

and services in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies, and procedures, (iii) identification and facilitation of training activities, including fellowships and study tours, (iv) access to the UNDP-managed global information system, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and (v) access to the support provided by the network of UN Specialised agencies, funds and programmes.

Part IX: Commitments of the Government

The Government of the State of Eritrea will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) of 11 June 1994. The Government shall apply the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations agencies to UNDP's property, funds, and assets and to its officials and consultants.

The Government of the State of Eritrea is fully committed to supporting the United Nations Development Programme in achieving the CPAP Goals. To this end the Government shall make all efforts to contribute whenever possible, both in-cash and in-kind, to facilitate the operationalisation and successful implementation of the CPAP. In addition, the Government will commit to contributing to UNDP's general operating costs through its yearly Government Local Office Contribution (GLOC) payments and will also be committed to supporting UNDP in its efforts to raise the funds required to meet the additional financial needs of the country programme.

The Government of the State of Eritrea is also committed to organising periodic programme review, planning and joint strategy meetings and where appropriate, coordination of sectoral and thematic development partner groups to facilitate the participation of donors, civil society, private sector and UN agencies. The Government and UNDP will jointly monitor the progress of the results and resource framework through periodic programme review and evaluation exercises. All efforts shall be made to ensure the participation of concerned stakeholders including, donors, and other partners. In addition, the Government will facilitate periodic monitoring visits by UNDP staff and/or designated officials for the purpose of monitoring, meeting beneficiaries, assessing the progress and evaluating the impact of the use of programme resources. The Government will make available to UNDP in a timely manner any information about policy and legislative changes occurring during the implementation of the CPAP that might have an impact on co-operation.

Part X: Other Provisions

This CPAP enters into force on the date signed by both Parties and in the event that the CPAP is signed on different dates, then it shall enter into force on the date of the later signature. The CPAP shall continue in force until 31/12/2011.


This CPAP supersedes any previously signed project documents between the Government of the State of Eritrea and UNDP and may be modified by mutual consent of both parties on the recommendations of the joint strategy meeting.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised, have signed this Country Programme Action Plan on this day, 16th of February 2011 in Asmara, Eritrea.

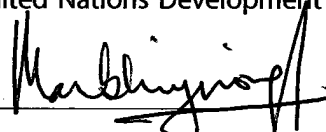
For the Government of the State of Eritrea

For the United Nations Development Programme
Eritrea

Signature: _____



Signature: _____



Name: Dr. Woldai Futur

Name: Mr. Macleod Nyirongo

Title: Minister of National Development

Title: Resident Representative



The State of Eritrea



Government of the State of
Eritrea
and

United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)

Country Programme Action Plan
(CPAP)

2007-2011

Asmara, December 2006

The Framework

The Government of the State of Eritrea and the UNDP-Eritrea are in mutual agreement as to the content of this document and their responsibilities in the implementation of the country programme.

Furthering their mutual agreement and cooperation for the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Conventions and Summits to which the Government of Eritrea and UNDP are committed.

Building upon the experience gained and progress made during the implementation of the previous Country Programme (2002 to 2006),

Entering into a new period of cooperation (2007 to 2011),

Declare that these responsibilities will be fulfilled in a spirit of close cooperation and have agreed as follows:

For the Government of State of Eritrea

Name:

Title:

For the United Nations Development Programme

Name:

Title:

Part I: Basis of Relationship

WHEREAS the Government of the State of Eritrea (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA), which was signed by both parties on 11 June 1994. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonisation initiative. In light of this decision, this CPAP together with an Annual Work Plan (AWP) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.

Part II: Situation Analysis

Since independence significant efforts have been exerted to enhance the process of democratic governance and to establish an efficient system of public administration. The Country’s Constitution was ratified in May 1997. A number of complementary measures have been taken in the areas of justice and decentralisation. The Civil Code, Civil Procedures, Commercial Code, Penal Code and Procedure are drafted and harmonised. A process has also been initiated to consolidate all laws, conventions and other instruments. The Country has established Community Courts to enhance communities’ access to the justice system. Progress has been made in the empowerment process and decentralisation that resulted in the configuration of the country into six regional administrations. At the regional and local levels, elections for local administrators, village councillors and regional assemblies took place in 2002 and 2005. To enhance local participatory planning, a project is being piloted in the Regional Administration of Anseba. The law provides equal rights and opportunities for women and Eritrea has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995. A series of complementary measures geared to enhance women’s rights, opportunities and participation have also been taken despite culturally oriented impediments remaining as key challenges to be addressed. In brief, the country has made significant progress in these directions; yet, the gains achieved thus far have to be sustained and deepened in all future endeavours to attain meaningful results.

In Eritrea, the early years of independence that stretched from 1993-1997 were characterised by significant socio-economic progress with an average GDP growth of 7.4 %, increases in per capita income and other marked improvements. Data reckoned from the Common Country Assessment (CCA, 2005) indicate that the government budget deficit was reduced to about 6.0% of GDP, inflation was down to 5.0%, external reserves built up to sufficiently cover seven months of the country’s import bills, and the difference between the official and the parallel market in foreign exchange was marginal. Commendable progress was made in rehabilitating infrastructure (roads, seaports, schools, health facilities, etc.). On the other hand, the period since 1998 was hampered by the sudden eruption of the border war (1998-2000) with Ethiopia. During the last five years the economy did not perform as well due to the border war and the lingering demarcation stalemate compounded by recurrent droughts, severe resource constraints, and human capacity gaps. For instance, Eritrea’s Human Development Index (Human Development Report,

2005), having improved from 0.416 to 0.446 between 1999 and 2001, fell back to 0.439 in 2002. In 2005, Eritrea's ranking of 161 on the HDI was six points below its 2002 rank. Internally Displaced People (IDPs), expellees, urban poor, the disabled, pastoralists, female-headed households, orphans, and high-risk HIV/AIDS groups have been particularly hard hit. Within these groups, women and children continue to be the most disadvantaged, both socially and economically. Until recently there were about 50,000 IDPs sheltered in camps and being assisted with emergency aid. The resettlement and reintegration process of this population is currently underway with significant implications for extra resource mobilisation. At this stage, most of the IDPs are back to their original villages or other settlement areas; however, much remains to be done if they are to lead normal, productive lives.

Though the contribution of agriculture to GDP is low (15-20%), about two thirds of the Eritrean population depends on subsistence agriculture for its livelihood. The sector is highly exposed to the vagaries of nature and its production level low that it hardly covers subsistence consumption even in good harvests; ipso facto, the country tends to face continued chronic food deficits. Even at times of good harvest, for instance in the crop year of 1998/99, Eritrea produced only 60-70 % of its domestic food requirements. In 2002, agricultural production was equivalent to 30% of the country's domestic food requirements and the quest for food security remains as one of the key challenges facing the Country.

Since independence, significant efforts have been exerted to improve the educational and health sectors of the Country, especially in terms of expanded facilities development, wider access opportunities, and quality service provision. Though commendable progress has been made in the respective output areas of these efforts, the performance of the educational and health sectors still require special attention. The Country is on track to achieve the MDGs relating to gender equality in primary education, child health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, other diseases and access to safe drinking water. However, it is behind schedule in the two crucial areas of eradicating extreme poverty and the achievement of universal primary education. Also, water for domestic use, livestock, irrigation, industry and other uses remains scarce and the threat of the pandemic disease HIV/AIDS (though contained at present) requires considerable investment in HIV prevention and AIDS care treatment and support programmes. Regarding shelter, the Country is faced with acute housing shortages, especially in the urban areas. Although housing construction efforts have been undertaken in the major towns, the supply cannot presently meet the cumulative demand. The high cost of construction materials have accentuated the shortage of housing, especially in the urban areas of the Country. The post border conflict years have also witnessed increasing resorts to administrative measures for managing the economy.

Given its arid and semi-arid climatic conditions, Eritrea is endowed with a fragile environment. Both natural and manmade forces have contributed to the relatively fast environmental degradation in the Country. Population pressure with its adverse impacts on the environment is intense, especially in the highlands. About 96% of energy consumption in the rural areas is biomass, thereby damaging the forest stock of the country. Soil erosion is a serious problem and continued wars as well as persistent droughts have caused soil to lose its vegetation cover and agricultural productivity has been adversely affected. Beyond the Country's accession to seven global environment and energy conventions, attempts to reverse the worsening trends include: integrated land reclamation activities, a rural electrification fund, pilot wind power projects, preliminary geothermal studies, among others. However, extra efforts need to be embarked upon if these initial schemes are to be furthered and bear meaningful results.

In a nutshell, the border war with Ethiopia and its lingering economic effects, coupled with the recurrent droughts over the last five years, have eroded the immediate independence gains. The key challenges in the Government's efforts to promote a sustainable socio economic development and to achieve the MDGs, inter alia, include: restoring macroeconomic stability and sustained economic growth; ensuring food security; enhancing capacities for competent public service delivery; and mobilising the required resources. To redress the development challenges it faces, during the last five years, the Government has prepared strategy and policy documents, and taken critical measures towards policy reform, viz.:

- Interim-Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP);

- Food Security Strategy (FSS);
- National Water Supply Emergency Action Plan;
- National Gender Action Plan (NGAP, 2003-2008);
- Education Sector Development Programme (ESDP).

Human and institutional capacity gaps have posed delays and difficulties in terms of the implementation of these policy initiatives. National capacity issues and constraints have emerged as key concerns in the CCA process underpinning most development challenges across all sectors. The issues are even more serious at the regional and local levels. Accordingly, a long-term effort is required to build capacity at the central, regional and local levels, as well as at a sectoral level. UNDP support will target public service providers with strategic focus on priority sectors. Special emphasis also needs to be given to support capacity development that enhances effective planning, monitoring, management and implementation.

Part III: Past Cooperation and Lessons Learned

Under the second Country Cooperation Framework (CCF II: 2002-2006), UNDP resources were largely allocated to three thematic areas: (a) promotion of democratic governance; (b) promotion of sustainable management of natural resources, renewable energy and the environment; and (c) promotion of sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor economic growth. All three areas are aimed at supporting the Government's long-term goal of poverty reduction.

3.1 Democratic Governance

In order to promote democratic governance, UNDP provided support to (i) Eritrea's emerging civil/public sector and (ii) nascent justice system as well as to (iii) its recently decentralised administrative structures and further decentralisation efforts. UNDP's support in this programme area led to the following achievements: (a) establishment of a Civil Service Administration and strengthening of the Ministry of National Development as well as an ongoing programme to strengthen their capacity; and (b) promotion of transparency and accountability through review and harmonisation of the Civil Code, Civil Procedures, Commercial Code, Penal Code and Procedures; drafting of procedures needed to enforce the implementation of the Constitution; and establishment of Alternative Dispute Resolution-compliant community courts.

While Eritrea has established a programme of fiscal, administrative and political decentralisation, the institutional and legal framework for greater participation, accountability and transparency at the regional, sub-regional and community levels are not fully in place. A Pilot Anseba Local Development Programme currently under implementation with the aim to improve the capacities of local authorities and rural communities to set development priorities, designing projects through training in participatory planning, financial management and project implementation, is yielding good results and tangible positive lessons to be replicated in other regions of the country. For decentralisation at regional and sub-regional levels to effectively function, capacity development is to be encouraged through such demonstrative programmes and projects that are geared to involve the active participation and shared responsibilities of different actors.

3.2 Environment and Energy

Towards the promotion of sustainable management of natural resources, renewable energy and the environment, UNDP specifically supported the Government efforts to (a) promote and use renewable and other energy sources; (b) ensure sustainable management of Eritrea's coastal, marine and island biodiversity; and (c) implement selected elements of the National Action Programme on Desertification. UNDP's support resulted in:

- The establishment of a functioning Multi-Sectoral Planning and Coordination Committee to guide and advise the CMI biodiversity project; the implementation of the Awareness Action Plan; the

drafting of a State of the Coast Report; and the planning of an Integrated Approach to Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);

- An ongoing project to develop wind-energy, which aims to build the capacity of relevant public and private institutions to use and promote renewable energy;
- The implementation of a project aimed at follow-up actions to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on desertification;
- The preparation of a proposal for Integrated Sustainable Land Management, and;
- The preparation of a proposal to implement the Second National Communication to COP of UNFCCC.

During the current CCA period, UNDP has assisted Eritrea to implement several important environment and energy-related international conventions and agreements.

The Government has taken a series of measures to address environmental problems, making progress in raising public awareness and combating land degradation in the last five years. Its efforts are to be commended for mainstreaming environmental issues in the policy making and priority setting although this needs to be strengthened further. On the other hand, the lack of approved national and sectoral environmental laws and the slow implementation of the Land Proclamation of 1994 are still regarded as serious constraints to the implementation of environmental policies and reinforcement of regulations.

3.3 Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods and Pro-Poor Economic Growth

With regard to the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and pro-poor economic growth, UNDP supported the formulation of (a) Eritrea's first I-PRSP; as well as (b) the National Food Security Strategy; (c) Housing Urban Development Policy and housing/urban implantation plan; and (d) the 2005-2009 National Strategic Plan for Mine Action. It also supported (e) low-cost housing delivery as well as (f) the process of demobilisation of military personnel, including a highly successful Technical Assistance Programme in support of the social and economic reintegration of Eritrean soldiers, and (g) the return/resettlement of close to 29,000 IDPs and expellees, including shelter and sustainable livelihood assistance.

Additionally, working closely with UNIDO, support was provided to a limited extent for institutional capacity in the provision of business development services, micro-finance development and the general promotion of small-scale enterprises as a means of generating employment and income. The enabling environment for microfinance activities improved and capacities of micro-finance institutions were enhanced to a certain level.

Broad Observations, Specific results and Lessons Learned:

While there was no mid term-review of the CCF II, some assessments of development results and certain project and programme evaluations and impact studies have identified notable lessons learned from previous cooperation strategies. Some of these comprise:

- Enhancing poverty reduction strategies and increasing upstream policy dialogue;
- Focusing on thematic integration between numerous dispersed initiatives and projects;
- Enhancing partnerships for maximum impact;
- Establishing realistic resource targets and;
- Ensuring effective programme management, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Whereas the assistance to IDPs (recovery) and mine action-related activities has had relatively high levels of donor funding, other areas of equal or greater significance remained under funded for various reasons. This imbalance needs to be redressed during the CPAP period by attracting significant bilateral funding. Hence, a robust resource mobilisation approach needs to be followed providing equal consideration and opportunities for the new thematic sectors of the CPD/CPAP. Given the problems related to UNDP's core

resources, it is critical that such funds are deployed catalytically and supplemented with non-core resources.

Specific lessons learnt, among others, include:

- The need to maintain the conceptual framework of the country programme during the lifespan of the programme to ensure consistency and focus, but with a certain degree of flexibility that will allow for adjustments if the situation requires;
- The need to support a realistic and operationally meaningful Results Based Management approach with a strong monitoring and tracking component that ensures timely delivery and effective results;
- That joint programming will have tangible results when participating UN Agencies are committed to work together and allocate substantial resource in support of the program
- That outcome evaluation is critical in the formulation of the country programme strategy and should be undertaken well in advance to assist in the formulation of the next country programme.

During the third programme cycle, capacity gaps and lack of data remain at all levels and continue to hinder the programme formulation and implementation process as well as programme sustainability. While National Execution will remain the favoured mode of operation because of its benefits to strengthen national ownership and build national capacity. On exceptional circumstances, other modalities may be adopted if justified based on nature and complexity of the project and national capacity to execute it.

Part IV: Proposed Programmes

The overall objective of the 2007-2011 UNDP support programme will be geared towards creating national capacity in priority areas. The programme is based on the lessons learned during the previous programme period, on the new CCA, on the new UNDAF (2007-2011), and the UNDP Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF, 2004-2007). In addition the programme responds to commitments endorsed under the Millennium Development Goals. It is also in line with the RBA Strategy – Capacity Development for Pro-Poor Growth and accountability. Moreover, it will contribute to UNDP practice areas and will focus on cooperation in mutually reinforcing sectors, including the cross-cutting themes of knowledge networking, gender equity, promotion of rights, and information and communication technology (ICT) for development.

In response to the goals and targets of the MDGs and the Convention of the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UNDP will advocate for and promote gender equality and women's' empowerment. UNDP will ensure that programmes, projects, and approaches are gender-responsive.

The consultative process leading to the preparation of the CPAP began through the Common Country Assessment (CCA), as a precursor to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process. Through the CCA and UNDAF, partners developed a common appreciation and understanding of the development challenges facing Eritrea. This facilitated the preparation of a Country Programme Document (CPD) and eventually a Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP).

UNDP programmes will be closely aligned against the five key outcome areas of the UNDAF, namely:

- Support in increasing equitable access and utilization of quality basic social services, with particular emphasis on improving the access vulnerable groups to these services;
- The establishment of an integrated and effective development planning, monitoring and evaluation framework to address the shortfalls in attaining the MDG targets and the implementation of the MD;
- Improvement of access to food for the most vulnerable population sectors, thereby contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 (MDG1), and working towards environmental sustainability (MDG7).

- Assist the government through an integrated multi-sector approach to ensure that IDPs, expellees, returnees and other war and drought affected communities are reintegrated and have secure livelihoods and access to basic services;
- Support the attainment of equal opportunities, rights, benefits and obligations for women in all areas of life.

Opportunities for joint programming were also identified during the UNDAF process. UNDP jointly with other UN Agencies will be involved in developing and upgrading national capacity in the following joint program areas:

- Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Shelter and human settlement
- HIV/AIDS
- Data for monitoring and evaluation of MDGs
- Strengthening the planning, monitoring and evaluation and implementation capacity
- Strengthening Justice (the legislative capacity)
- Disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation
- Food security (comprehensive Joint Plan)
- Recovery Programme
- Joint Programme on Gender

Programme Components

4.1. Component 1: National Capacity Development for Attaining MDG Targets

This programme outcome concentrates on capacity development of key institutional and human capacities that will contribute towards the achievement of the MDGs in an effective way. The programme outcome will benefit both from on-going projects and new programmes geared to enhance capacities at different levels. The thrust of the different programmes is to improve the overall national planning process, development management and ensure competent public service delivery. The on-going projects and new programmes set out towards this end are as follows:

4.1.1 Capacity Development of the Ministry of National Development (UNDP)

Under this programme, the MND will benefit from both the on-going capacity development project and the new capacity development programmes related to planning as a whole. Under the on-going project, UNDP has provided various basic support systems in order to enable the MND to engage in its development and planning responsibilities. Activities that are as yet incomplete under the on-going capacity development project for the Ministry will be continued during the forthcoming programme cycle and will wrap up by 2007. As per the Government's preferred choices, these activities will concentrate on strengthening national capacity in technical and scientific analysis concerning mineral property and proposed mining investment, developing a draft model for mining contract agreements and skills development to conduct effective negotiation in mining exploration and operations agreement with prospective international mining companies. This will be implemented through relevant capacity building workshops and training, research and study, technical and legal assistance as well as provision of equipment and supplies.

The remaining activities related to planning under the on-going project will be completed as integral components of the new capacity development support for the overall planning process (Refer 4.1.2 below).

4.1.2 Strengthening capacities to plan, deliver, monitor, and evaluate at national, regional, and local levels (Joint programme): (UNFPA, ILO, UNICEF, WB, UNCDF, WHO)

This joint programme will have two distinct but interlinked areas of focus:

a) At the national and sectoral levels:

This component of the UNDP programme aims to strengthen the institutional and human capacities at national and sectoral levels to formulate policies, plan, coordinate, implement, and evaluate national development processes. At the national level, strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of National Development (MND) will be a priority and this renewed capacity development support package will build up on the on-going project that primarily focused on the establishment of the Ministry itself and lay down some requisite capacities for the initial take-off stage.

The new programme aims at deepening the achievements so far attained under the on-going project (described under 4.1.1) and expand the capacities of the MND and other key national stakeholders to adopt an effective planning and budgeting process, including periodic review of the effects of new/ revised national and sub-national plans on the realization of MDGs. It will also strengthen the capacity of the Government to monitor and evaluate including progress reporting of development programmes/plans. These capacity strengthening support packages across the interlocked chain of development planning and management processes will be comprehensive and integrated throughout the whole system. The programme component will promote policy frameworks and build institutional and human capacities of key national stakeholders to effectively participate in the whole process of development planning, economic management and coordination, and constructive policy dialogue. To this end, appropriate awareness raising and training including required planning equipment will be provided as part of this capacity enhancing programme. In addition, relevant guidelines and manuals on development planning and management will be prepared and produced. As a component of strengthening the planning process, UNDP will support the Government in the establishment of the Central Mapping Agency. UNDP will also support capacity development in the Ministry of Tourism and Office of Auditor General.

b) At the Regional and local levels:

In a similar vein as in the case of national and sectoral levels, capacity development in the regional governments will focus on strengthening their capabilities for broad-based and pro-poor planning, competent project implementation in terms of promoting effective project delivery, procurement, operation and maintenance, revenue mobilization, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. Under this programme, capacity development supports will also be extended to the sub-regional and kebele (a cluster of 3-4 villages) administrative levels. At these levels, capacity development supports will emphasize on strengthening capacities that promote improved raw project identification, prioritization, implementation, operation and maintenance including monitoring. In connection to these target areas of support, respective guidelines and manuals will be developed and a series of training provided to local staff and community representatives. The consistencies between the local, national and sectoral planning guidelines and manuals will be systematically articulated for ease of consolidating the overall national plans at the country level. In this case, the constructive lessons learned from the Anseba Local Development Project (ALDP) will be cross-referred and selectively blended into the efforts geared to establish appropriate planning and development management system encompassing the different administrative hierarchies and sectoral setups in the Country. Beyond planning per se, support to improve the competencies of local governments in the provision of effective public services will also be provided.

As a whole, this country programme outcome is to be realized with the joint provision of supports from UNFPA and UNICEF, too.

4.1.3 Establishing a National Database (Joint programme): (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA)

In reality, this programme component stands as the main arm for the realisation of enhanced overall planning processes in the Country. This programme aims at improving the availability and utilization of timely and reliable gender sensitive data for development planning and monitoring of national progress toward the attainment of the MDGs. It will support the NSEO and sectoral ministries at national and

regional levels for gender responsive data collection and database management to facilitate national development policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation. Capacity of the NSEO to analyze and link national datasets dealing with MDG indicators and humanitarian relief operations will be identified and enhanced. Gender responsive data collection systems will be established at sectoral and regional levels as well as linkages with other databases would be set out. DevInfo database software will be developed and implemented. UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA will provide financial and technical support for the implementation of this joint programme.

4.1.4 Strategy for Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation (Joint Programme):(UNDP,FAO,UNICEF,WHO)

Eritrea is highly exposed to the adverse effects of both natural and manmade disasters, especially recurrent droughts. As the Country's economy remains vulnerable and susceptible to disaster; developing an appropriate national strategy primarily geared to prevent, prepare for and mitigate disasters with the ultimate objective to reduce or eliminate the loss of life, damage to property, and undesirable socio-economic disruptions is important. To achieve these objectives, support will be provided to establish an institution and technical capacities for disaster management, preparedness and response will be promoted under this programme component. The programme component will aim at studying the nature of existing and potential disasters as well as the associated consequences. Also, a strategy for disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation will be developed. The strategy will serve as a lead mechanism for managing disaster related issues in the Country. As the nature and effects of disasters are multi-dimensional, the strategy under consideration will be implemented as an integral part of the overall development process of the Country. The programme component will support initiatives that increase capacities for efficient disaster management at all levels.

A national coordination mechanism with its decentralised arms at the regional and local levels for disaster prevention, preparedness, and mitigation will be established. Under this country programme output, UNDP, together with FAO and UNICEF, will support and strengthen the capacities of the line ministries involved in the development and implementation of the strategy for disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation. Knowledge and skills of government bodies, professional units and the general public to prepare for and respond to disaster will be increased through a series of awareness raising and training programmes. Courses on techniques for disaster prevention and mitigation and natural resource management will be developed and provided at the highest government level in collaboration with higher academic institutions. Special awareness raising supports will be provided to vulnerable communities (including the returned IDPs) in disaster prone areas in the planning, preparation and rebuilding processes. As a component of this programme output, a synchronized early warning system will be established and strengthened with the support of UNDP and other pertinent partners. This will be a joint programme with input from FAO, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, WHO.

4.1.5 Strengthening Local Development Planning Processes (Joint Programme):(UNDP,UNCDF)

The achievements of the on-going pilot project on participatory local development planning process in the Region of Anseba will be consolidated for the replication of similar projects in other regions of the Country. The experiences derived from the implementation of this on-going project will be evaluated and the constructive lessons learned will be used as the basis for replication with renewed impetus. UNDP, together with UNCDF and possibly other UN Agencies, will support the Government in its efforts to strengthen capacities for enhanced development process through effective planning and competent service delivery at the regional and local levels. The assistance will focus on providing funds to the Regional Administration of Anseba to fully establish a participatory and transparent planning system that ensures the identification and design of locally prioritised pro-poor projects and to improve access to and management of financial resources for funding development plans by local government units in the Region. In this case, funds will be allocated to finance community-based micro-projects. The programme will also strengthen regional and local capacities to deliver, monitor, operate and maintain projects efficiently.

4.1.6 Enhanced Capacity for the Promotion and Administration of Justice (Joint Programme): (UNDP,UNFPA)-

Enhancing the institutional capacity of the justice system to promote the rule of law is a key component of the Eritrean Government's development policy. To achieve this, and in line with the UNDAF (2007-2011) objectives, support will be provided to build human and institutional capacity of the various arms of the justice system, including community courts, to further improve the delivery of fair and equal justice, render effective legal services, and implement approved laws. Accordingly, Mekerka Training Centre will be equipped and further strengthened to develop various training programmes, and to provide training and awareness programmes to the judiciary and law enforcement bodies. It will also conduct studies on harmonisation of traditional and cultural factors taking applicable conventions such as CEDAW into consideration. UNDP will also support effectiveness and efficiency in the Ministry of Justice by re-organizing administrative functions, enhancing staff capacities, and introducing new systems for monitoring and assessing performance and managing the court process. Moreover, this programme will support the Government's on-going efforts in the establishment of a well-functioning office to coordinate and follow-up on treaties, agreements and conventions signed by Eritrea.

To promote efficiency in the operations of the Ministry of Justice, support will be provided to develop Management Information Systems. The focus will be on the implementation of a pilot case management system and on the establishment of a local area network to link the Judiciary, Attorney General's Office, courts, and other offices of the Ministry of Justice located in Asmara to produce information needed to track cases and identify problems in case flow.

UNDP will also provide support to enhance public awareness with regard to new and existing laws through the development of training courses and publicity material. This will be augmented through the development of national civic education programmes through various channels and institutions, to be provided in local languages and in English. This joint programme will also be supported by UNFPA.

4.1.7 Capacity Development in the Civil Service Administration:(UNDP)

The Civil Service Administration (CSA) is responsible for the administration of civil servants employed by the Government of the State of Eritrea. However, due to a lack of human and institutional capacity, the CSA is not currently in a position to effectively safeguard and promote the interests of its employees working in the public sector and in governmental municipalities. In order to equip the CSA with what it needs to adequately support its employees and provide a quality civil service, under this component, UNDP will provide support to the CSA to upgrade the qualifications of its personnel and to modernise equipment.

During the term of this ongoing project, UNDP assistance will focus on strengthening the capacity of the CSA and other government offices to enable them to perform their functions efficiently. Similarly, the government's efforts to create a more efficient, accountable and transparent civil service will be promoted by establishing a system to audit performance and management and the development of a modern Human Resource Management system within the CSA. Assistance will also be provided to set-up a new Integrated Information System to produce reliable data on all currently employed civil servants and to synchronise personnel records with payroll. Appropriate training in Human Resource Management will be provided in line with the capacity building programme and its provision for creating awareness of the new CSA guidelines and procedures.

4.1.8 Capacity Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs(UNDP)

This current UNDP programme in Eritrea aims to strengthen the institutional and human capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in order to develop competent, outward-looking and service-oriented staff at the Ministry's headquarters, Embassies and Consulates to render improved diplomatic services that assist in the achievement of the Country's objectives. This programme will also contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically in reference to MDG 8, the development of a global partnership for development. In this regard, UNDP will support the MoFA to strengthen its operational and research capacity through the provision of training on diplomacy and by upgrading the Research and Training Division. The training will assist the staff of the MoFA and other Government offices to understand the workings of the UN system and various conventions, and will familiarize staff with International Relations, Diplomatic Practice and International Organisations. It will also strengthen awareness to honour Eritrea's obligations under various UN conventions. The Research and Training Division will also be strengthened by upgrading the Ministry's library. The capacity of the Ministry's staff in research and communication will be strengthened through providing relevant materials and equipment.

4.1.9 Capacity Development in the Eritrean Institute of Management(UNDP)

This programme is intended to strengthen individual job-related competencies, skills, and attitudes in order to improve job performance, especially in the Eritrean public sector by strengthening the capacity of the Eritrean Institute of Management. The programme will address the gap between the existing skills and what is needed in the Eritrean public service. While the skill gap lies in most areas of management, it is especially acute in three broad areas: financial, personnel, and technical management. These skills are lacking at all levels, especially at the middle and upper middle levels of the civil service. In effect, there are currently performance deficiencies in the way public servants plan, budget, programme, organise, staff, implement, control, monitor, and evaluate programmes and basic bureaucratic procedures.

A variety of training methodologies will be explored and training programmes developed in the areas of Public Enterprise Management, Project Management and Development, Personnel Management, Materials Management and Financial Management to support reconstruction and development work in Eritrea. Most of the training will be delivered through short, targeted courses as modules of certificate programmes. In some cases, specialised and tailored training could be developed. The language laboratory will also be strengthened to create modern language teaching facilities suitable for users of varying degrees of proficiency. There is an urgent need in Eritrea for English language training programmes to be provided on a widespread basis.

4.1.10 Capacity Development in the Department of Immigration and Nationality(UNDP)

This intervention aims to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of the Department of Immigration and Nationality (DIN) in order to carry out its duties and responsibilities effectively and efficiently. The Department is working hard to provide efficient services to the public with its available resources. However, it is facing major constraints in rendering its services due to lack of skilled manpower and advanced technology aided working systems. Accordingly, UNDP will support the Department of Immigration and Nationality to enhance the skills of its staff and modernize the existing working systems to better serve the public. The major components of the capacity development project will include internal and external training and workshops, provision of equipment and supplies, development and implementation of systems, including data entry modules and communication networks.

4.2. Component 2: Food Security, Natural Resources and Sustainable Environmental Development

The envisaged support under this programme component will focus on the following areas:

- Improvement of food security for the poor;
- Mainstreaming environmental concerns;
- Development of natural resource and food security related policies;

- Strategies, laws, regulations and procedures;
- Development of capacities to conserve and manage marine and terrestrial (watershed) biodiversity;
- Promoting the use of renewable energy resources;
- Strengthening the government's capacity for effective land use.

UNDP will also assist the Government of Eritrea in its renewed efforts to ratify and implement important environmental Conventions, International Agreements and Protocols during the new planning cycle.

4.2.1 Food Security (UNDP)

UNDP will support the Government in improving access to food for the poor population. This will move towards the achievement of MDG 1, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. The programme area will also focus on strengthening capacity to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner, which is key to addressing food insecurity, and fundamental in working towards the achievement of MDG 7.

Under this sub-component, UNDP will work towards the realisation of the expected UNDAF outcome, which calls for "[the provision] of access to adequate food at all times for 10% of the poor by 2011. A programme will be formulated consisting of the following interventions:

- Enhancement of policy decision making on food security by 2008;
- Improvement of access to food through capacity support to enhance food production at the household level.

Linked to Programme Component 1, relevant institutions will be assisted to improve their planning and strategy development for food security and knowledge-based agriculture supported through the network of Association of Eritreans in Agricultural Sciences. Interventions will also target the disadvantaged population, including IDPs, in providing support to enhance their agricultural productivity. UNDP will support the Government in the formulation of laws, rules and regulations as well as assisting in promoting access to finance to the rural poor, particularly to female headed households. The purpose of this assistance will be to promote and diversify their income-generation sources through the provision of micro finance.

4.2.2 Energy and Environment

4.2.2.1 Conservation Management of Eritrea's Coastal, Marine and Island Biodiversity(UNDP)

As part of the ongoing effort, UNDP will continue to support the implementation of the Coastal, Marine and Island Biodiversity project, the first of its type in Eritrea. This important project reflects the priorities in terms of coastal and marine conservation, as laid out in the National Environmental Management Plan for Eritrea (GoE 1995), and the Framework Marine Conservation Strategy (GoE 1996) - prepared for Eritrea's accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity (21 March 1996). The GEF-funded CMIB project will realise the implementation of the draft national coastal policy through a corresponding proclamation, the establishment of the integrated coastal area management plan, and the setting aside of protected marine and coastal areas. In addition, UNDP, recognising global biodiversity significance of the Eritrean Red Sea, will cooperate in extending the ECMIB project post GEF/UNDP funds.

4.2.2.2 Wind Energy Applications(UNDP)

The Wind Energy Applications Project is a ground breaking GEF-funded pilot project in the southern coastal regions of Eritrea. This region of the country is particularly suited for the application of such technology, given the high year-round wind speeds that prevail. This project will demonstrate cost-effective electricity generation technology, as well as showing the potential for replication of this energy medium in other areas of the country with high mean wind speeds. Adoption of wind energy as a viable

means of electricity production is, in the longer term, expected to save much needed foreign currency for the country, by reducing current expenditures on diesel power generation. It is envisaged that the use of renewable energy for electricity generation will also improve the quality of life of the rural population of Eritrea.

The project will demonstrate the potential for harnessing wind energy through the installation of a grid-connected wind farm, consisting of eight stand-alone hybrid small turbines in selected villages and towns. The technology and know-how related to this energy medium will be transferred to Eritrean nationals through appropriate human and institutional capacity building programmes.

4.2.2.3 Selected Energy Services for the Achievement of the MDGs(UNDP)

UNDP, in collaboration with the EU and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, will provide selected MDG-compatible energy services to communities that are likely to remain grid inaccessible until 2015 and beyond. UNDP recognises the importance of providing these services in environmentally benign and affordable ways. One component of the programme will include the provision of improved stoves and affordable solar-powered lighting to selected rural households. The programme will also provide solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to rural health facilities, schools and village water points that are currently without any form of power. These interventions will assist in providing safer and healthier cooking options for rural households, as well as improved illumination, health services and education for communities, in addition to and safe and adequate drinking water. Female-headed families and the most vulnerable rural groups will be selected as beneficiaries of the programme.

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4.2.2.4 Sustainable Land Management (UNDP)

UNDP will support a pilot Sustainable Land Management (SLM) MSP project to be implemented in 2007-2011, in the Central Highlands of Eritrea. This programme is aimed at alleviating environmental degradation and promoting the basis for socio-economic development. Accordingly, SLM models for agriculture, grazing lands and forestlands that enhance the livelihoods of women and the rural poor will be adopted and mainstreamed into national policies, programmes and budgets. Besides UNDP resources, additional funds will be sought from major partners, including the Norwegian Government and GEF.

4.3. Component 3: Achievement of equal opportunities, enhanced rights, benefits and obligations for women in all areas of life (Joint Programme):(UNICEF, WHO, UNIFEM, ILO, UNHCR, UNDP)

In line with the National Gender Action Plan (2003 – 2008) and UNDAF Outcome 5, the achievement of equal opportunities, rights, benefits and obligations for women in all areas of life, this component is aiming to develop the capacity of the National Union of Eritrean Women and other institutional mechanisms that promote gender equality, equity and empowerment of women. It addresses the gaps that exist at the national level in gender related issues and ensures that development programmes and initiatives are gender responsive by strengthening key government institutions and NGO capacities for gender-sensitive research and analysis, advocacy and communication. In addition, the gender issue as crosscutting is incorporated into all UNDP intervention programmes to ensure gender equality and equity.

To ensure that Institutional mechanisms and socio-cultural practices promote and protect the rights of women and girls and advance gender equity, this component will assist in establishing a Gender Resource and Research Centre under the stewardship of the National Union of Eritrean Women. This centre will play a key role in the following areas:

- Supporting and promoting the process of mainstreaming gender issues into government policies planning and programming;
- Coordinating the provision and dissemination of information on gender;
- Undertaking gender related research and training;

- Serving as a resource centre for gender related issues in the country.

This programme will also assist in developing human and institutional capacity to institutionalize gender equality and equity through effective implementation of National Gender Action Plan, CEDAW and other gender related policies and programmes in Eritrea. This contributes to improving the knowledge and skills of institutions to mainstream and incorporate gender perspectives for planning and programming and develop the necessary analytical and methodological tools and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the programme will strengthen NUEW's capacity to formulate and develop advocacy activities that enable the integration of gender concerns in different development programmes. It will also encourage the adoption of positive socio-cultural values and the establishment of norms in support of gender equality, equity and women's empowerment. UNDP, in partnership with UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF and WHO, will support NUEW to undertake advocacy activities.

Finally, UNDP in cooperation with UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and other partners will support the work of NUEW for the promotion of micro credit schemes that ensure women's access to credit, self-employment and integration into the economy.

4.4. Component 4: Access to Basic Social Services

4.4.1 HIV/AIDS Intervention Programmes in the Workplace (Joint Programme)(UNDP,ILO)

This joint programme will assist the Government of Eritrea in expanding its multi sectoral response to HIV/AIDS. It will facilitate implementation of the "Three Ones" to ensure a harmonised, coordinated and country-owned and led response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The programme will focus on developing and strengthening capacity of the following state bodies:

- The National Confederation of Eritrean Workers (NCEW);
- The Eritrean Federation of Employers (EFE);
- The Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare (MLHW);
- The National Aids and TB Control Division (NATCoD);

The programme will also include other key social economic sectors, with its focus on developing, co-ordinating and implementing HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities in the workplace. Within the framework of the Joint UN Implementation Support Plan (UNISP), UNDP will support the adoption of a National HIV/AIDS workplace policy and the development and implementation of HIV/AIDS workplace awareness and prevention programmes in both the formal and informal sectors. Under this activity, emphasis will be placed on promoting the principles developed by the ILO in dealing with HIV/AIDS as a workplace issue. The Community Capacity Enhancement Process, which is part of the UN contribution to the National Response, will be initiated to facilitate social mobilisation and to strengthen the capacity of workers, with special emphasis on gender to enable them to effectively and actively participate in the reflection, participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of decentralised plans.

4.4.2 Shelter and Human Settlement (Joint Programme):(UNDP,HABITAT)

The Joint Programme for the capacity building of Local Governance, Water and Waste Management will support the Municipality of Asmara in strengthening municipal planning, revenue management and service delivery within the Municipal Administration of Asmara. It will focus on the following areas:

- Strengthening municipal planning, revenue management and service delivery;
- Mainstreaming and improving municipal water and sanitation services;
- Improving water and sanitation management practices and raising public awareness on water usage and sanitation;
- Supporting informal settlements (slums) through a participative approach in implementing and managing pilot interventions in water and sanitation.

The project may be replicated in other cities and towns. The other programme areas where UNDP, along with UN-HABITAT, will actively support the Government are in introducing appropriate technology options for affordable shelter and building the capacity of the municipal authorities in urban management and effective protection and conservation of the urban environment.

4.5. Component 5: Support to Transition and Early Recovery in Eritrea

The situation of IDPs, expellees and host communities in the conflict-affected regions of Debub, Gash Barka and Northern Red Sea is still precarious and needs the help of the international community. The overall objective of this component is, therefore, to assist in the reintegration of the affected populations and to provide them with diversified livelihood opportunities, basic services, and an environment free of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO). The programmes of this component will be implemented during 2007 – 2009.

UNDP will focus its efforts on the following three programmes:

4.5.1 Supporting community-based reintegration of IDPs, expellees and host communities (Joint Programme):(UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNAIDS)

A UNDP led joint programme on Returning/resettling 40,000 IDPS to their place of origin/resttlement areas is going on. At the national level, UNDP will provide critical advisory support to the Ministry of National Development to implement the Government's IDP policy and assist in formulating/implementing an integrated framework for early recovery in Eritrea. UNDP will provide technical assistance to the conflict-affected regions, namely Debub, Gash Barka and Northern Red Sea, to ensure that reintegration of IDPs, expellees and host communities is included in their recovery and development plans based on participation from the communities. UNDP will also work with the Zoba, Sub Zoba and Kebabi Administrations and communities to implement support to sustainable livelihood projects, including support to agriculture, skills development, income-generating activities, and small micro credit schemes targeting IDPs, expellees and host communities in villages of return and resettlement. UNDP will also support together with other development partners the provision of basic social and economic infrastructures (schools, health facilities, community buildings and water supply system) are rehabilitated and or/reconstructed in villages of return and resettlement. As a joint programme, this programme will be jointly implemented in cooperation with other UN partners including UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UNHCR, UNHABITAT (technical support within the Shelter component) and other donors and international and national NGOs.

4.5.2 Supports to Mine Action(UNDP)

Building up on the support UNDP provided in strengthening the capacity of Eritrean De-mining Authority (EDA) and development of strategic plans addressing mine clearance and victim support, this programme will support the EDA build its capacity through technical assistance and training to enable it ensure that Landmines/unexploded Ordnances (UXO) affected Sub Zobas/Kebabis, are mapped; marked and/or cleared. The programme will provide refresher training courses to the existing mine clearance teams and establish and equip new mine clearance teams and together with other implementing partners oversee that survivors are medically assisted, socially and economically reintegrated through its victim support programme. MRE will be provided to IDPs, expellees and affected communities in collaboration with UNICEF. Although this programme is currently suspended, UNDP is exploring practical modalities to support the EDA, the responsible government agency for the mine action sector, in the operationalization of the EDA's action plan.

4.5.3 Social and Economic Reintegration of Demobilized Soldiers(UNDP)

This programme will contribute towards the economic and social re-integration of demobilized soldiers. It intends to put various interventions in place, while building capacity for implementation of the

government's prioritized demobilization and reintegration activities. This will be done through implementation of a number of key activities. The first activity is capacity building and technical assistance to the National Commission for Demobilization and Reintegration Programme. The programme will support the preparation of key studies for an effective social and economic reintegration of demobilized soldiers. This will entail compilation of the reports and updating of the data of various studies prepared under the earlier technical assistance project supported by UNDP.

Part V: Partnership Strategy

The overall partnership principles of the current CPAP are in line with the Paris High-level Forum of 2005, in which the international community assessed thoroughly the MD and the MDGs and adopted a Declaration on Aid effectiveness with implications for the work of the UN system, in general, and of UNDP-Eritrea, in particular. The Paris Declaration emphasises the need for opening new opportunities for resource mobilisation and forging broad working partnerships outside UNDP and its usual cooperating agencies. Following the Forum and the subsequent Rome Summit, UNDP Country Programme, together with other donors, will look into ways to implement the harmonisation of donor practices and to increase alignment with national development priorities in order that impediments in planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems are avoided and the MDGs are attained.

The Government and the UNCT in Eritrea have agreed to further increase joint programming among the UN partners (Agencies). Therefore, in areas where opportunities for joint programming have been identified and where there is clear added value, two or more UN Agencies will develop joint programme documents, including joint work plans and one of several fund administration modalities. In this manner, partnership strategies that will be crucial for addressing the country programme priorities and implementing the country programme outcomes will be through either joint programming or cost sharing where possible. Cost sharing will be between UNDP and other UN Agencies, bilateral donors, international financial organizations (WB etc.), NGOs and the like. Activities will be implemented with various partners in a fully integrated manner.

Banding together donor energies and resources towards these objectives is the partnership strategy that UNDP has established and will continue to expand upon. This will be in effect through the provision of technical assistance, consolidation or achievement of synergies, usage of limited UNDP resources as seed money and topping it up with resources from bilateral or multilateral development partners in the donor community as well as the UN system for enhancement of cumulative effects. In addition, financial and in-kind contribution and close working relationships will be sought from partners that comprise host government ministries and institutions, specialised resident and non-resident UN agencies, local and international NGOs, CBOs, training and research organizations, and, to a certain extent, the private sector.

Major UNDP partners include the European Union, the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and Italy, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), other UN Agencies, and the Government of Eritrea. Partnership types are mainly of two types: i) Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC) where all the aforementioned partners meet formally and, ii) Informal UN-donor consultations. Partnerships will be established through the CPAP and/or Memoranda of Understanding to engage resources jointly, and through annual work plans to commit resources and implementation responsibilities between key stakeholders. In the development and implementation of the CPAP and the AWP, close consultation with other programme stakeholders will continue to apply. Within the UN system, partnerships will be strengthened through the UNDAF, involving collaborative and innovative joint programmes, joint monitoring activities, and annual programme review meetings through the already-established various Thematic Groups. UNDP will also ensure that an effective communication strategy will be in place, which aims to promote the achievements and success stories of the GoE/UNDP Country Programme. To this end, each AWP will have a communication component to ensure that the communication strategy will be implemented.

Some of the implementation strategies identified by the CCA/UNDAF/CPD, and which will be realised during the CPAP period, will be putting national priorities at the centre of development cooperation;

encouraging, as much as possible, ownership and commitment as it enhances sustainability of results into the future; building a participatory and integrated management approach; disseminating, as widely as possible, successfully tested approaches and lessons learnt to development practitioners found in-country and beyond; and mainstreaming cross-sectoral issues into all other sector specific areas of intervention. In its initial stages, the CPAP will seek to quickly implement and phase out currently on-going projects that will roll into the new planning cycle. The CPAP will, at all times, maintain a flexible approach that constantly accommodates and implements changing government priorities. A robust resource mobilisation activity approach will be followed giving equal consideration and opportunities to all the five thematic outcomes of the CPD.

UNDP's internal structure, in line with its newly established outcomes, has already been modified with the aim of increasing project implementation effectiveness.

Part VI. Programme Management

The programme will be nationally executed under the overall coordination of the Ministry of National Development (Government Coordinating Agency). The Ministry of National Development (MND), as coordinating authority and UNDP counterpart in Eritrea, will approve projects and ensure coherence of activities with national policies and objectives through participation in the preparation and final endorsement of the CPAP and its appraisal process.

National ownership and the involvement of national institutions in implementing activities will remain a guiding principle for UNDP. The body in charge of the development programme guidelines with respect to the implementation of, monitoring, and evaluation of the country programme is the National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC meets once a year to review progress on the implementation of the programme, resolve difficulties encountered by programme management teams, make changes to accelerated programme implementation, enhance impact, cost effectiveness, make adjustments to overall resources requirements of projects, and the addition of outputs. It is co-chaired by the Minister of National Development and the UNDP Resident Representative. It includes as members the representatives of the key counterpart ministries/government offices that manage development activities. The NSC also is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the alignment of the programmes to national priorities. The NSC meeting will serve as a joint strategy meeting. In addition, the Ministry of National Development and UNDP will establish a National Technical Committee (NTC), which acts as a Local Project Appraisal Committee, to undertake critical analytical review of and approval of the proposed AWP. The NTC will be composed of participants from the MND, UNPP, respective IPs and other stakeholders. Project Steering Committees (PSC) representing relevant stakeholders will continue to be important mechanisms for project monitoring and review, together with annual reviews and outcome evaluation

In programme design and implementation, UNDP works closely with key partners. The country programme builds on the United Nations reform principles, especially simplification and harmonisation, by operating in line with the harmonised common country programming instruments such as the UNDAF results matrix, monitoring and evaluation, and programme resource frameworks in the CPAP and the AWP. To the extent possible, UNDP and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed CPAP and signed AWP to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents would be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the CPAP, and AWP. UNDP will sign the project documents with partners in accordance with corporate practices and local requirements. In line with the UNDG Joint Programming Guidance Note, the scope of inter-agency cooperation will be strengthened. Joint programme modalities will be pursued in as many areas as possible

Implementing Partners (IPs) are responsible for preparing AWP in consultation with UNDP and other stakeholders. The AWP describe the specific results to be achieved and will form the basic agreement between UNDP and each implementing partner. AWP will be signed by IPs and UNDP. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(ies)" as used in the SBAA. AWP will detail the

activities to be carried out, the responsible implementing partner, timeframes, and planned inputs from Government and UNDP. Projects will be entrusted to the IPs based on the institution's mandate, comparative advantage and capacity assessments. The IP's capacity will be assessed in accordance with standing instructions on capacity assessment. The implementing partners will be drawn from Government Ministries, Regional Offices, Commissions, NGOs¹, and UNDP. AWP's will be submitted for review by the NTC. IPs will be responsible for the implementing of activities envisaged in the AWP's and delivery of project outputs. The IP may enter into agreements with other organisations or entities to assist in successfully delivering project outputs. IPs are also responsible for submitting progress reports, financial reports and other relevant reports to ensure that activities undertaken are consistent with the agreed AWP. National and International project personnel and consultants may be recruited to strengthen project implementation.

Revisions which involve significant changes in the outputs should be approved by the MND and UNDP. However, revisions which do not involve significant changes need only the signature of IP and UNDP.

Resource mobilisation efforts will be intensified to support the RRF and ensure sustainability of the programme in the form of Cost-sharing and Trust Funds. Whenever required, national counterparts will make in-kind contributions to complement programme resources

Part VII: Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

To track the progress and performance of programmes and ensure their sustained contributions to Eritrea's Millennium Declaration (MD) and MDGs, monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of the UNDAF capacity development process. The UNDAF results matrix and monitoring and evaluation plan will be the basis for monitoring and evaluation of the country programme and action plan. The key aim of monitoring and evaluation will be to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the programme management, coordination, and proper resource utilisation. Also, monitoring and evaluation will help UNDP to assess and determine how the country programme can contribute more effectively to national development efforts and capacity building. Beyond the identification of outstanding implementation issues, monitoring and evaluation will help to identify emerging development opportunities during the process of programme implementation.

The Government of Eritrea and UNDP will be responsible for ensuring continuous monitoring of the progress of the programme results and resources framework on a quarterly or six monthly basis. Monitoring and evaluation will take place at various levels. Project steering committees representing relevant stakeholders will continue to be important mechanisms for project monitoring and review, together with annual reviews and outcome evaluations. At the project or output level, field visits; progress and financial reports will be used as the main instruments for continuous monitoring. The periodic reports will be shared among the key stakeholders for mutual understanding and enhanced partnership. Outstanding issues will be discussed and encountered and implementation problems resolved. The provision of periodic progress and financial reports is the prime responsibility of the implementing partners. These periodic reports will highlight the progress, achievements and results of the projects including challenges encountered and state of resource utilisation vis-à-vis the annual planned targets. The reporting will be in accordance to the established procedures and in the acceptable reporting format of the UN harmonised and simplified system.

An evaluation plan that will facilitate undertaking evaluations of at least five outcomes in line with the UNDAF monitoring and evaluation plan will be set. Monitoring and evaluation plans will be developed for the country programme outcomes and outputs. Moreover, outcomes will be reviewed and evaluated annually. For this purpose, a UNDP CPAP Review Committee will be established and its members will be

¹ NGOs are not allowed to be engaged in relief and /or rehabilitation work with funds earmarked to Eritrea by UN and its affiliates. However, UNDP is currently working with two NGOs identified in joint programmes approved by the government

jointly determined in consultation with the Ministry of National Development (MND). The Review Committee will be responsible for overseeing programme implementation. The M&E/Review Committee will prepare and carry out twice yearly portfolio review to assess progress in program implementation in general and AWP's in particular. And, the CPAP Review Committee will hold programme review meetings in May and November each year across the programme period. The Committee will take key decisions and actions on outstanding implementation issues that may arise. Depending on the agreement with the government counterparts, there will be a mid term review of the country action plan in mid June 2009. The detailed final review of the programme will be carried out at the end of 2011. This will also herald the preparatory works for the next UNDAF and country programme action plan.

To track progress of the country programme action plan, the M&E system or plan will incorporate the quantitative and qualitative indicators identified. Appropriate indicators, benchmarks or milestones and baselines will be identified and established for the country programme action plan giving due consideration to the specific programme outcomes and outputs. Each programme output and outcome will have its own specific targets and indicators, mostly derived from the regularly monitored parameters. Systematic linkages between the country programme action plan and indicators or benchmarks and UNDAF indicators will be established. The monitoring and evaluation system for the country programme action plan will be enriched with established management reports, periodic progress and financial reports, occasional or periodic surveys or studies, statistical publications, early warning reports, national food information, and MDG reports. The mechanisms for these systems will be enhanced or established during the course of the country programme action plan implementation period. The monitoring and evaluation process for the country programme action plan could also be attached to the National M&E system focusing on MDG indicators. The results of monitoring and evaluation processes will selectively feed into the successive preparations of the annual work plans.

Monitoring and evaluation will contribute towards achieving the CP outcomes and outputs by assisting government counterparts to develop their capacity to manage projects and programmes. The capacity development for monitoring and evaluation will be promoted at national, regional, and local levels. Various training sessions will be provided to government institutions to strengthen capacities in the area of data collection, management and analysis. Assistance will be provided to the NSO in the collection and updating of the national database that will be used for M&E activities. A DevInfo system will be developed and supported by the NSO to maintain, update and process data and indicators. As part of the capacity building efforts, monitoring and evaluation will be carried out using both internal and external human and financial resources and by involving all stakeholders. Broader participation of stakeholders will be at the heart of the monitoring and evaluation of the country programme action plan.

Under this programme, audits will be organised as an integral part of sound financial and administrative management and the UNDP accountability framework. Auditing will be effected by the Office of Auditor General(OAG). If OAG is not in a position to carry out the audit exercise a reputable audit firm will be selected to do the audit exercise. The audit firm will be selected through competitive bidding and after consultation between UNDP and the Government. Where more than one UN agency provides financing to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN Agencies. The auditing will be done in compliance with Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT). Provision will be included in the annual work plan budget to cover the reasonable cost of such an audit. UNDP will furnish to the IP the relevant monthly expenditures statements whenever UNDP makes procurement or direct payments on monthly basis.

Part VIII: Commitments of UNDP

UNDP will commit US\$19.9 million of regular resources to this Country Programme Section Plan subject to availability of funds. UNDP will mobilise an additional US\$27 million from the bilateral and multi-lateral funding institutions and global trust funds, including Global Environment Facility (GEF). These resource allocations do not include emergency funds that may be mobilised in response to any humanitarian or

crisis situation. These resource allocations will be utilised for policy advice, technical assistance, capacity building, systems development and knowledge generation and sharing.

At the Government's request, UNDP will provide the following support services for activities envisaged in the CPAP: (i) identification and assistance with recruitment of project personnel, (ii) procurement of goods and services in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies, and procedures, (iii) identification and facilitation of training activities, including fellowships and study tours, (iv) access to the UNDP-managed global information system, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and (v) access to the support provided by the network of UN Specialised agencies, funds and programmes.

Part IX: Commitments of the Government

The Government of the State of Eritrea will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) of 11 June 1994. The Government shall apply the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations agencies to UNDP's property, funds, and assets and to its officials and consultants.

The Government of the State of Eritrea is fully committed to supporting the United Nations Development Programme in achieving the CPAP Goals. To this end the Government shall make all efforts to contribute whenever possible, both in-cash and in-kind, to facilitate the operationalisation and successful implementation of the CPAP. In addition, the Government will commit to contributing to UNDP's general operating costs through its yearly Government Local Office Contribution (GLOC) payments and will also be committed to supporting UNDP in its efforts to raise the funds required to meet the additional financial needs of the country programme.

The Government of the State of Eritrea is also committed to organising periodic programme review, planning and joint strategy meetings and where appropriate, coordination of sectoral and thematic development partner groups to facilitate the participation of donors, civil society, private sector and UN agencies. The Government and UNDP will jointly monitor the progress of the results and resource framework through periodic programme review and evaluation exercises. All efforts shall be made to ensure the participation of concerned stakeholders including, donors, and other partners. In addition, the Government will facilitate periodic monitoring visits by UNDP staff and/or designated officials for the purpose of monitoring, meeting beneficiaries, assessing the progress and evaluating the impact of the use of programme resources. The Government will make available to UNDP in a timely manner any information about policy and legislative changes occurring during the implementation of the CPAP that might have an impact on co-operation.

Part X: Other Provisions

This CPAP enters into force on the date signed by both Parties and in the event that the CPAP is signed on different dates, then it shall enter into force on the date of the later signature. The CPAP shall continue in force until 31/12/2011.

This CPAP supersedes any previously signed project documents between the Government of the State of Eritrea and UNDP and may be modified by mutual consent of both parties on the recommendations of the joint strategy meeting.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised, have signed this Country Programme Action Plan on this day, _____ *in Asmara, Eritrea.*

For the Government of the State of Eritrea

For the United Nations Development Programme
Eritrea

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Name: Dr.Woldai Futur

Name: Mr. Macleod Nyirongo

Title: Minister of National Development

Title: Resident Representative