southern Africa.
4. Everybody to act in a positive manner to further the aims and objectives inherent in the vision.

But, above all, the organization would need discipline, dedication, drive and determination to maintain its focus on sustainable development.

The Director defined the ingredients for success in 2005 as: MOMENTUM; CREATIVITY and SYNERGY, which entailed embracing the concept of “thinking inside and outside the box” and moving the organisation into a mode of “can do”.

In this connection, the Director called on staff to be diligent and resourceful in putting together their various experiences and expertise.

She also emphasised the need for ZERO to keep its ears to the ground to pick up and run with any opportunity that might arise.

Staff were also urged to always bear in mind that ZERO has, since inception, been a trend-setter within the SADC region, a catalyst for of new ideas that translate into concrete action on the ground.

Responsibilities/Participation

Each and every one of the ZERO team has the responsibility to work towards the organisation's goals, the Director told staff. Although an open door policy would be maintained, ZERO staff were at the same time expected to take personal and total responsibility for their immediate job demands and aim for optimal performance at all times.

“Everything matters and everything affects our productivity and performance and the quality of our outputs and contribution,” the Director explained, adding:

“Most of all communication with each other, about each other, with our stakeholders and anyone relevant to the achievement of ZERO's vision is essential. Let us plan, as proper planning prevents poor performance. Move to achieve optimal productivity, take ownership of this

organisation and be mindful at all times to add value in every aspect of our work and the effective implementation of our activities.”

The organisational and individual objectives were pitched at six new proposals completed for funding in the next six months. In the longer term, ZERO envisions three substantive programmes which will run for up to three years.

Challenges

The Director reminded staff of the challenges facing the country, from which organisations such as ZERO were not immune. The biggest challenge facing ZERO in 2005 was to get more projects off the ground.

Next was the need to locate and position funding or partners.

But perhaps, most important of all, ZERO will need to work hard to sustain its excellent and unblemished reputation to ensure its relevance as an institution continues well into the 21st century.

Other challenges include building a body of institutional archives, so that reference materials and the records of organisational activities and achievements are easily and always accessible.

In this respect, the co-operative efforts of each and every individual in the organisation were critical to the vision and the goals.

Strategic Planning

The Director consulted extensively with staff in defining the strategic direction of ZERO for the next five years (see Strategic Direction of ZERO 2005-2010).

Funding Strategy

A concept of initiating exploratory meetings with prospective donors was introduced and planning and scripting for these meetings commenced in February 2005. A letter introducing ZERO, a concept explaining ZERO's thrust and a Powerpoint presentation were developed for this purpose.

Fund-raising activities targeted the United Nations agencies. Recently, a presentation was made to UNESCO, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed and is currently awaiting finalisation by the UN body. This MoU should come into force in 2006. A lot of common ground has been identified between UNESCO's activities and ZERO's focus and vision for 2005-2010. The next presentation is scheduled to take place at UNICEF to be followed by the UNDP.

In addition, several proposals were finalised and sent out to various donors (see project status for details). To date, three contracts have been signed. These are SusWatch, financed by the Danish government; Power from the Wind (Tamaruru Community), financed by Small Grants Facility—GEF; and Rural Industries Training Manuals, financed by UNESCO.

ZERO continues to collaborate with the RING in implementing the ongoing Climatic Change and Adaptation project, and has signed various small contracts with IIED and IDS. With the exception of SusWatch and the RING, most funding is disbursed in Z\$ --- although it is sourced in US\$--- which in itself creates additional constraints and challenges.

On the downside, anticipated funding from the United Nations for the MDGs Campaign did not materialise. Neither did two submissions lodged with N(o)vib.

In view of the funding bottlenecks currently being experienced, the Director would like to propose to the Board the acquisition of a farm. The farm would serve the dual purpose of assisting in meeting ZERO's monthly overheads and as a site for the establishment and pilot testing of renewable energy and appropriate technologies.

Staffing

Right-sizing

The practice of "re-sizing" (re-engineering, restructuring, rightsizing, and downsizing) to boost an organization's chances of survival in a hostile economic environment is now a common strategy the world over. The economic cost of keeping too many full-time employees on the payroll in a hyperinflationary environment such as Zimbabwe's is neither sustainable nor advisable.

ZERO has therefore taken a deliberate decision to "right-size" its operations and the benefits are beginning to be felt. Since the beginning of the year, ZERO has been using a small but dynamic team of core staff backstopped by experts and technical advisors. The results have been remarkable, to say the least. At the same time the recruitment of self-motivated and highly talented interns from Zimbabwe, Africa, Asia and Europe has begun to pay dividends.

So far, ZERO has hosted Yann Vannson, from France, who completed his tour of duty in September 2005. Alberto Cabarello Hinojosa from Spain is expected to begin his 12-month internship shortly.

During the first quarter of 2005, three members of staff left ZERO to pursue further studies or in search of greener pastures.

The current staff complement comprises: Executive Regional Director (Ms Dorothy Manuel), Programme Manager (Mr Johannes Chigwada), Finance and Administration Manager (Mr Herbert Makahamadze), Information and Communication Programme Officer (Mr Shepard Zvigadza), Librarian (Mr Godfrey Mharadze) Personal Assistant to Executive Director (Ms Theo Singh), Receptionist/Office Clerk (Mr Morris Chafinya), Driver (Mr Patson Chivero) and Janitor/Groundsperson (Mr Honest Maseya),

This core team is supported and complemented on a project-by-project basis by an eight to 10-member Technical Advisory Committee. On the other hand, consultants are hired according to project needs with variable timelines and specific terms of reference.

Salary Structure vs Affordability

The year 2004 was marked by a downturn in project activities, as some projects were finalised while funding arrangements for others were still under negotiation. This compromised ZERO's ability to award the customary salary increments and annual bonus.

To their credit, staff accepted the situation as a temporary setback and pledged their loyalty to the organisation. Although ZERO is currently lagging behind in salary scales it was for many years among the market leaders in the NGO sector.

Apart from the funding bottlenecks, management has had to contend with the rising cost of medical aid and fuel. For example, in January 2005, ZERO spent approximately Z\$6 million on medical aid; it has now risen to Z\$19 million. Diesel, which was going for Z\$9 600 per litre three months ago, has since gone up to Z\$24 000.

Fellowship and Intern programme

Fellows

ZERO hosted three Fellows --- two men and one woman --- from Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique respectively. The three joined ZERO in April 2005 as associates and participated in all activities and projects from their first full day in the office. In its continued endeavours to uphold the gender principles, ZERO made sure that there was a female fellow in the team.

Each Fellow was assigned a ZERO staff member who was responsible for co-ordinating and supervising their stay including field trips to various rural-based projects encompassing climate change, appropriate technology, renewable energy and drought mitigation.

As much as the Fellows acknowledged learning a great deal about a very active, regional research, planning and implementing agency, the benefits were mutual. For its part, ZERO gained useful insights from interacting with a disciplined and dedicated team of professionals from the SADC region. The fellows also gained immense knowledge on climate issues and the various programmes and projects ZERO and a number of other organisations are working on.

At the time of the visit, ZERO staff were working with a management consultant in analysing, evaluating and enhancing ZERO's mission, purpose, posture, activities and goals. The CLACC Fellows were, therefore, able to assess and experience first hand the methods and results of the process of constructive and critical analysis of a performance-based development "think tank".

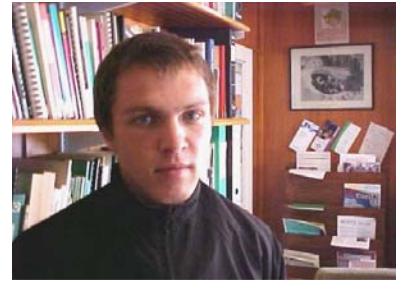
This was an added benefit to the exposure of the Fellows to the inner workings of ZERO. The trio also accompanied ZERO members to consultative meetings with donors and sat in on regular staff meetings and strategic planning sessions where project proposals and future programmes were discussed.

ZERO did everything possible to make the Fellows' stay in Zimbabwe as comfortable and "hassle-free" as possible. This included securing accommodation and availing transport. The only problem encountered was co-ordinating the disbursement of funds for the Fellows' upkeep from the different organisations due to strict foreign currency regulations and bureaucratic bottlenecks. To avoid similar problems in future, ZERO recommends that funding be sent directly to Harare for disbursement to fellows and organisations.

Apart from this, ZERO was proud to be the host agency for this activity. (see section on RING for more details)

Interns

Yann Vannson, a French student in Agricultural Development, worked as an intern at ZERO from 2 July to 16 September, 2005, courtesy of a second-year placement from ISTOM. Given his leaning towards sustainable development in rural areas, Yann's ambition was to examine developmental problems from an economic, technical and social point of view. His previous experience includes exposure to tropical soil ecology, management and development of ancient heritage and economic and technical analysis on a milk farm in Ireland.



Yann Vannson – ISTOM, France

During his stint at ZERO, Yann worked mainly on renewable energy and appropriate technology, carrying out literature reviews and compiling a report on bread baking, beer brewing and brickmaking technologies. He was also actively involved in identifying existing stoves and communicating with various organisations on stove accessibility. During the literature reviews he interacted with multiple organisations engaged in energy-saving stoves and participated in fieldwork and training at the wind site in Dumbamwe, Rusape.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS - Integrated Rural Development Model

Power from Wind, Improving Rural Livelihoods through Renewable Energy Provision

This project was designed to help promote sustainable livelihoods in the Tamaruru community, Dumbamwe, Rusape, which is prone to drought. Its main objective is to bring affordable electricity to rural settlements not catered for by the national grid. Starting with the installation of ZERO-designed and tested wind-driven turbines, electricity will come to a community centre, primary school, clinic and some houses in the immediate vicinity of the school and the clinic. Additionally, clean water will be pumped from a borehole drilled by ZERO to the school and clinic and will be used to provide drip irrigation, initially to two vegetable gardens, presently sited at the school and near the clinic.

Project Background and Rationale

Human settlements need, use and constantly search for energy resources. About 60% of the rural population in Zimbabwe has no access to electricity. A study undertaken in 1999 by ESMAP, ZESA and the then Ministry of Transport and Energy suggested that over 20% of rural households use automotive batteries, primarily for powering televisions and radios. The batteries are carried 30-100 kilometres, once or twice a month, for charging in the nearest town or growth point.

Women play a central role in sustainable energy as users, managers, producers and collectors of energy. The most commonly used sources of energy is wood fuel, which is foraged by women. Degradation of the habitat surrounding rural settlements --- deforestation and increasing desertification --- where wood fuel is the primary source of cooking and heating is well documented. Despite their important role in the provision of energy, rural women do not have access to information about new options and alternatives due to cultural norms and constraints and the absence of any programs that specifically address the issues relating to women in energy provision.

The non-availability of water has limited agricultural production in most communal areas. The development of mini-irrigation schemes is an excellent option to improve agricultural production of smallholder farmers, which is why the Power from Wind project seeks to provide drip-irrigation facilities.

Zimbabwe's rural areas are suffering the negative effects from climate change, including recurrent drought, and the additional widespread, severely debilitating and manifold effects of HIV/AIDS. Growing and consuming fresh fruits, vegetables and medicinal herbs can add considerable additional nutritional value to the rural diets, and enhanced wellness as a result. In response to the twin threats of climate change and HIV/AIDS, ZERO plans to train rural communities on the use of renewable energy technologies and setting up herbal gardens.

The Power from Wind project being piloted in Tamaruru seeks to create wealth for disadvantaged rural communities, strengthen institutional capacity to ensure sustainability of the project and improve the natural resource management capabilities of rural communities, through the use of renewable energy and appropriate technologies.

Primary Objective

The primary objective is to contribute towards climate change mitigation and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods for the Dumbamwe community, through the provision of renewable energy in the form of wind-generated power.

Specifically, the objectives of the Power from Wind project are:

- To provide cheaper alternative energy sources for Temaruru Business Centre, the clinic and the school located in Dumbamwe Ward;
- To raise local level awareness on climate change, energy conservation and efficiency issues;
- To strengthen community organisational structures and self-sufficiency through income-generating projects; and
- To provide a viable water supply to the school, clinic and for an irrigation scheme.

Expected Outputs

The project is expected to produce the following outputs:

1. A wind-driven power plant set up at the school.
2. Wind turbines at the business centre upgraded.
3. At least 30 people trained in climate change, and energy conservation and efficiency issues.
4. Five people trained in wind turbine maintenance and project management.
5. 15 teachers' houses and the clinic electrified.
6. One electrically powered irrigation scheme established.
7. One borehole drilled.
8. 15 community homesteads and school gardens established with live fencing of five trees per metre of *Jatropha* plants.
9. One community orchard put in place with 40 citrus and other fruit trees planted.
10. 20 *Moringa Olifera* trees planted at the school and clinic.
11. 100 energy-efficient stoves constructed in the community households.
12. One biogas digester constructed for the community.

Project Activities

The following project activities are planned in fulfilment of the specific objectives outlined above:

To provide cheaper alternative energy sources for Temaruru Business Centre, the clinic and the school and community in Dumbamwe Ward

1. Set up wind turbines at Temaruru School, connect to the clinic and upgrade turbines at the business centre

- Erect an 8 kW turbine at the school and connect the clinic to the grid.
- Repair the 1x 5Kw turbine at the business centre and upgrade to 1x 8Kw.

2. Offer training in wind power plant maintenance, entrepreneurial and marketing skills for project sustainability.

- Train young community members, two of whom must be women, in maintenance of the turbine, regular repair and diagnosis of problems.

- ❑ Train women, men and youth in best agricultural practices through AREX. ZERO will collaborate with ZOIC in the provision of training in marketing and business development.

3. Setting up 100 energy-efficient stove kits and one biogas digester.

- ❑ Supply stove kits.
- ❑ Training in construction, use and maintenance of stoves and biogas digester.
- ❑ Construction of biogas digester.

To raise local level awareness on climate change, energy conservation and efficiency issues

1. Community mobilisation and awareness raising in climate change and efficient energy use and conservation.

- ❑ Community mobilisation and awareness raising meetings will be convened with traditional and other leadership structures, including the Chief Executive Officer of Makoni Rural District Council to appraise them on the project.
- ❑ Climate change awareness creation meetings at the community level will follow the mobilisation process.

To strengthen community organisational structures and self-sufficiency through income-generating projects

1. Enhancing the institutional, project management and evaluation capacity of Temaruru Community Power Trust

- ❑ Reviewing of the Temaruru Community Power Trust constitution and the electricity tariffs.
- ❑ Training of the management committee in conflict resolution, curtailing vandalism and neglect and good governance will be mainstreamed in the day-to-day running of the project.
- ❑ Training the Temaruru Community Power Trust to increase their understanding of climate change and how it affects them at local level. The training will promote community involvement in developing strategies of mitigating climate change such as the use of wind power as renewable source of energy and the planting of citrus trees, Moringa Oleifera trees and the Jatropha plant which will act as carbon sinks.

2. Live fencing of gardens and homesteads, establishment of school orchard and planting of Moringa Oleifera trees

- ❑ Sourcing Jatropha seeds, nursing and transplanting to needy community members' gardens and homesteads.
- ❑ Planting 40 citrus trees in school garden and 20 Moringa Oleifera trees.

To provide viable water supply to the school, clinic and for an irrigation scheme

1. Supply electricity to pump water for irrigation and reticulation

- ❑ Drill borehole, and install irrigation equipment for the school garden.
- ❑ Install water reticulation machinery for basic sanitation in partnership with DDF and the Department of Water Resources.

ZERO will document the project as a best practice, highlighting the project process, procedures, results and benefits through the print and electronic media.

Project Status

During the period under review, the following activities had been undertaken:

- The community and school garden sites were identified while the Temaruru Community Power Trust representing the school, business and clinic was set up.
- Siting of the borehole was completed with the assistance of Ground Water Prospecting Services of Mutare and Borehole Engineering of Harare, who will drill the borehole soon.
- Several fruit trees, e.g. mango, orange and naartjies, as well as Moringa Olifera and *Jatropha curcas* trees and seeds were purchased and planted.

In consultation with African Windpower, a five-member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed to provide technical services for the project. The committee is comprised of:

Name	Organisation
Dr D Gumbo	World Wide Fund for Nature
Eng. Rafemoyo	Zimbabwe Electricity Distribution Company (ZEDCO)
Mr T Madzinga	Pricewaterhouse Coopers
Mr E Dengu	Technology Development Services (TDS) Africa
Mr E Moyo	Friedrich Naumann Foundation
Mr J M Nyoni	Consultant
Mr O Smyth	Power Vision
Mr R Tirivanhu	Ministry of Energy and Power Development

The TAC met for the first time on 22 April 2005 to discuss how the project can be best implemented. Another four meetings have been held since then.

To familiarise the TAC members with the project, a visit to the wind turbine site, clinic and school was undertaken on 12 May 2005. During the visit a ZEDC inspector checked the electrical wiring in the buildings and houses for conformity with ZESA standards.

At the end of the site visit the TAC held a meeting with the Temaruru Community Power Trust Committee, the Ward Councillor, Sub-Chief of the area Mr Madziva and the Chairperson. The ZEDC official explained to the community why it was important to comply with the power utility's wiring standards.

He also urged the community to jealously guard the electricity equipment against theft and vandalism.

To finance the future equipment purchases, Mr Madzinga agreed to compile a sustainable tariff formulae and offered to train the community in business management skills.

It emerged at the meeting that fabrication and ordering of the necessary equipment for the project had already started. Forty percent of the work has been carried out.

Mr Smyth advised the community that repairs to the business power plant turbines would be carried out at no cost to them and that he would upgrade the system as soon as money was made available.

Project Achievements to date:

Despite rampant inflation and the unstable exchange rate, considerable ground has been covered thanks to the diligent work of ZERO's technical partners and the establishment of a high-profile Technical Advisory Committee.

Forty fruit trees, 60 Moringa trees (more than the indicated two) and 20kg *Jatropha Curcas* seeds were purchased and planted. This was augmented by the purchase of *Jatropha Curcas* cuttings to save on time. Mr Gotora (DNR), Mr Saruwaka (Forestry Commission) and Mr Makoyana (Linkage Trust- AREX) all of Rusape also participated. It takes up to three years for a *Jatropha* plant to produce seeds, but with cuttings the time is reduced to two years.

The siting of one borehole was completed and drilling was expected to begin any time soon

Also on the positive side, 25%-40% of the electrical equipment has been manufactured while a formula for reviewing the electricity tariff was developed.

A suitable tariff formulae for charging electricity to the users in the project was developed by Mr Madzinga. However, there was need to revise it by factoring in inflationary aspects.

However, at the time of writing this report the following activities were still outstanding:

- Reticulation of the water system and supply of electricity to the borehole
- Installation of the 8kW wind turbine
- Supply of electricity to the school and clinic
- Construction of woodstoves and biogas digester
- Monitoring, evaluation and documentation
- Training in wind turbine maintenance

Training and Capacity Building

Two training workshops, targeted at a group of 70 men, women and youth, were held at Dumbabwe Secondary School between August and October 2005, with assistance from Mr Tawanda Madzinga of Price Waterhouse Coopers, a member of the Technical Advisory committee. The goal was to equip the Tamaruru community with relevant business skills to help them run small businesses for a living using renewable energy resources and appropriate technology.

The first workshop which was held from 23-25 August 2005 was targeted at 28 men, women and youth. The second workshop was also held at the same venue from 13-15 September 2005. Due to the large numbers involved and to allow for full participation in the workshops it was decided that the workshops be split into two workshops.

Specifically, the workshop objectives were:

- To develop a business plan for the Community Power Trust.
- To identify the capacity needs of the community and develop a preliminary capacity building plan.
- To go ahead with the establishment of a community trust or overhauling the existing trust.

The two three-day workshops were carried out and yielded the following results:

- A draft business plan for the community trust was developed
- A draft preliminary capacity building plan for the trustees was developed.
- A Community Power Trust established.

Lesson learnt during the workshops

The workshops were an eye opener and helpful. At the end of the workshops the participants were able to ask sensible business questions, an indication that they had grasped essential concepts on entrepreneurship. The workshop participants elected a new Temaruru Community Power Trust.

Challenges

The costs of manufacturing, materials, transportation, labour, machinery, etc have been changing, increasing upwards, several times a month. With specific reference to the Temaruru Power from the Wind project, cost estimates made in 2004 differ dramatically from those prevailing in May 2005.

For example, the cost of drilling a rural borehole escalated from Z\$10 million in April 2004 to between Z\$80 and Z\$110 million in just 12 months. However, through diligent and time consuming research and networking, ZERO technical staff managed to broker a deal with a drilling company to drill the new Temaruru borehole for Z\$21 million. While this was a vast saving, compared to prevailing market prices, it nevertheless represents a 100% increase on the original estimate submitted to GEF/SGP. There is also a need to verify the authenticity of such companies before they embark on carrying out their role.

Another challenge is that the sourcing of materials is closely intertwined with the value of the Zimbabwe dollar against the world's major currencies. The Zimbabwe dollar was pegged at US\$1: Z\$5 400 in the project proposal. Although funds made available to ZERO in March 2005 were disbursed at the rate of US\$1:Z\$6 400, this was a far cry from the parallel market rate of US\$1:Z\$22 000, which many believe represents the true value of the local currency.

The situation is unlikely to change for the better soon. Recently, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe categorically stated that it was unable to satisfy the business sector's foreign currency requirements at the official rate of US\$1:Z\$6 200 due to declining forex inflows.

To stay afloat, businesses are forced to turn to the parallel market where the rates are now reportedly pegged at US\$1:Z\$100 000 (December 2005 figures).

Not surprisingly, many firms have gone out of business or scaled down their operations. A case in point is the engineering firm Powervision/African Windpower, manufacturer of the wind turbine generation system for the Tamaruru project. The company cut its staff complement by 75%, from 140 employees at the time of the project submission to 30 at present. The issue of Powervision's weak staff compliment still remains a challenge.

The ability of the contractor to manufacture the turbine, erect it, train maintenance staff and support the project, even with the ZERO technical committee's back-up support, becomes more and more tenuous the longer an appropriate monetary response to ZERO from GEF/SGP is considered.

The capabilities of ZERO to coordinate, monitor, successfully implement and evaluate the status of the project remain essentially unimpaired. However, the operating costs for all organisations in Zimbabwe must, as a general rule, factor in some of the same indices as profit making businesses, such as fuel costs and availability, parts and labour costs, paper costs, telephone, water and electricity costs.

The total disbursement from GEF/SGP to ZERO for all ZERO's activities on this project, starting from 2004, from conception, design and evaluation, meetings, trips, printing, telephones, faxes, fuel, etc, to the end of its involvement, has been calculated by GEF/SGP at a maximum of US\$2 700. From March 2005 alone, ZERO staff have made four field trips to Tamaruru, held five formal meetings, made innumerable phone calls, faxes, emails and informal meetings and discussions.

All the money disbursed to ZERO in March 2005 has been exhausted. ZERO is now spending its own funds to continue with the implementation as quickly as possible, for the benefit of the people of Tamaruru. ZERO has a history since 1987 of working efficiently, effectively and ethically, with a spotless record of successful implementation in every project it has undertaken.

During the review period ZERO sought supplementary funding and resorted to combining tranches in response to, firstly, the time lapse between proposal submission and disbursement and, secondly, to hyperinflationary pressures in Zimbabwe which are already severely impacting negatively on the ongoing Tamaruru project.

Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Development and Empowerment of Rural Men, Women and Youth Who Participate in the Rural Small-Scale Industries in Zimbabwe (BBB)

ZERO in its aim to promote the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty, gender, environmental sustainability and the development of global partnerships; introduced the Beer brewing, Bread making and Brick making projects (BBB). One of the primary objectives of the BBB project is to promote economic development in an environmentally sustainable manner within the rural communities in Zimbabwe.

Sample groups were chosen to assess the viability of beer brewing, brick moulding and bread making on a small scale to eradicate poverty and to find alternative efficient energy technologies to conventional ways of doing three economic activities. These activities depend upon the use of wood fuel, which is a scarce resource. In realizing that conventional methods used within the rural communities in Zimbabwe utilized large

amounts of wood fuel; ZERO decided to conduct research on alternative and more efficient bread making and beer brewing designs, as well as an improved clamp kiln for brick firing.

The overall goal of the project is to promote social and economic development of rural areas in Zimbabwe through the promotion of small-scale industries and to develop training materials appropriate for rural industry operators in the selected fields.

The programme focuses on the energy needs of fuel intensive small-scale rural industries such as brick making, beer brewing and bread making.

It will also assess the industries' economic viability and their impact on the environment with the objective of improving the living standards of rural women and their families. ZERO hopes to achieve this by assisting in the conservation and more efficient use of wood fuel by rural small-scale industries for community and economic activities.

Target Beneficiaries

The project is aimed at the following target beneficiaries:

- Small-scale industry operators, e.g. brick makers, beer brewers, bread bakers, women's groups and clubs, women entrepreneurs, farmers;
- Rural women participating in rural industries;
- National policymakers.

Overall Objectives

The developmental objectives of the project are to:

- Promote social and economic development of rural areas of Zimbabwe through the promotion of small-scale industries;
- Support the development and use of alternative forms of energy for sustainable rural industrialisation in Zimbabwe;
- To lobby for the development of appropriate and supportive energy policies for rural industrialists.

Immediate Objectives:

- a) To carry out technology assessments of bread making, brick making and beer brewing in rural industries;
- b) To assess the effects of these rural industries on the environment;
- c) To explore opportunities for technology interventions and energy efficiency;
- d) To train community trainers and animators in various facets of rural industries and energy conservation by working through community and groups in selected areas;
- e) To develop a strategy for promoting energy efficiency and energy supplies for rural industries, including long-term financing and marketing mechanisms to sustain the programme.

Project Activities:

In order to realise the development objectives and the immediate objectives the following activities will be carried out:

- a) Review literature on rural industries in Zimbabwe, observe and assess technologies and type of equipment being used;
- b) Conduct field visits to establish what is happening at local level and carry out a needs assessment of selected rural industries (about 12 in all);
- c) Quantify wood fuel consumption patterns, per brick burnt, per litre of brewed beer and per loaf of bread baked;
- d) Investigate opportunities for tree planting to replenish used wood fuel with emphasis on the tree species in demand;
- e) Introduce a strategy for intervention in the production of rural industries and use of energy;
- f) Prepare training manuals for use by rural industrialists.

The training programme will be developed according to the needs of each industry, but is likely to be identical in such areas as project identification and development, environmental awareness for rural industry operators, technology assessment for sustainable industrialisation, decision-making and general management of the rural industries.

A core group of community trainers will undergo training in the field of energy conservation, energy efficiency and energy supply and marketing of rural industry products.

In addition, workshops will be held to ensure that the immediate objectives actually translate into the developmental objectives of improving the living conditions of rural industrialists.

Expected Outputs

- The amount of wood fuel used per brick burnt, per loaf of bread baked or per litre of beer brewed is expected to decrease after training. This will be accompanied by an improved quality of products, marketing and financing strategies.
- The production of training manuals for use in the proposed training programme in local languages and English;
- The production of a database on the range of small-scale industries and the available energy technologies;
- Biomass-based rural industries will assume a prominent role and contribute to the policy formulation process;
- Efficient energy technologies available for application in rural industries;
- Wood fuel conservation and management efforts put in place;
- A strategy for long term promotion of rural industries, including financial mechanisms based on sustainable energy resources;
- A regional network for information exchange established;
- Improved living standards for rural women participating in rural industries;
- Employment creation;
- Environmental sustainability.

Project Status

Project planning started, with the identification of field sites, different stoves for installation and various consultants required. ZERO intended to complete this project in four months although the original project period is eight months. It was ZERO's intention to begin fieldwork as soon as the funds were received, preferably before the advent of the rainy season when the majority of the target beneficiaries abandon other activities to tend their fields.

The starting point was to review literature on the efficiency of wood fuel technologies relating to the three small-scale industries. Consequently, it was concluded that the rocket stove and the improved clamp kiln were appropriate for the implementation of the project. The literature review also revealed that the beer brewing process requires a lot of energy for the heating processes are very long. Also, the brick making industry is the most energy consuming activity in the rural areas.

Sourcing of Inputs

The necessary inputs such as cement, bricks, vermiculite, etc. were gathered in November 2005.

Construction of Bread Baking Oven

In December 2005, construction of the bread oven was started in Domboshawa. The duration of its construction took two weeks. The major activities were expected to start in the following year.

Brick Making

At the same time the project officers met and discussed, with the brick making team, the commencement of moulding bricks as they had already been given the necessary equipment, e.g., formats, picks and shovels.

Along the way, the brick making team indicated that they could no longer finish up the business because of farming commitments. A new group was then identified and given all the necessary inputs for brick moulding, as they were occupied with brick making on a full time basis. The group was committed and even vowed to abandon other activities. By the end of 2005, they were yet to construct the shade to shelter the bricks from the rains.

Beer Brewing

The construction of the Institutional stove for beer brewing commenced late December 2005 in Bora (Juru Growth Point area) By the close of the year the stove was almost completed except for the steps.

Constraints

The late disbursement of funds delayed the purchase of the necessary inputs for the project. Also, the onset of the rains delayed the smooth implementation of the project activities. The long waiting period for the slabs and cement to set was also a draw back. The other problems encountered that specifically affected the construction of the stoves was the sourcing of vermiculite, fire clay and fire bricks as major companies were preparing for their annual shutdown.

Strengthening Civil Society in Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC) RING – Climate Change

The LDCs are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, due to their geographical location in some of the most vulnerable areas and their low capacity to cope with drought, floods, cyclones, etc. Supporting LDCs in their efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change requires long-term capacity strengthening within government as well as civil society.

The National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) process, started under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is one mechanism through which national stakeholders can understand the problems of climate change and their role in building resilience to its adverse impacts, and identify a portfolio of appropriate adaptation projects.

During the period under review, ZERO continued to work closely in the CLACC and LCA projects.

CLAAC Objective

In broad terms, CLACC aims to strengthen civil society in order to support the official NAPA process and the implementation of adaptation projects in the LDCs over the coming years.¹

Briefly, this entails:

- ❑ Strengthening the capacity of civil society in LDCs to adapt to climate change and fostering adaptive capacity among the most vulnerable groups.
- ❑ Establishing an information and knowledge system to help countries to deal with adverse impacts of climate change.
- ❑ Integrating adaptation to climate change into the work of key non-governmental institutions, and mainstreaming the NAPA process into these institutions.

CLAAC Fellowship Programme for Southern Africa

ZERO was been tasked with co-ordinating a regional Adaptation to Climate Change Programme within the SADC region with support from Regional International Networking Group (RING) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). Following consultations with the two organisations, ZERO signed Memorandum of Understanding with Co-ordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE-Malawi), The Action Group for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development (GED, Mozambique) and Energy and

¹ Capacity Strengthening in the Least Developed Countries (LCDs) for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC) Newsletter, January to February 2005. This project is for the 12 LCDs

Environmental Concerns for Zambia (EECZ, Zambia) for one of their members to join a six-week Fellowship Programme on Climate and Adaptation in Harare.

The CLAAC Fellowship Programme was aimed at building the capacity of Civil Society Organizations in 12 LDCs, on issues relating to adaptation to climate change. The programme, which was initially scheduled to start on 19 March, 2005 finally took off on 10 April 2005

The first Fellows were Ms Albertina Bambaige (Mozambique), Mr George Kasali (Zambia) and Everhart Nangoma (Malawi). Despite hosting the CLACC Fellowship Programme, Zimbabwe was not represented as it is not part of the group of Least Developed Countries used by RING and IIED.

During their stay, the fellows went through an intensive orientation and project planning process for climate change and adaptation in their respective countries and the region as a whole. The assignments provided, coupled with the field trips and the readings went a long way in strategically positioning the CLACC Fellows to “think outside the box, enhance creativity and instill momentum” for climate change mitigation and adaptation programme implementation for the benefit of the disadvantaged within their respective countries.

Exposure to ZERO has given the Fellows a solid foundation to engage in further capacity building through networking, collaboration and continued involvement in all climate change meetings and workshops or conventions both nationally, regionally and internationally

It is for this reason that ZERO urges both RING and IIED to continue providing financial and material support to turn their dreams into reality. But such support should be confined to the two organisations solely. Governments, too, must play their part. “The support of our government and other civil society cannot be underestimated; we also urge them to join the bandwagon in supporting the adaptation to climate change programmes that were are going to initiate nationally and regionally,” the trio said at their end of their stint in Zimbabwe.

CLACC Fellows Programme of Activities:

Below is the programme drawn up by ZERO to guide the Fellows’ in their day-to- day activities.

1. Familiarisation with each country’s:
 - Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
 - National Environment Action Plans
 - National Communications to UNFCCC
 - Developmental programmes for the country
 - Biodiversity Conservation Strategies
2. Presentation of activities being undertaken by their respective NGOs to ZERO staff.
3. Details of activities their organisations are undertaking in Zimbabwe and in the region.
4. Identification of areas of possible collaboration between ZERO and their organisation.
5. Research on Climate Change and Adaptation using the library and Internet.

6. Field trip on climate change related projects, e.g. Power from the Wind Project in Dumbamwe Ward, Rusape.
7. Output from each Fellow, comprised:
 - A summary of activities during the Fellowship period.
 - A section on climate change in their home countries and ideas on what each of them would like to undertake on adaptation to climate change upon return, in line with their organisation's experiences, capabilities and interests.
 - Ideas on how to mainstream adaptation in developmental programmes in their respective countries.
 - How to raise awareness on adaptation to civil society, public and private institutions in their respective countries.
 - How the CCD, CB and UNFCCC can be used for adaptation purposes and economic development.

Profiles of Participating Organisations in Relation to Climate Change Issues

Co-ordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE)

The Co-ordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE), represented by Mr Everhart Nangoma, is a national NGO established in March 1994. It was registered as an NGO under the Trustees Incorporation Act {CAP 5:03} on 8 March 1999. It started as a project within the Wildlife Society of Malawi in co-ordinating rehabilitation of the refugee-impacted areas following the end of the Mozambican war, as the repatriation of the refugees got underway.



Everhart Nangoma

Now covering the whole country, CURE's mandate is to provide technical support and improve networking amongst NGOs working in the environmental and natural resource management, the Government of Malawi, donors and other organisations and individuals working in the environmental sector. A board of eight governors (three Trustees and five members) governs CURE.

CURE is a firm believer in an environment that will provide for, support and maintain Malawi's present and future generations in a productive, sustainable and dignified manner. In this respect, CURE seeks to improve co-ordination, planning, implementation and the overall management of environmental activities amongst NGOs and engages in periodic consultations with government, donors and other stakeholders.

At present, CURE's activities are confined to the following key areas:

- a. Service delivery in the form of training, provision of advisory services and capacity building.
- b. Information, communications and environmental networking.

- c. Research and advocacy especially on land reform, decentralisation and environmental management policies.

At its 2002 strategic planning, CURE's prioritised three core areas of focus *vis-à-vis* environment and natural resource management for the next three years as follows:

1. Popular participation in policy processes;
2. Policy dissemination; and
3. Capacity building
4. Advocacy
5. Networking and Collaboration

As the co-ordinator for all Malawian NGOs involved in ENRM, CURE was democratically elected at one of the CBNRM forums to sit in key government committee meetings on behalf of other organisations and report back to them. These include the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC. It is with this mandate that CURE has been instrumental in the Climate Change issues by sitting in all UNFCCC meetings and also in developing the NAPA document for Malawi.

To crown it all, one of CURE's Senior Programme Officers, a well-known Environment and Natural Resources Management Specialist, represents the organisation at important meetings with the government departments such as Forestry, Agriculture, Water, Wildlife, Gender, Health and many others.

Energy and Environmental Concerns for Zambia (EECZ)

EECZ's CLACC Fellowship representative Mr George Kasali described his organisation's vision, mission and purpose as follows:



George Kasali

Vision: Attain sustainable development through promotion of scientific and technological innovations in the fields of energy and environment.

Mission: Enhance the productive, competitive and Coping capacities of society by empowering people with environmental and energy innovations.

Purpose: To facilitate and catalyse the deployment of energy and environmental goods and services for poverty reduction.

The organisation's core thematic areas include: Energy and Environment; Capacity Building; Gender Issues; Poverty Reduction; Water and Sanitation; Health; Global Change Analysis; and Human Rights.

At the top of the list of projects implemented by EECZ are:

- Monitoring water pollution levels on Kafue River
- Mitigating indoor air pollution in shanty compounds using charcoal
- Providing biogas plants to farmers and schools for lighting, cooking and science experiments
- Disseminating improved cook stoves compounds
- Sensitising Members of Parliament on gender issues
- Liaising with media personnel on climate change issues
- Conducting energy needs assessment in Bauleni compound
- Training regional managers of protected areas in biosphere reserve management.

The Action Group for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development (GED)

The Action Group for Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development (GED) also represented by Ms Albertina Bambaige, GED, Mozambique is a non-profit making NGO established in 2002. It is active in the areas of research, training and delivery of community services on issues of sustainable development. Based in Maputo, Mozambique, GED focuses its activities on mitigation and adaptation in relation to the effects of climate change, by promoting the use of clean technologies, with emphasis on renewable energy technologies.

It also undertakes renewable energies resources assessment, development and deployment of the respective technologies as well as policy issues related to promotion of renewable energy technologies are central themes of GED activities. The organisation pays special attention to issues of rural development, particularly rural electrification, poverty reduction and gender equity. GED also plays an important role in helping reduce the impact of deadly diseases, such as malaria, cholera and HIV/AIDS, and improving the quality of education.



Ms Albertina Bambaige

GED is member of the Southern Africa Regional Climate Action Network (SARCAN), as well as a node of Climate Action Network (CAN) and of the Southern Africa Clean Energy Network (SACTEN).

Summary of GED Activities:

Some of the major activities undertaken by GED since 2002 include:

2002-2004:

1. Electrification of the rural community using a photovoltaic system with the back-up of a gas generator with a total capacity of 7kW; the project involved the Eduardo Mondlane University, the National Directorate of Energy and Religious Organizations CARITAS DIOCESANA, funded by USAID an amount of 100 000 euros.
2. Training courses on rural energy planning and environmental management for the Portuguese- speaking countries in the SADC region, namely Angola and Mozambique, in collaboration with Eduardo Mondlane University and the National Directorate of Energy. The project was funded by the Dutch government through the Eastern and Southern

Africa Management Institute (ESAMI), based in Arusha, Tanzania and by NORAD, at a cost of 90 000 euros.

2004 to Present:

1. Establishment of the water pumping system in a rural community in the district of Chigubo, Gaza Province, Mozambique. The project is funded by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and is expected to cost 20 000 euros.
2. Study of groundwater resources in the Inhambane Province, Mozambique. The project is funded by the local government at a cost of 25 000 euros.

2005 to Present:

1. Viability study of the use of solar energy to improve ecotourism in the district of Chigubo, Gaza province, Mozambique. The 30 000 euro project is being funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
2. Participation in the project Capacity Strengthening of the LDCs on Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC) to be funded by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London, United Kingdom.

2005 to 2007:

The organisation intends to organise training courses in rural energy planning and environmental management for Angola and Mozambique, funded by the Dutch government at a cost of about 120 000 euros.

Areas of Collaboration

According to Ms Bambaige, there is considerable room for collaboration among ZERO, GED, CURE, and EECZ, particularly in the following areas of advocacy:

- Policy on climate change and adaptation.
- Prioritising science and technology mainstreaming in national development programmes.
- Intensified application, dissemination and promotion of cleaner energy technologies to improve people's livelihoods

The second area of collaboration should be capacity building through:

- Strengthening the role of communities in interpreting and implementing national development policies and plans
- Enhancing capacities of communities in natural resource management
- Training in the production, manufacture and maintenance of renewable and efficient energy technologies
- Dissemination of renewable and efficient energy technologies in the SADC region
- Improving the agriculture productivity of rural communities for sustainable food security
- Monitoring the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in the SADC region.

The third area of collaboration should be resource mobilisation by the regional organisation, submitting joint proposals for funding climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives using community-integrated programmes.

There was also room for collaborative research into the social, economic, cultural and environmental aspects that contribute to increased vulnerability of the region to climate change impacts and poverty, Ms Bambaige noted.

Linking Climate to Adaptation (LCA)

ZERO continues to participate in the project “Linking Climate to Adaptation (LCA)” being funded by the UK Department of International Development (DFID) and co-ordinated by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) based at Sussex University, Brighton, England.

The project seeks 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 also examines the efforts being made by communities in adapting to climate change at grassroots level.

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

LCA project partners undertook six country case studies covering Asia (Bangladesh, India, China) and Africa (Senegal, Kenya, and Zimbabwe) since the majority of the world’s 1.2 billion poor reside in these regions. The case studies provide examples of “good practice” community-led adaptation focusing on food security and agriculture.

Tongwe, in Beitbridge, is the site of the Zimbabwe LCA case study. Surveillance was carried out at the project sites and photos were taken to give a human face to the challenges and adaptation strategies. The case study was finalised and a report submitted to the project co-ordinators.

November 2005 saw the publication of an IDS Bulletin Volume 36 No 4, entitled Vulnerability, Adaptation and Climate Disasters, containing a number of case studies and other papers from the LCA project. It was edited by Farhana Yamin and Saleemul Huq.

Of interest is that ZERO’s Tongwe Case study entitled: **Climate Proofing Infrastructure and Diversifying Livelihoods in Zimbabwe** is in the bulletin. It is now available on the IDS website: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/bookshop/bulletin/bull364.html>

The following is a comment for one of the renowned editors, Farhana Yamin : *“On behalf of everyone from IDS, a huge thanks for working so hard on this project, and look forward to many future collaborations with you all in the years ahead.”*

Generally this is a journal meant to stimulate thinking on the latest issues in development. This IDS Bulletin aims to provide policy-relevant research insights for a wide range of actors interested in climate change adaptation. It brings together results from a recently completed interdisciplinary research project, the Linking Climate Adaptation Project, about how vulnerable communities might respond to the impacts of climate change.

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THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainability Watch

The second phase of the Danish-supported Rio+10 project, Sustainability Watch (SusWatch) seeks to increase Southern civil society networks' ability to engage more efficiently in advocacy. The aim is to hold national governments and other stakeholders to their commitments undertaken in Johannesburg as well as to national legislation favouring sustainable development.

Spread over three years, it is being implemented globally with network partners in Asia, Latin America and Africa. SusWatch's objectives are as follows:

Development Objective

To increase public participation and civil society networks' advocacy in order to influence and enhance implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at national, regional and international levels.

Immediate objectives

- a) National level: Participating Southern CSO networks have prepared analyses and begun to publish national Sustainability Watch reports, assessing their governments' performance in meeting their agreed commitments on pro-poor sustainable development. A range of proposals have been put forward by the networks, fostering public awareness and debate, leading to advocacy on issues relate to, *inter alia*, environment, poverty, governance and trade.
- b) Regional and international level: Participating Southern CSO networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America have undertaken lobbying and advocacy aimed at influencing regional and international institutions concerning the follow-up to the WSSD Johannesburg Summit, in particular by preparing and publishing an international Sustainability Watch report.
- c) Network strengthening: The participating CSO/NGO networks have begun to improve their international capacity to analyse and monitor key national policy instruments related to sustainable development. Additionally, some networks have widened their networking, thus boosting their legitimacy and transparency.

Project Activities

During the period under review, ZERO was unanimously nominated by the taskforce to continue co-ordinating the SusWatch Project.

The Project Implementation Plan (PIP) was drafted and circulated to members of the taskforce for their input. After a few meetings with the taskforce members, the PIP and the budget, were finalised and subsequently submitted to the International Networking Secretariat (INS) for approval.

At a meeting held in Kampala in January 2005, Rudo Makunike elaborated on the fact that ZERO had managed to keep the momentum going in the network despite the lack of funding from DANIDA. The network expanded from including 20 organisations to 42 organisation, including organisations focusing on development.

The following activities stand out as the highlights of the period under review:

MDG Policy Monitoring Training Workshop for CSOs (31 May 2005)

ZERO hosted a successful one-day MDG Policy Monitoring Training Workshop on 31 May 2005 in the Mwengo Boardroom. The aim of the workshop was to increase the capacity of participants and the national network on MDG policy monitoring, as well as improve their confidence and advocacy skills. Mr Cornelius Kazoora from Uganda, a consultant with SusWatch, was the facilitator.

The 16 participants included senior officials from the Government, Ministry of Labour (MDG hosting ministry), United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), MDG thematic leads within CSOs and several key representatives from CSOs. The diversity of participants representing different stakeholders gave the workshop a unique flavour.



As a follow-up activity the network was asked to produce a SusWatch National Report, based on the workshop report. ZERO is currently working on the National Report, with the help of input from its partners in the project (CSO MDG Goal 1, 7 and 8 Thematic Leads) and augmented by extensive desk research.

The G-8 Summit, 1-8 July 2005

From 1-8 July, people around the world wore white bands and covered public buildings in white to send a message to the G-8 world leaders on the need for action on trade justice, debt cancellation, and more and better aid. These demonstrations coincided with the G-8 Summit which took place from 1-8 July 2005, in Gleneagles, Scotland.

The Sustainability Watch Network together with the GCAP coalition met to come up with, a Zimbabwe specific, set of demands to lobby the G-8 countries through their local embassies. The session reflected on the implications of the G-8 Summit on development processes in Zimbabwe and other developing countries.

Deliberations picked out debt cancellation as a priority, considering the country's precarious social and humanitarian situation. A press statement was issued at the end of the meeting and sent to several media houses. It was accompanied by a T-shirt with the message, "End Poverty Now", tied with a white ribbon.

The coalition also held a press conference during the course of their deliberations. It also wrote an open letter to the G-8 embassies in Zimbabwe, Government of Zimbabwe and the World Bank. The purpose of the open letter was to raise awareness of all Zimbabwean citizens on the G-8 summit deliberations and outcomes in relation to Zimbabwe. Regrettably, plans to convene a public meeting, bringing together Government, CSO representatives and debt experts to further discuss the outcomes did not materialise.

United Nations MDG+5 Summit, 14-16 September 2005, New York, United States of America

The 2005 World Summit brought together more than 170 Heads of State and Government --- the largest gathering of world leaders in history. It was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take bold decisions in the areas of development, security, human rights and reform of the United

Nations. The agenda was based on an achievable set of proposals outlined in March by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report *In Larger Freedom* (www.un.org/largerfreedom). These were reviewed by Governments in a series of informal consultations conducted by General Assembly President Jean Ping, who released on 5 August a third draft outcome document for the Summit. Another draft was issued and availed.

During the run-up to the United Nations MDG+5 Summit scheduled for 14-16 September, the SusWatch Secretariat requested all networks to lobby their governments and media, especially the UN-bound delegation, using the Sustainability Watch Global Position Paper. The Zimbabwe Network was engaged in a number of activities aimed at strengthening as well as lobbying the team travelling for the Summit as well as the media. The Zimbabwe Network worked tirelessly to identify the team and made arrangements to meet with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials going to New York.

The following achievements linked to policy advocacy and Advocacy work are worth noting:

Lobbying the New York Delegation



Zimbabwe government
Delegation in New York

The Zimbabwe SusWatch Network sent the SusWatch Global Position Paper on 5 August DOD to the Government of Zimbabwe delegation going to New York (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and included it in the President's package. This was followed by the distribution of T-shirts with MDG messages to the delegation. The visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs catalysed the launch of the Zimbabwe MDG Progress Report by the President on September 8, 2005.

Lobbying Media

As part of its continuing efforts to raise awareness among journalists on current developmental issues, ZERO sent copies of the official announcement of the 2005 UN Summit (14-16 September 2005) to the media. This was done to ensure media practitioners report on such landmark events like the UN Summit from an informed point of view.

Articles and the SusWatch Global Position Paper were sent to all media houses for awareness raising. A media event is currently being planned, where the position paper will be presented and the local concerns touching on Goal 1, 7 and 8 will be presented to the media for publishing.

Spreading the Word

The global position paper was also sent to CSOs in Zimbabwe for uploading on to their websites. At the same time, ZERO has posted the position paper on its website for wider dissemination. The global position paper was also distributed at the Government launch of the MDG Progress Report and the Government ministries responsible for the implementation of Goals 1, 7 and 8.

The global position of the SusWatch targeting the 14-6 September 2005 UN Summit has been discussed with critical stakeholders, notably Government, the private sector and civil society and lodged with the strategic Government departments, particularly the President's Office. Future activities include media and budget tracking training workshops and the implementation of lobby and advocacy techniques.

Simon Odong of the International Network Secretariat (INS) had this to say as a comment on the above: " *Very good! This is the kind of lobbying and media work that we have been talking about and expecting. I will put this on the SusWatch website, updates and newsletter. Thanks for good reporting too.*"

Compilation of the National Sustainability Watch Report

Using the MDG Policy Monitoring workshop report of 31 May 2005 as a basis, a SusWatch national report was drafted and sent to both network members and the International Networking Secretariat for commenting.

Due to lack of commitment only a few organisations commented on the report.

This report is an initial attempt to assess and monitor the government's commitments and efforts to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals. The monitoring is qualitative.

Meeting at MS Zimbabwe

On 9 November 2005, the SusWatch network met at MS Zimbabwe to plan for the workshop scheduled for December 2005 at the UNESCO offices.

The meeting was held with the aim of introducing Sustainability Watch Project, its past and current activities as well as planning for the forthcoming workshop in December 2005.

The meeting discussed the structure of the local SusWatch Network, particularly the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Participants felt, as presently constituted, that the TAC was "too big" and recommended it be trimmed down.

With reference to the December workshop, participants called on SusWatch and the Secretariat to ensure buy-in by all stakeholders. There was need to invite more members into the network.

It was also highlighted that, in order to strengthen the network, members will receive training on budget tracking. This would enable the network members to follow closely the budget process from formulation to implementation and be able to hold the government accountable for its actions.

The Sustainability Watch Workshop, UNESCO, 6-7 December 2005

The Sustainability Watch workshop was held on 6-7 December, 2005 at the UNESCO Conference Centre in Harare. The workshop attracted 25 participants drawn from a wide cross-section of civil society organisations active in gender issues, HIV/AIDS, environment, trade and debt, advocacy, human rights, development. Also represented were officials from Government, UNDP and the print media.

The Workshop Goal

The main goal of the workshop was to review the progress of the SusWatch MDG monitoring initiative and to map out future strategies. This is part of an ongoing SusWatch initiative, which is intended to make governments accountable for the successful implementation of the MDGs in the 15 countries in which the project is being undertaken.

The workshop sought:

- To appraise participants on the SusWatch Project;
- To review the progress on MDGs implementation through a draft status report and Goals 1, 7 and 8 status reports; and
- To design future strategies through various instruments such as partnership building, budget monitoring and consolidate mass media campaigns.

At this exciting workshop, four papers were presented as follows:

1. Background to the Sustainability Watch Project (Sherpard Zvigadza)
2. The Role of the UNDP in the MDG Process (Rodney Matemachani)
3. The MDGs: A Government Perspective (Laxon Chinhengo)
4. Budget Tracking as an MDG Monitoring Tool (John Makamure).

Theses were from the SusWatch national Focal Point, UNDP, Ministry of labour and Budget Tracking expert.

Among others , the workshop also agreed to formulate an inclusive institutional arrangement which would bind CSOs together in order to fulfil SusWatch's watchdog role. A framework was proposed and drafted. The proposed framework was to operate on at least four levels: national, provincial, district and local levels. At the national level would be the Secretariat and National Task Force. The framework would not require new institutions but would simply improve coordination of existing institutions to ensure that Goals 1, 7 and 8 and other cross-cutting issues were mainstreamed into all development projects. It would also ensure inclusion of grassroots organisations such as CBOs so as to ensure effective and timely flow of information from the grass root level up and vice-versa.



Some of the participants at the UNESCO Workshop

In order to strengthen CSOs to effectively monitor the government's MDG implementation, budget-tracking training is on the cards. This would assist CSOs to analyse the sustainability aspects within the key policy instruments such as the national budget.

Status of the Network to Date:

The idea of setting up a 36-member taskforce under the auspices of the MDGs was mooted earlier in the year. However, after some teething problems, the idea was shelved in favour of technical committees drawing expertise from each of the three project goal areas, namely Goal 1 – Poverty Eradication; Goal 7 – Environmental Sustainability; and Goal 8 – Partnership, Aid and Trade. Substantive progress has been made in the compilation of a National Report for Zimbabwe, “An Assessment of the Zimbabwe National Progress Report 2004” and the Goal Status of Goals 1, 7, and 8. A closer look at the functioning of the SusWatch led to the abandoning of the idea of a technical committee. The Technical Committee was reduced and was to assume an advisory role. However, the goal leads will be responsible for leading the aspects in the three goals. The organisations represented in the December workshop formed the interim Task Force. Currently the network members stand at 35.

Government's MDGs Process

The Ministry of Labour held several meetings in preparation for the official MDG Report launch. ZERO was invited to sit on the Government's National Task Force as the official representative of civil society. The role of the taskforce was to serve as a preparatory committee to guide the launch process. In this capacity ZERO has, since February 2005, been lobbying NGOs, CBOs and private companies to participate in both the launch and exhibition. ZERO executed both tasks diligently with assistance from UNICEF. Eventually, the MDGs were launched by the president on 8 September 2005, signalling enhanced participation and contributions to the MDGs by everyone in the country.

ZERO also positively contributed in other areas including:

1. Assisting in the drafting of a speech to be read at the launch by a civil society representative.
2. Co-ordinating the participation of NGOs and CBOs in showcasing their products and services at the launch exhibition.
3. Developing the civil society Declaration of Commitment for NGOs that confirms their association to the MDGs process.
4. Producing an e-mail-based weekly MDGs Launch Update.
5. Assisting CZI to write the speech to be read at the launch on behalf of the private sector.
6. Co-ordinating the design and printing of the MDGs Launch T-shirts.
7. Assisting in the composition and recording of jingles to be played on national TV and radio as an awareness raising campaign before the launch.

CSOs' Involvement

Preparations were made for civil society organisations to become part of the official launch by Government of the first National MDGs Report. Taskforce members were given first preference to take up space at the market place. However, only 11 organisations showed interest in showcasing their products or services, prompting ZERO to extend invitations to 10 organisations outside the taskforce.

Opportunities for ZERO

The vast experience ZERO has had with MDGs has and will continue to earn recognition in future MDGs initiatives by different stakeholders like the UNDP and Government of Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

ZERO's continued participation will see the organisation, in collaboration with UNDP, organising a media conference on MDGs in the beginning of the coming year.

Challenges

Efforts to persuade members to take up exhibition space at the launch of the MGS National Report proved difficult as most organisations cited budgetary problems. Uncertainty over the actual date of the launch also dampened enthusiasm to some extent.

Only three thematic leads have so far submitted their draft goal status reports. The rest are still to comply despite repeated reminders.

Localising MDGs: Marondera City Pilot Project

ZERO was invited to take part in an MDG Localisation Project in collaboration with UCAZ and the Marondera Municipality. Funding for the project has been pledged by the Municipal Development Programme (see section on Technical Assistance).

CROSS-BORDER TRADE

The SADC region cross-border traders (or small export traders, SETs) collectively make up 35 to 40% of all SADC trade. In a region where unemployment in the formal sector averages 50% and in Zimbabwe stands at 75%, the number of cross-border traders is estimated at 500 000. The aggregate of their movements and activities sustains and stimulates the region's economies and cross-fertilises cultures.

Both ZERO and CORN (Community Organisation Regional Network), a regional network operating in seven SADC countries, recognise that cross-border traders represent a very potent force for economic change if properly organised. The strong personalities, positive attitudes and determination inherent in travelling saleswomen and men is legendary worldwide. Regrettably, governments in the region do not at present recognise the contribution of this sector to the economic processes of their countries.

As a matter of policy, SADC countries do not provide any supportive regulatory frameworks to encourage and assist these activities. In many countries cross-border traders are viewed as a nuisance and pests and are subjected to harassment, humiliating body searches, seizure of goods and arrest. Where regulatory provisions exist, the practical effects are to control, hinder and restrict the operations of cross-border traders rather than promote and encourage them to grow.

ZERO continues to make efforts to establish linkages with the regional bodies such as COMESA and SADC. The MDGs recognise that trade can be one of the most effective ways to alleviate poverty. Goal 8 makes it clear that trade does not take place in a vacuum, but is a complex web of international economic partnerships and activities important to sustainable development. In this respect, ZERO and CORN continue to forge regional and international partnerships for support to help make inroads for the poor's sustainable development.

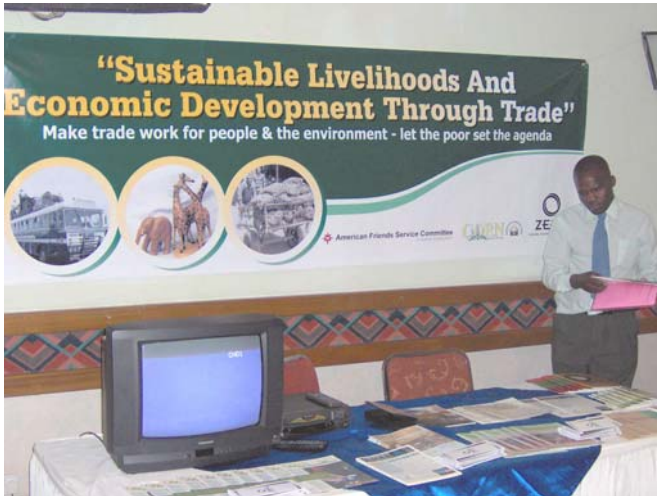
In 2005, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) requested ZERO to conduct a study on the possibility of raising the profile of cross-border traders, by organising them in the form of an association. ZERO responded by submitting a concept entitled "Empowerment of Women Cross-Border Traders in Southern Africa".

The overall goal of this project was poverty alleviation, as poverty is the root cause of most sociological pathologies. Women play a fundamental role as the gender most concerned with family, food and societal security and cohesion. As such, improving their economic, environmental and health status through this project will significantly enhance the quality of life for millions of SADC residents.

Recognition of ZERO

Civil Society Organisations like the Trades Centre continue to recognise ZERO's experience in trade research. The Trades Centre and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung organised a three-day regional conference and exhibition from 14-16 September 2005 at the Holiday Inn. ZERO's experience on trade issues supported by its role as the regional secretariat for Community Organisations Regional Network (CORN) facilitated the invitation to attend this workshop.

ZERO took advantage of the workshop to showcase its publications on Sustainable Development and Trade issues. Visitors to the ZERO stand were also treated to a 20-minute documentary on trade and related issues.



Mr Godfrey Mharadze, setting up the ZERO stand in preparation for the Trade Exhibition

Ms Dorothy Manuel, Ms Simomo Mubi and Mr Sherpard Zvigadza were part of the regional conference proceedings, which began in earnest on 15 September 2005.

Opportunities for ZERO

Since trade has emerged as one of ZERO's priority programmes in the next three years, the organisation seized this opportunity to find a strategic niche for itself by networking with key presenters from South Africa and Zambia, among other countries.

A number of contacts were made and, if followed through, these could see ZERO partnering with organisations such as CUTS Zambia.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Zimbabwe Energy Resource Assessment Study

ZERO has, in conjunction with associate consultants, submitted a bid in response to an invitation from UNDP and the Ministry of Energy and Power Development for proposals to establish Zimbabwe's energy resources, their distribution, location, quality and quantity. The study will look at the broad spectrum of Zimbabwe's energy problems, i.e. conventional sources, e.g. coal, hydroelectric power, imports, sustainable renewal energy resources.

A preliminary methodology comprising five sections has been agreed. These are:

1. Coal Bed Methane/Coal/Geothermal/Methane
2. Hydropower
3. Biomass (crop residues/wood fuel/sawdust/municipal waste, etc).
4. Solar and Wind Power
5. Other (nuclear - Kanyemba study).

In putting together the submission, ZERO took note of the following aspects:

- Placing reliance on previous studies; the more the better
- Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out on sustainable energy and to form part of the proposal.
- Clean Development Mechanisms, Energy Efficiency and Renewables could be funded if Government ratifies the Kyoto Protocol.
- Power Purchase Agreements.
- Hydropower – reference will be made to studies and reports prepared by GTZ and the Koreans.
- Nuclear – An in-depth study by the University of Zimbabwe at Kanyemba will be used as a starting point.
- Coal Bed Methane - studies carried out by Afpen, Shangani, Kelafant, LupiGas of IDS. RBZ has already allocated Z\$33 billion to LupGas for coal bed methane exploration.
- Exploration Information on geological survey – The University of Zimbabwe.
- Additional, updated information to be added to existing literature, e.g. surveys, different sources, exploration companies, education research, e.g. biomass – loss of trees due to the land reform programme. Studies done in 2003 do not contain current information.
- Updating and spot revalidating through visits to provinces.
- Mention provinces/districts.
- Geographical Demarcation.

By the time of writing this report, ZERO was still awaiting the results of this tender.

MDGs Awareness: Marondera City Pilot Project

ZERO's involvement in the MDGs work has been widely acclaimed both within and outside the country. It therefore did not come as a surprise when the Municipality Development Programme (MDP) and the Municipality of Marondera invited ZERO to participate in the MDGs localisation and awareness raising pilot project. The rationale was for ZERO to provide technical assistance.

The project was aimed at localising the MDGs with special focus on Goal 6 (combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases). However, MDP failed to formalise the partnership, by not drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Despite several meetings and written reminders to the organisation to this effect, no agreement has been reached. ZERO has therefore suspended its involvement in the project until such time as formal arrangements are made.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Communication and Documentation

Communication Infrastructure

After experiencing a spate of problems with the telephone system leased from Standard Telephones and Cables (STC), ZERO terminated their services and installed a state of the art PABX system and handsets through an outright purchase. Extra protection has also been installed to ensure the safety of this equipment from lightning.

The telephone call logging system, which is used in processing the financial statements, was been upgraded to ensure more refined and accurate data.

ZERO is pleased to report that the problematic leased line email and Internet system was replaced by a state-of-the-art satellite-driven UHF Internet and email system. The UHF is a new generation of wireless communications offering wider coverage that does not require line of site and better data transmission speeds between the customer and the ISP of up to 20 times that of telephone lines. The leased line incurred continuous problems due to the faulty Tel*One telephone lines. The wiring problem has also been rectified following the loss and damage to valuable equipment due to lightning and electricity surges last year.

On yet another sad note, the UHF system throughout the country developed a fault. The unavailability of service kits led to loss of internet and e-mail communication on all clients using the same system. ZERO was not spared from this problem. Thanks to our network members like IUCN-ROSA, who reluctantly offered ZERO the use of its internet and e-mail service so as to keep the cyber communications going. By year-end ZERO's communication was still down.

On the downside, most of the computer equipment at ZERO is now old and is in urgent need of replacement. The harsh economic climate makes it difficult to make new investments in this critical area of communication. Despite these setbacks, the organisation has managed to keep on top of the situation by adopting various innovative measures to ensure communication lines remain open.

ZERO Website

ZERO's website has become a unique marketing tool. Not only is it now more eye-catching and informative, but it is brimming with full text publications and comprehensive coverage of different projects. These include the trade fact sheets, annual reports, presentations, position papers, e-newsletters, technical papers as well as policy briefs.

Thanks to this exciting development, ZERO staff no longer spend valuable time answering the same questions and sending out the same material to different stakeholders. This has resulted in considerable cost savings to the organisation.

Our information products and services have become accessible globally, to prospective visitors and partners 24 hours, 365 days a year.

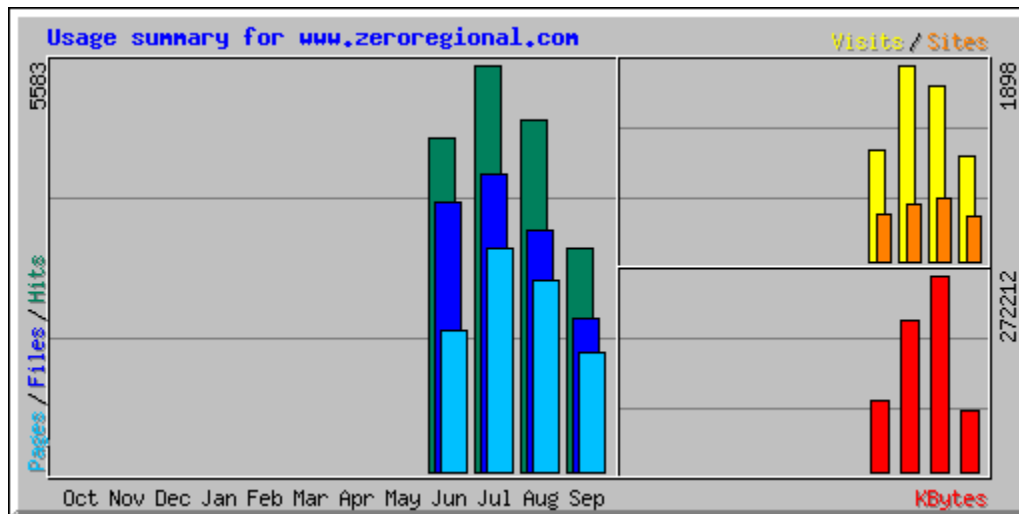
The ZERO website has been re-designed to give it a fresh new look which allow for quicker, easier and more cost-effective updating than print-based media. The website also allows easy, safe communication between the consumer and the organisation so that anyone who visits our site can contact us at any time by sending an email. A “Web contact us” form has been put in place to facilitate such communication.

During the period under review, the email and Internet addresses domains have been changed from .zw to .com to reflect ZERO’s regional status. The e-mail address and web domains became zeroregional .

A separate sub-site has been created for CORN for easy navigation on the network’s activities. As a result of this innovation, CORN members scattered throughout the SADC region will be able to update their individual country pages. This will help fellow members keep abreast of activities in each member country from the comfort of their offices.

During the same period, ZERO’s website received some good hits as illustrated below.

Summary WEB stats for Sept 2005



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	Kbytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Sep 2005	160	110	86	53	444	84543	1025	1642	2107	3054
Aug 2005	155	106	84	54	615	272212	1691	2628	3312	4827
Jul 2005	180	131	99	61	561	209257	1898	3076	4081	5583
Jun 2005	285	230	120	67	452	99648	1077	1930	3686	4569
Totals						665660	5691	9276	13186	18033

Generally, the second half of the year witnessed a marked increase in internet traffic for the ZERO website. July recorded a significant increase in the number of visits. This is shown in the analysis above.

Information, Publications and Exchange

The resources in the library are increasing daily with staff also adding to this growth by accessing publications when attending local and external workshops. Any leads for new documents were followed up promptly. As a result, the library has become a magnet for researchers and information seekers.

During the period under review, ZERO managed to source more than 100 new publications, including journals and magazines, with a focus on climate change. CIVICUS and GEF were among the growing list of organisations which played a major role in boosting the library stock.

These new acquisitions should go a long way in meeting the information needs of interns and other researchers.

Visitors to the library

There was renewed interest in land publications during the period under review and an upsurge in users. Kirk Helleker from SOS Children's Home, Norman Tinarwo (UZ) and Esther Chigumira (Rhodes University, South Africa) benefited from ZERO's rapidly expanding information resource base.

Exchange Agreements

ZERO continues to enjoy the benefits of official exchange agreements with several resource centres, such as, The Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands, African Institute for Agrarian Studies, SAFIRE, SARDC and IUCN-ROSA. As part of the reciprocal agreements, ZERO dispatched copies of the 2004 Policy Brief and the Trade Fact Sheets to these and other partners.

The existence of this mutual exchange facility helps in keeping costs down. In addition, no mailing expenses as publications are posted on the website as free full text resources. A number of publications have been received and deposited in ZERO's resource centre. ZERO itself sent the Cross Border Trade Information pack to all the named partners.

MEETINGS

Throughout its existence, ZERO has made use of meetings and workshops at home, in the region and abroad to raise its profile and establish mutually beneficial partnerships with donors and other NGOs. The period under review was no exception, as evidenced by the number of meetings attended by its staff (see table below).

Local, Regional and International Workshops: Highlights

Local

Annual GESP Partners Consultative Workshop, 6-7 July 2005, St. Lucia Park, Marlborough, Harare

The Gender Equality Support Programme [GESP] is a CIDA fund programme through which development partners access funding for the promotion of gender equity in Zimbabwe. The fund conducted an annual consultative workshop with all of its current partners and partners whose funding had come to an end. The workshop attracted about 42 participants, who represented the different partner organisations, ZERO included. It was held at St. Lucia Park in Marlborough, Harare from 6-7 July 2005.

The consultative workshop sought to achieve the following outputs:

- Increased opportunity for co-ordination, networking and collaboration around gender issues;
- Increased strengthening of partnerships and linkages between organisations;
- Enhanced mobilisation around common gender issues; and
- Strengthened role of GESP in future gender programming.

For CIDA the workshop was therefore an opportunity to critically reflect on efforts being made to promote gender and trace progress during the last five years. It was prudent to check if progress was being made and confirm the change or difference achieved in light of the resources currently available for partners.

Six partners shared achievements, challenges and lessons learnt from working with gender as a development concept, albeit in their different contexts.

A way forward action plan was developed, as a show of commitment to move the agenda for gender equity forward with indications of the type and nature of support required of GESP.

Regional

Developing Regional Guidelines on HIV and AIDS in the Informal Cross-Border Trade Sector in the SADC Region” Pretoria, 19-20 May 2005

The workshop, “*Developing Regional Guidelines on HIV and AIDS for the Informal Cross-Border Trade Sector in the SADC Region*” was held from 19-20 May in Pretoria, South Africa. This workshop is one of the many being implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) under the Partnership on HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations in Southern Africa (PHAMSA).

PHAMSA is a three-year (2004-2006) regional programme, managed from IOM’s regional office for Southern Africa based in Pretoria. The programme aims to reduce the HIV vulnerability of migrants and mobile populations in Southern Africa.

Mr E E Moyo and Mr S Zvigadza co-presented a paper entitled, “The Role of the CORN Network in Facilitating the Establishment and Capacity Building of Cross-Border Trade Associations: Implications for Advocacy and HIV and AIDS Interventions”.

Opportunities for CORN and ZERO

ZERO was identified through its visible efforts, which culminated to a multi-stakeholder regional trade workshop and the subsequent Trade Information Pack. This was coupled with its vast experience in the field of trade, paving way for its participation at the IOM workshop held in Pretoria in May 2005. During the workshop, ZERO was further requested to submit a concept that could see greater recognition for cross-border traders in the SADC and specific SADC countries, where the sector is very active. ZERO responded positively and is awaiting response.

International

International Land Coalition Global Assembly 21-24 March 2005, Bolivia

Mr T Furusa attended the IFAD co-ordinated International Land Coalition Global Assembly held from 21-24 March 2005, in Bolivia. The meeting drew delegates from across the world with a passion for ensuring land rights issues are resolved equitably for the benefit of all.

2nd International Workconference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 21-24 June 2005, The Hague, The Netherlands.

ZERO presented the Tongwe case study as a shining example of a community-based climate change adaptation strategy. The presentation raised ZERO’s profile in the Climate Change sector.

The workshop had the following objectives:

- To bring together local community-based initiatives for climate risk reduction/adaptation in developing countries, to share and document the first experiences and lessons learned, to strengthen the co-operation between these initiatives and to highlight key recommendations for further efforts in this area.
- To exchange experiences and visions on methods and tools for vulnerability and climate risks reduction assessments, their application at local level and to agree on forms of co-operation in the future.
- To discuss experience using financial mechanisms to help local communities adapt to climate variations and climate change, and highlight good practices and lessons learned.
- To exchange experiences linking local action with national and international policies and knowledge centres and to highlight recommendations to increase the synergy between these levels of operations.

At this conference, ZERO established various contacts, which are being actively pursued for possible future funding.

Below is a calendar of events for the reporting period :

LOCAL/REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONS : 2005

LOCAL

EVENT	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS / PURPOSE
UNDP-AFRICA 2000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Steering Committee on GEF Funds 	25 January	J Chigwada	J Chigwada presented a paper highlighting ZERO's leading role on the Sogwala Project.
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory Meeting for Launch of the MDGs Report 	New Ambassador Hotel 10.00 hours - 31 January	S Zvigadza	Working with Government in preparation for the MDGs National Launch. ZERO representing civil society in Government's national taskforce.
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural (UNCCD) Desertification Task Force Meeting 	Department of Natural Resources Boardroom, Makombe Complex Block 1, Corner Herbert Chitepo Avenue and Harare Street 10.00 hours - 4 February	S Zvigadza	Working with Government in preparation for the MDGs National Launch. ZERO representing civil society in Government's national task force.
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDG Preparatory Meeting : 2.30 pm 	8 February	D Manuel	Usual MDG launch preparatory workshop - introduced the concept of GCAP to this meeting, notifying Government of civil society planned activities.
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM	Department of Natural Resources Board	J Chigwada	This was a routine meeting at which SD and progress from Government and civil society

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National UNCCD Desertification Task Force Meeting - 2004 NAP Report 	Room : 9.00 am - 18 February		is reported and discussed.
<p>AFRICA 2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Workshop 	Glen Forest Training Centre 1 - 4 March	J Chigwada and 2 representatives from Temaruru	Temaruru Power from the Wind Project - according to the SGP of GEF, at the beginning of a project, orientation and induction training takes place. In the case of the wind project, J Chigwada and two community members of the Temaruru Community Trust attended this training.
<p>SAFAIDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAFAIDS Regional HIV/AIDS 	Information Resource Centre 11.00 to 12.30 - 17 March	S Zvigadza	ZERO participated for the purpose of reviewing the resource centre services
<p>ENVIRONMENT AFRICA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGM 	National Gallery 12.30 hours - 22 March	S Zvigadza	Annual General Meeting
IUCN - B10 HUB PLATFORM	St Lucia Park, Chrichton Park, Marlborough 10.00 hours - 8 April	T Furusa	This was a “gentlemen’s club” on environmental development drawing all key civil society institutions working in environment
<p>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM BOARD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11th National Committee on Sustainable Development Meeting 	15 th Floor Karigamombe Centre 9.00 hours - 26 April	S Zvigadza	ZERO attended to discuss at this preparatory meeting the launch of Government's response to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPI)
<p>Marondera Municipality Boardroom - MDPESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDGs 	7 th Floor, Hurudza House, 14-16 Nelson Mandela Avenue 6 May	J Chigwada S Zvigadza	Discussions centred on possible collaboration between ZERO and Municipal Development Programme (MDP) in the Marondera Municipality MDGs project
UNESCO - Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO/UNESCO Cluster Office Joint Planning Retreat	Kadoma Ranch Hotel 2-3 June	J Chigwada	J Chigwada attended this meeting in hid capacity as chair of the Scientific and Technology Programme of UNESCO. This is the UN agency’s annual meeting at which it discusses its programming for the next two years.
ZIMBABWE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO Specialised Standing Committee Meeting	Ministry of Higher & Tertiary Education Boardroom, 4 th Floor 10.30 hours - 30 June	J Chigwada	J Chigwada attended the meeting in his capacity as chair of UNESCO’s Scientific and Technology Programme
<p>AIAS (AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR AGRARIAN STUDIES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Launch – “Reclaiming the Land” 	Ambassador Hotel 17.30 - 18.00 hours 1 July	J Chigwada	The ceremony was held to mark the launch of a book authored by Professor Sam Moyo, the chair of ZERO Board During the launch various aspects of this book were discussed. The debate was lively.
CIDA-GESP CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP	St Lucia Park 6-7 July	S Zvigadza	ZERO participated in the workshop to review the GESP programme. The main objective was to ascertain how CIDA could work better with its partners.
<p>FRENCH NATIONAL DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reception 	23 York Road, Greendale, Harare 13.00 hours - 14 July	J Chigwada/ Y Vannson	ZERO attended mainly for networking and socialising. Follow-up was made with the Canadian Ambassador and UNDP-AURP.

<p>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM</p> <p>National Common Position on Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12th Meeting of National Commission for Sustainable Development 	<p>12th Floor, Kaguvi Building</p> <p>9.00 hours - 3 August</p>	<p>S Zvigadza</p>	<p>ZERO used this meeting to outline its future role in the task force.</p>
<p>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM (MET)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNCCD Desertification Task Force Meeting 	<p>Natural Resources Boardroom, Makombe Complex, Block 1</p> <p>5 August</p>	<p>J Chigwada</p>	<p>The re-organisation of the UNCCD focal point for Zimbabwe was discussed and the way forward proposed was a meeting to elect a new focal point. The US\$500 000 was discussed. N feedback received to date.</p>
<p>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM (MET)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zimbabwe MDGs 2005 Progress Report Preparatory Workshop 	<p>Pandari Lodge</p> <p>8.30 hours - 11 August</p>	<p>S Zvigadza/ J Chigwada</p>	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to review the Government MDGs Report. Notes extracted from this meeting for inclusion in the Sustainability Watch National Report.</p>
<p>IUCN GENDER WORKSHOP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GENDER & HIV/AIDS MAINSTREAMING 	<p>Cresta Lodge</p> <p>15 - 19 August</p>	<p>J Chigwada/ S Zvigadza/ Y Vannson</p>	<p>Training workshop on Gender and HIV/AIDS. ZERO representatives discussed possible collaboration with SAFAIDS, specifically on possible mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the Power from the Wind project at Temaruru.</p>
<p>ITDG - DROUGHT MITIGATION ROUND TABLE</p>	<p>4 Ludlow Road, Newlands</p> <p>8.30-16.00 hours - 17 August</p>	<p>J Chigwada</p>	<p>Various civil society organisations dealing with drought convened. Various presentations were delivered and the main aim was to come up with a project proposal targeted for DFID. ZERO presented a paper on wind power and has a chance of benefiting from this funding.</p>
<p>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of the National Response to Johannesburg Plan of Implementation Report and Sustainable Development Website 	<p>12th Floor, Kaguvi Building</p> <p>11.00 hours - 19 August</p>	<p>J Chigwada</p>	<p>This was the launch of the JPI by Minister Nhema of Environment and Tourism</p>
<p>TEMARURU TRAINING WORKSHOP</p>	<p>23-25 August</p>	<p>J Chigwada/ Y Vannson</p>	<p>The first 28 members of the community were trained by one of the TAC members, Mr Tawanda Madzinga. The training focused on the various aspects of business start-up, development and skills. This training was overseen and planned by J Chigwada</p>
<p>IUCN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honorary Membership Award to Professor Murphree 	<p>UZ Council Room, Administration Block</p> <p>15.00 hours - 26 August</p>	<p>J Chigwada</p>	<p>ZERO attended this award to Professor Murphree at the invitation of IUCN-ROSA. This award gives the Professor life membership in IUCN World Conservation Union</p>
<p>NANGO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Workshop For Zimbabwe Civil Society Position To African Civil Society Shadow 	<p>Crowne Plaza, Monomotapa</p> <p>10.00 - 13.00 hours - 29 August</p>	<p>S Zvigadza/ Y Vannson</p>	<p>Obtained information for the SusWatch National Report.</p>

Report			
ITDG • Official Launch - Name Change to PRACTICAL ACTION	4 Ludlow Road, Newlands 11.00 - 13.00 hours - 30 August	J Chigwada	Launch of the new look and rebranding ITDG for networking and public relations.
MDG 2005 PROGRESS REPORT WORKSHOP • Thematic Group on Social Development and Agriculture	New Ambassador Hotel 8.30 - 10.30 hours - 1 September	S Zvigadza	Finalisation of the Review of Government's Progress Report on the MDGs
MDG 2005 PROGRESS REPORT WORKSHOP • Thematic Group on Education	New Ambassador Hotel 11.00 - 13.00	S Zvigadza	Finalisation of the Review of Government's Progress Report on the MDGs.
MDG 2005 PROGRESS REPORT WORKSHOP • Thematic Group on Gender	New Ambassador Hotel 14.30 - 16.30 hours	S Zvigadza	Finalisation of the Review of Government's Progress Report on the MDGs.
MDG 2005 PROGRESS REPORT WORKSHOP • Thematic Group on HIV/AIDS	New Ambassador Hotel 11.00 - 13.00 hours - 2 September	S Zvigadza	Finalisation of the Review of Government's Progress Report on the MDGs.
UN/GOVERNMENT • National Launch of MDGs	Sheraton Hotel 8.00 - 13.00 hours - 8 September	D Manuel/ J Chigwada/ S Zvigadza/ Y Vannson	ZERO coordinated the civil society exhibition and attendance of these organisations at this launch. Distributed T-shirts to the President, Vice Presidents and ministries involved in Goals 1, 7 and 8.
UNICEF • Children's Summit	Sheraton Hotel 15.00 - 18.00 hours - 8 September	D Manuel	Occasion to mark launch of the UNICEF Orphans and Vulnerable Groups programme. Vice-President Joice Mujuru was the guest of honour.
TRADE & DEVELOPMENT STUDIES CENTRE (TRADES CENTRE) & FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG (FES) • Regional Conference on SADC and ESA Experiences in Negotiating Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union (EU)	Harare Holiday Inn 14-16 September	S Zvigadza	Main objectives of this conference: -Share experiences in EPAs negotiations with the EU -Find out areas of convergence and divergence between SADC and ESA -Re-strategise on the way forward for effective negotiations
BIOTECHNOLOGY TRUST OF ZIMBABWE • National Stakeholders' Workshop on Exploitation and Management of Biodiversity and the Environment in Zimbabwe	Mandel Training Centre 27-28 September	J Chigwada	Objectives were to endeavour to: -Establish the status, including identifying gaps and constraints/challenges with respect to legislation on exploitation and management of biodiversity and the environment in Zimbabwe -Raise awareness among key stakeholders on the issues -Discuss and map a way forward for coordinated stakeholder participation in the issues.
Africa 2000 • Tour of AF2+N/GEF/SGP SUPPORTED PROGRAMMES	17-21 October	J Chigwada	Key objectives of the tour are for the delegates to: -Appreciate real work on the ground

			<p>particularly in the semi-arid dry areas of Zimbabwe were most of the programmes are operational.</p> <p>-Observe capacity building methodologies in practice.</p> <p>-Identify gaps for improvement and additional support financially and technically.</p> <p>-Identify areas of forging new partnering to enhance sustainable development so that the communities realise their benefits in totality.</p> <p>Projects to be visited in Gweru, Chiredzi, Chipinge and Mutare</p>
IUCN Zimbabwe National Committee meeting	11 November 2005	J. Chigwada	The meeting was called in order to strategise for a meeting scheduled for 18 November 2005 with the IUCN Head of Global Programmes Mr Bill Jackson. The purpose of meeting with him was on the establishment of the Zimbabwe IUCN office and the Zimbabwe programmes. ZERO and 3 other organisations were selected to come up with the programmes.
IUCN Zimbabwe National Committee meeting	17 November 2005	J. Chigwada	Establishment of office and development of Zimbabwe programmes with a regional inclination
Zimbabwe Environmental Education Consultative Forum (ZWEECF)	15 December 2005	S. Zvigadza	The workshop was aimed at developing a five year Implementing strategy for sectors in Environmental Education

REGIONAL

EVENT	VENUE & TIME	OFFICERS ATTENDING	COMMENTS/PURPOSE
UNEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Global Civil Society Forum 	Nairobi, Kenya 19-20 February	J Chigwada	Annually UNEP hold a series of meetings. As a member of the UNEP Africa Steering Committee. The meeting is organised in two parts --- the first is for civil society and the second is the governing council. ZERO attended both.
UNEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 Governing Council 	Nairobi, Kenya 21-25 February	J Chigwada	See above
GCAP, Nairobi, Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Call To Action Against Poverty, 	Nairobi, Kenya 30-31 March	T Furusa	UN Millennium Development Goals --- as the national coordinator of the Zimbabwe MDG campaign, ZERO was requested to attend this meeting. At this meeting the NOVIB call for proposals was discussed and explained.
European Investment Bank Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop with Environmental and 	The Rose Bank Hotel, Johannesburg 21 April	J Chigwada	Various environmental and developmental NGOs attended this workshop on "economic development, environment and

Developmental NGOs			good governance". This workshop is part of an ongoing dialogue between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and NGOs. It gives local and regional NGOs an opportunity to meet with the bank's specialised staff and discuss topics of common interest.
International Organisation of Migration (IOM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing HIV/AIDS Guidelines 	Pretoria, South Africa 19-20 May	S Zvigadza	Discussed HIV vulnerability surrounding mobile populations. IOM requested ZERO submit a Concept Paper on setting up national associations in the SADC region.
CIDC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population working in Informal Cross-Border Trading in SADC Region 	Durban, South Africa 19-20 May	D Manuel	D Manuel attended this landmark workshop in ZERO's capacity as the regional secretariat of CORN and presented a paper giving the background of CORN. The workshop presented ample opportunities to network and secure contacts for CORN and ZERO.
Gender & GCAP	Johannesburg, South Africa 20-23 June	D Manuel	As the Zimbabwe National Coordinator, ZERO was invited to this meeting. The workshop was convened to bring African women on board in the GCAP campaign, to launch women's rights in the campaign, to affirm statements and positions from the women's perspective develop a roadmap for African women in the GCAP campaign and to provide space for sharing of experiences.
AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY STUDIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLACC Project Training Workshop 	Kisumu, Kenya 24-28 October	J Chigwada	To enable a ZERO representative to supervise health studies in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia on the CLACC Health Studies Project.

INTERNATIONAL

IDS-CLIMATE CHANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Workshop on Community Level Adaptation to Climate Change 	Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh 16-18 January	J Chigwada	Planning discussed at this meeting for CLACC events of the year. The main events would be preparation and attendance of COPs and the LCD Climate and Adaptation case studies. Finalisation of Linking Climate to Adaptation case studies.
IFAD ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Coalition 	Santa Cruz, Bolivia 19-23 March	T Furusa	Many contacts made and the opportunity to discuss the ZERO proposal and funding status. IFAD promised to do something about this funding - no action to date.
CLACC (IIED) (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice - SBSTA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16TH & 17TH Seminars - Mitigation and Adaptation 	Bonn, Germany 13-23 May	J Chigwada	The Seminar of Governmental Experts on Adaptation and Mitigation was held from 16- 17 May 2005 at the Maritime Hotel in Bonn, Germany. The decision to hold this seminar was made by the Parties at the Tenth Conference of Parties (COP10) to the

			<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2004.</p> <p>ZERO presented the Tongwe Case Study at a side event.</p>
GEF	<p>United States of America</p> <p>29 - 8 June</p>	D Manuel	<p>The GEF Council meeting provides a slot for NGOs to participate and an opportunity to assess the status of the GEF. This meeting is attended by very influential people, governments and donors, and provides a good opportunity to solicit funding.</p> <p>The RFPs discussed the MSP to UNEP to provide funding for the RFP to conduct workshops in the regions and provide information for GEF-accredited organisations. There is a strong chance that this funding will come through and as a RFP, ZERO will benefit.</p>
<p>RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE - International Work Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction 	<p>The Hague, Netherlands</p> <p>21-24 June</p>	S Zvigadza	<p>Climate Change and Disaster Management were the subject of this workshop at which ZERO presented the Tongwe Case Study.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Conference of Parties 	<p>Montreal, Canada</p> <p>28 - 9 December</p>	J Chigwada	<p>Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

Re-Focusing and Re-Engineering

As previously mentioned, in the Director's Statement, the year 2005 was characterised by a major shift of ZERO's focus, image and thinking.

Motivational Meetings

Energised staff members for the first time got the opportunity to meet with a humorous, yet positive motivator (Development Consultant) in all the strategic meetings. A new way of thinking and of approaching work and life were introduced in all the meetings, held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Monday session was meant to introduce new ideas, staff would have conceived during the weekend. Wednesdays were set aside to review progress on ongoing activities. They were meant to identify areas of divergence and convergence (progress and problems) and then assist each individual to re-focus and soldier on from a "can't do" to a "can do" mode.

These planning meetings brought excitement and fun as well as enhanced professionalism in the organisation. They brought new concepts like "scripting." Scripting was found to be helpful especially before attending a meeting outside ZERO. "Now we feel confident to go to meetings and talk about ZERO without fear of misrepresenting facts . . . it's now clear," said Patricia Chikuni (then ZERO



Information Officer) who at the time was preparing to meet the Swedish Embassy Staff.

Organisation's functions, mission and objectives

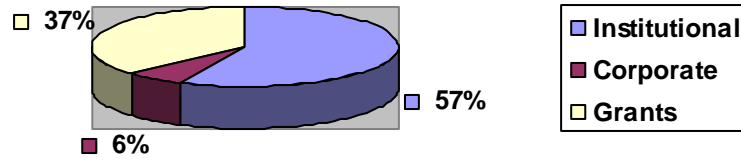
ZERO Regional Environment Organisation is the premier research, planning and implementation non-governmental agency operating in the Southern African region since 1987. ZERO co-ordinates, facilitates and evaluates all types and levels of development projects. Some areas of activities are, for example, research into and development of wind-driven turbine electrical generation for rural areas, land and water resource management, information technology expansion, alleviation of HIV/AIDS economic and social impacts, regional trade issues and organising national and regional seminars and conferences.

ZERO's vision is a paradigm shift, changing minds, promoting prosperity for all. Its mission is to work with rural and urban communities fostering balanced, healthy growth

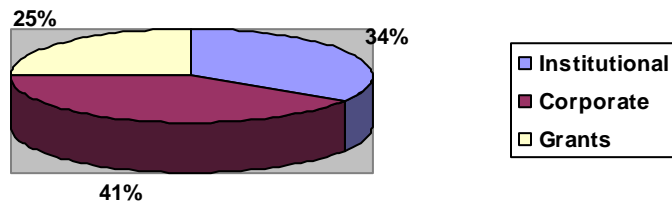
and self-reliance within a rapidly changing world. ZERO's dynamic vision and mission statement are reflective of a local agency, functioning regionally, thinking globally.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2005

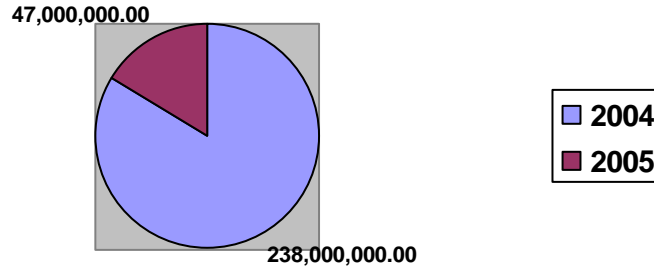
Income



Expenditure

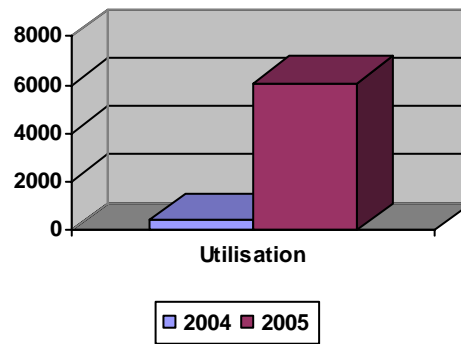
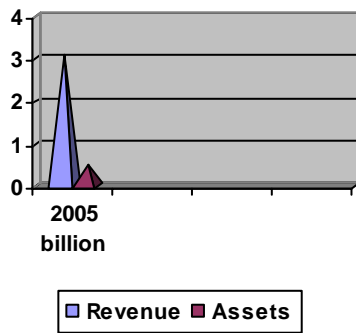


Value Added (millions)



Asset Utilisation - Management Operating Efficiency (millions)

	2004 (millions)	2005 (millions/billions)
Revenue	696 000 000.00	3 100 000 000.00
Assets	1 800 000.00	509 000.00
Utilisation	390.27	6076.97



These graphic representations are drawn from the 2005 Audited Financial Statements which are available at ZERO offices.

