

# SADC Regional Land Reform Technical Support Facility

“Pro-Poor Land Governance: exploring Opportunities for Concerted Action” 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007

# SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) MEMBER STATES



# Land Problems and Issues in SADC

## Land Distribution

- Inequitable access to land
- Limited rights and access for majority
- Costly and cumbersome transfer of land

## Land Use

- No land use classification
- No capacity to farm the land (lack of planning and infrastructure development)

# Land Issues and Problems in SADC

## Land Tenure

- In some countries, existing land laws discriminate against customary tenure forms, thereby limiting access of minority groups.

## Land Administration

- Weak capacities of government agencies responsible for reform process
- Administrative processes are often government driven, with little participation of civil society institutions

# Land Issues and Problems in SADC

## Land Adjudication

- Weak capacity of the judiciary which is elite centered
- Lengthy court processes often results in delays effecting compensation and restitution
- Unjust systems in eyes of the majority

# The Need for a Regional Land Reform Technical Support Facility

- ✓ 2001 – SADC Summit recognized that there was urgent need to tackle the land issues given the potential political tensions that could undermine economic growth and food security.
- ✓ Summit appreciated the need for building capacity at both national and regional level,
- ✓ Summit issued a directive to develop a strategy and facility for reform in the SADC region
- ✓ SADC commissioned a consultant to consult member states on the concept of a facility(funded by UNDP DDC and DFID)

# The Need for a Regional Land Reform Technical Support Facility

- ✓ A series of country level consultations were held and confirmed the urgent need for a regional land reform facility.
- ✓ The central role of land in ensuring sustainable food security was one of the key intervention areas strongly emphasized by the member states.
- ✓ Proposal for the establishment of the facility was endorsed by the council of Ministers in 2003.

# Objectives of the facility

- ✓ Provide technical support to member states implementing land and agrarian reforms.
- ✓ Mobilize financial and technical services for regional and international experts, finance establishment of a regional land information resources including a website.
- ✓ Strengthen capacity of national agencies and civil society institutions to ensure broad based and effective and efficient implementation of land and agrarian reforms;
- ✓ Facilitate exchange of information and experiences amongst countries and provide opportunity to learn from lessons of SADC and other countries implementing land reforms

# Activities

- v Resource Mobilization
- v Capacity building
- v Information Generation and Analysis
- v Research and Studies

## Progress to Date

- ✓ Five member states appointed by SADC to take a lead on the establishment of the facility (South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Tanzania).
- ✓ On-going Institutional Study on the Operationalizing the Regional land facility - Looking at the Governance structure, personnel requirement and anticipated costs Expected date of completion of study September 2007.

## Progress to Date

- ✓ Study is being implemented by a team of three consultants.
- ✓ Forum for International Cooperating Partners (ICP) - includes UNDP, DFID, World Bank , EC, FAO -open to other partners.
- ✓ Linkage to the African Union land Policy Initiative. The facility is the focal point for AU process in Southern Africa – will be overseeing the regional assessments in close collaboration with AU/ECA.

# Institutional options under consideration

- ✓ Fully fledged structure within SADC
- ✓ Lead Agency Approach – A lead institutions would be tasked to administer and manage the facility under the guidance of SADC
- ✓ Virtual Facility Option – setting up a lean land facility structure at SADC secretariat which collaborates with institution contracted to implement its projects – Broad mapping of land institutions

Reference Group: Provide intellectual input, test ideas,

## Current Financial support and Funding Gap

- ✓ March 2006: SADC Secretariat and UNDP signed an agreement providing US\$203, 733.68 (DFID and UNDP contribution) for the institutional study
- ✓ SADC has developed a proposal for “Kick Start activities to operationalize the facility. Estimated budget of US\$ 600,000.
- ✓ SADC is seeking additional funding from partners to support implementation of the “Kick start” activities

## Some of the Kick Start Activities identified

- ✓ **Land data base:** Consultant to establish a land data base using existing information resources
- ✓ **Best practice and Experiences:** identify institution to study best practices, package and disseminate to SADC land constituencies.
- ✓ **Centers of Excellence:** Identify 3-6 potential training institutions which can be supported as centers of excellence to train SADC member states in land reform.
- ✓ **Land Policy training courses** – WB indicated interest to support courses in 2007 on land tenure and redistribution.
- ✓ **Research :** identify an institution to design 3 year land research policy.

# Conclusion

- ✓ A promising initiative for addressing land issues through a regional approach.
- ✓ Process that has political support in the region
- ✓ Facility seeks to broaden the participation of a broad range of stakeholders
- ✓ Challenge is translating the political will into concrete actions
- ✓ SADC will need assistance from international cooperating partners to support the implementation of the facility's programme – “Kick start activities”

THANK YOU