



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ON THE

**RATIFICATION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCIENCE SERVICE CENTRE FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT**

FOR THE

FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Published by the National Assembly of Zambia

FOREWORD

Hon Madam Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources has the honour to present its Report on the proposal to ratify the Treaty of the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL). The functions of the Committee are set out in Standing Orders 206(a) and 207 of the National Assembly of Zambia Standing Orders, 2024. Specifically, Standing Order 207(f) provides that a portfolio Committee shall consider international agreements, conventions and treaties in accordance with Article 63 (2) (e) of the Constitution.

In order to acquaint itself with the ramifications of the Treaty, the Committee held fourteen meetings and sought both written and oral submissions from stakeholders. The stakeholders, who appeared before the Committee, are listed at Appendix II of the Report. The Report is organised in three parts. Part I provides the background and summary of the provisions of the Agreement. Part II presents the summary of submissions from stakeholders, while Part III highlights the Committee's observations and recommendations.

The Committee pays tribute to all the stakeholders who tendered both written and oral submissions. It further wishes to thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording it an opportunity to interrogate the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management Treaty. The Committee also appreciates the services rendered by the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly throughout the Committee's deliberations.



Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

November, 2024
LUSAKA

ACRONYMS

SASSCAL– Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management

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1.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP (Chairperson); Ms Maureen Mabonga, MP (Vice Chairperson); Mr Tyson Simuzingili, MP; Mr Michael J Z Katambo, MP; Mr Lusale J Simbao, MP; Mr Yotam Mtayachalo, MP; Mr Andrew Tayengwa, MP; Mr Peter Phiri, MP; Mr Mweemba Malambo, MP; and Mr Ackleo I A Banda, MP.

PART I

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Treaty of the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) was adopted by the SASSCAL Council of Ministers on 26th September, 2021. The Treaty established SASSCAL, which aimed to be a leading regional centre in climate change and adaptive land management science and services for an improved quality of life in Southern Africa.

The ratification of the SASSCAL Treaty was driven by the need to address the pressing challenges of climate change and land degradation through regional cooperation, scientific research, capacity building, and sustainable practices. With this background, the Government of the Republic of Zambia sought to ratify the SASSCAL Treaty.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

The objective of SASSCAL was to strengthen the regional capacity to generate and use scientific knowledge, products and services for decision-making on climate change and adaptive land management through research management, human capital development and services brokerage.

4.0 SUMMARY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY

The summarised provisions of the Treaty were as set out below.

ARTICLE 1- DEFINITIONS

This Article provided for definitions of key terms used in the Treaty.

ARTICLE 2 – VISION AND MISSION

Article 2 set out the vision and mission of SASSCAL as a leading regional centre in climate change and adaptive land management science and services for an improved quality of life in Southern Africa. Its mission was to strengthen the regional capacity to generate and use scientific knowledge products and services for decision-making in climate change and adaptive land management through research management, human capital development and serves provision.

ARTICLE 3 – AIM AND FUNCTIONS

The Article provided for the aims of SASSCAL, which, among others, included the:

- i. assessment of climate change and its impact on society and the socio-ecological systems in the area of the Southern African Member States;
- ii. analysis of options to mitigate or cope with climate change, in particular, through adaptative land management; and

- iii. promotion and implementation of policies and measures to effectively deal with climate change.

To achieve its aims, SASSCAL would, among others:

- i. encourage, coordinate and undertake as necessary, basic and applied research programmes in the scientific, technical, economic and social science fields, relevant to serve the needs of the Southern African countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change;
- ii. collect, analyse and disseminate information on methods applied, experience gained, and results obtained both within and outside Southern Africa;
- iii. organise or arrange conferences, seminars and training programmes; and
- iv. secure scholarships and establish or assist in the establishment of advisory services and training, as well as advisory facilities for academic and non-academic target groups.

ARTICLE 4 - PORTFOLIOS

Article 4 provided for portfolios under SASSCAL, namely, the Research Portfolio; Service Portfolio with Open Access Data Centre; and the Capacity Development Portfolio.

ARTICLE 5 – ESTABLISHMENT

This Article provided that once the SASSCAL Treaty was ratified, Member States would establish SASSCAL nodes in their respective countries. It also provided that SASSCAL's Headquarters would be in Windhoek, Namibia.

ARTICLE 6 – LEGAL STATUS

The Article provided that once the Treaty was ratified, SASSCAL would be transformed into an international organisation under public international law and would have legal personality with capacity and power to enter into contracts, acquire, own or dispose of movable or immovable property and to sue and be sued in its own name.

ARTICLE 9 – ORGANS OF SASSCAL

Article 9 provided for the organs of SASSCAL, which were the Council of Ministers, the Governing Board with an Executive Committee as a subsidiary body, the Scientific Advisory Committee, and the Regional Secretariat.

ARTICLE 10 – THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Article provided for the composition of the Council of Ministers, which would consist of Ministers in charge of SASSCAL in Member States and funding partner(s). In the event that the Minister was unable to attend the meetings in person, they would have powers to delegate another person.

ARTICLE 11 – THE GOVERNING BOARD AND COMMITTEES

This Article provided that SASSCAL would be governed by a Governing Board composed of one representative from each Member State. It also provided that the Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Executive Director of SASSCAL and a representative of the SADC Secretariat shall be ex-officio members of the Governing Board with no voting rights.

ARTICLE 12 – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 12 provided for the Executive Committee, which would comprise the Board Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Executive Director. The Executive Committee would act in matters of urgent matters in which the Executive Director wished to have a decision voted by the Board and such incidences would be reported to the Board for approval at the first meeting.

ARTICLE 13 – SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Article provided for the Scientific Advisory Committee, which would be responsible for reviewing and giving advice on the draft annual work programme, including the medium-term strategic plan of SASSCAL.

ARTICLE 14 – REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Article 14 provided for the Regional Secretariat, which would be the principal executive institution of SASSCAL and would, among others, be responsible for implementation of the decisions of the Governing Board and the Council of Ministers; strategic planning and management of SASSCAL programmes; and organisation and management of SASSCAL meetings.

ARTICLE 15 – THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF

The Article provided for the appointment and functions of the SASSCAL Executive Director and Staff whose functions, among others, would be, preparing draft annual programme of work and budget of SASSCAL in accordance with such directions, which may be given by the Governing Board; representing SASSCAL; and keeping the accounts and ensuring their timely submission to the external auditor and the Governing Board.

ARTICLE 16 – OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES

Article 16 set out the obligations of the Member States. It provided, in part, that Member States would, in accordance with their respective national laws, cooperate with regard to assisting SASSCAL in achieving its aims.

ARTICLE 17 – RELATIONSHIP WITH COOPERATING STATES AND ORGANISATIONS

This Article provided that SASSCAL would actively cooperate with Governments of States which were not Member States of the Treaty and with international and regional inter-governmental organisations, which expressed interest in assisting it to pursue its aims as provided under Article 3.

ARTICLE 18 – FUNDS

Article 18 provided for the financial resources of SASSCAL, which would be sourced through grants, loans, legacies, gifts, endowments and other contributions in kind or in cash from governments and international, regional or national organisations. The Article also provided for Member States to be paying annual membership fees.

ARTICLE 19 – ASSETS AND RESOURCES

The Article provided that SASSCAL would retain the right of ownership of all assets, movable and non-movable, acquired through its mobilised sources and reserved the right to dispose, depreciate or appreciate the value of assets at its discretion. However, assets acquired by Member States would belong to the Members States.

ARTICLE 20 – RESOURCES

This Article provided that SASSCAL would be funded among others, through grants, donations, member contributions, cooperative agreements, loans and gifts.

ARTICLE 21 – MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTIONS

This Article provided for contributions to be made by Member States as well as the period during which the payment would be made.

ARTICLE 22– BUDGET

This Article provided that the SASSCAL management would prepare budgets and forecast to be presented and approved by the Governing Board three months before the start of the financial year.

ARTICLE 23 – RIGHT TO AUDIT

The Article provided, among others, that SASSCAL would maintain an electronic accounting system, in compliance with international reporting standards that enabled it to readily identify, use of funds, assets, costs of goods and expenses.

ARTICLE 24 - FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

This Article provided for financial regulations and that the Executive Director would be responsible for developing and presenting financial regulations to the Board.

ARTICLE 25 – EXPENSES

Article 25 provided for the manner in which the expenses for administrative and operational purposes in accordance with the programme of work would be disbursed. The Executive Director would be responsible for authorising, recording and accounting of all disbursements made by or on behalf of SASSCAL.

ARTICLE 26 – SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

This Article provided for dispute resolution among Members States.

ARTICLE 28 – AMENDMENTS

Article 28 provided for amendments to the Treaty and that, subject to the provisions under Article 28, the Treaty maybe amended at any time by a decision adopted by two-thirds of the Member States.

ARTICLE 29 – SIGNATURE

This Article provided that the Treaty would be signed by Contracting Member States.

ARTICLE 30 – RATIFICATION

The Article provided for ratification of the Treaty, and that the Treaty would be ratified or accepted by Contracting Member States in accordance with their constitutional procedure.

ARTICLE 31 – ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Article provided that the Treaty shall enter into force thirty days after the deposit of the instrument for ratification or acceptance by two-thirds of the Governments of Contracting Member States.

ARTICLE 32 -DEPOSITORY

Article 32 provided that the original text of the Treaty (in English language), would be deposited to the Executive Director of SASSCAL, who would transmit certified copies to all Contracting Member States.

ARTICLE 35 -LANGUAGE

The Article provided that the official languages of SASSCAL would be SADC official languages.

ARTICLE 37 – TERMINATION AND DENUNCIATION

Article 37 provided for termination and denunciation. It also provided, in part, that the Treaty was established for an unlimited period. However, it may be terminated by the unanimous decision of Contracting Member States to consequently dissolve SASSCAL.

PART II

4.0 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

All stakeholders who appeared before the Committee supported the ratification of the SASSCAL Treaty.

Merits of the Treaty

The benefits of ratifying the Treaty were as outlined below.

(i) Reduced Risk and Improved Livelihoods

The SASSCAL Treaty would provide climate change data, which would include information and services for decision-making for the purpose of ensuring reduced risk and improved livelihoods.

(ii) Interdisciplinary Research

The Treaty would promote collaboration among scientists and stakeholders from different disciplines and sectors to ensure that there is implementation of innovative, integrated and divergent research approaches to mutual challenges.

(iii) Scientific Coverage

The Treaty would deal with a wide spectrum of thematic research areas which, among others, would include physical and human infrastructure; and transnational mandates that made the institution an ideal conduit for the cost-effective and efficient channelling and managing of resources made available by external funding agencies.

(iv) Institutional Cooperation and Partnerships

The Treaty would maintain a wide network of partner universities and research institutions as well as funding and service organisations.

5.0 COMMITTEE'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee supports the proposal to ratify the Treaty of the SASSCAL. In supporting the ratification of the Treaty, the Committee makes the observations and recommendations set out hereunder.

i. Membership Fees

The Committee observes that Zambia was able to make its annual contributions to SASSCAL from 2017 to 2020, but has not honoured its obligations since 2020 to date, which have increased to 1.3 million Euros in arrears.

In light of this, the Committee, strongly, urges the Executive to consider settling the arrears of 1.3 million Euros. The Committee further urges the Executive to ensure that funds are provided for in the national Budget for the purpose of honouring the financial commitments and also for effective implementation of the Treaty.

ii. Support to SASSCAL

The Committee observes that SASSCAL aims at, among other things, generating scientific knowledge; and supporting national, regional and global efforts in strengthening adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Committee further observes that SASSCAL's research priority areas include climate change, food security, water security, sustainable forests and woodlands, and biodiversity conservation.

In order to strengthen the objectives of SASSCAL, the Committee strongly recommends as outlined below.

- (i) The Ministry of Green Economy should put in place a mechanism that will support generation of scientific knowledge that will support and strengthen climate change objectives, especially in relation to drought prediction, disaster aversion and overall climate change resilience measures in the country. In this regard, the Committee recommends that early warning system must be heightened.
- (ii) The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources should devise mechanisms that will strengthen adaptation techniques and mechanisms surrounding erosion management and desertification mitigation, as well as sustainable soil and land conservation techniques.
- (iii) The Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation should devise mechanisms that will enhance water harvesting and conservation to promote water security.
- (iv) The Ministry of Agriculture should put in place measures that will enhance climate smart agricultural practices and technologies.
- (v) Ministry of Technology and Science should present an overall value of the Ministry and all the bodies and agencies that are under its portfolio.
- (vi) The Ministry of Education should provide the sector with valuable information that can be used to enhance knowledge across all levels at both vocational and technical education.

In order to ensure that the SASSCAL Treaty is effectively implemented by these Ministries, the Committee recommends that the Government should allocate sufficient funds for its implantation and for monitoring.

6.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, climate change and climate variability have led to adverse weather events in Zambia, including floods, droughts and extreme temperatures. This has mostly been felt in the agricultural, energy and water sectors, resulting in reduced hydroelectricity generation capacity, food insecurity and limited access to clean drinking water for the people and livestock. In this regard, membership and subscription to regional and international bodies such as the SASSCAL Treaty, is cardinal to equip Zambia with the financial and technical resources necessary to address, adapt and mitigate climate change impacts.

The Committee is, therefore, in support of the ratification of the (SASSCAL) Treaty. The ratification of the Treaty will also enhance coordination and collaboration measures among Member States, which is particularly important for a country like Zambia.



Mr Kasauta S Michelo, MP
CHAIRPERSON

November, 2024
LUSAKA

APPENDIX I - List of National Assembly Officials

Mr Stephen Chiwota, Director – Financial Committees

Mrs Angela M Banda, Deputy Director – Financial Committees

Ms Chitalu Mulenga, Senior Committee Clerk (FC2)

Mr Evans Chilongu, Committee Clerk

Ms Eneless Njobvu, Administrative Assistant

Mr Daniel Lupiya, Senior Committee Assistant

Mr Muyembi Kantumoya, Committee Assistant

Ms Taona Chabinga, Committee Assistant

APPENDIX II - List of Witnesses

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

Ministry of Technology and Science

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

Ministry of Finance and National Planning

Ministry of Agriculture

Caritas Zambia

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction

Centre for Energy, Environment and Engineering Zambia

Zambia Environmental Management Agency

Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research

Green Living Movement

Zambia Climate Change Network

Zambia Land Alliance

Southern Africa Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management

Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit

Jesuit Centre for Theoretical Reflection