STEP II: REVIEW OF HISTORICAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Duration: One and a half days

Introduction

In many studies of rural problems historical circumstances are scarcely considered, and if they are, they are treated as a descriptive list of events in a past which is quite distinct from the present. The present is, however, part of a continuous – though uneven – process of environmental and social change. We are 'in the middle of a film' rather than at the beginning or end. What people do next in time can only proceed from what they are doing now and have done in previous years. Thus present constraints and problems have historical origins, and causes cannot be understood without an appreciation of history.

Historical documents should be assembled prior to the training programme. More detailed historical information can be collected from key informants during the survey step of the course.

In addition to the historical understanding, if a rapid appraisal exercise is to be conducted efficiently and yield new insights on current problems, full use needs to be made of all available secondary information.

Objectives and Outputs

* **To understand how historical processes have shaped current environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as people's attitudes and responses.**

* **To produce briefing notes on socio-economic and environmental changes and current issues.**

* **To produce briefing notes on key policies and legislation affecting the study area.**

List of Activities

1. Analysis of social and environmental changes.

2. Review of secondary information.

Activity 1. Analysis of Social and Environmental Changes

The training team is divided into groups. Each has a specific task. These could cover the temporal analysis of agrarian and forestry policies from the secondary material available. Issues covered could include land tenure, land use, destocking, conservation, population change, and the effects of these on rural incomes. Each group will produce briefing notes to be delivered to the plenary session.

A second type of task is the analysis of land-cover changes using time-series aerial photographs. One method would be to locate transects across aerial photographs of the study area. If the area is large a point frame could be used for sampling. If the point frame is used then hits on arable land, grazing land, cattle kraal, village, track/road, erosion gully, drainage channel, shrub/sapling, canopy tree etc. is recorded. Otherwise land use change along the transect would simply be described and compared for the two (or more) sets of aerial photographs. Results may be compared with the chronology of agrarian change produced by the other groups, and presented in plenary session.

The plenary session synthesises the issues, and historical trends. During the survey step (Step III) corroboration and detailing of these would be sought from local people (see Examples II(1) and (2)).

Activity 2. Review of Secondary Information

The training team is divided into groups. Each is

allocated a task and given a set of related documents and maps. The working session should begin with each group agreeing on what information should be sought and how it will be collated and presented. Groups need to prepare briefing notes for subsequent reference. Summaries of these are presented in plenary for mutual briefing and discussion.

A working group

Example II(1) - Activities 1 and 2

Activities 1 and 2: Briefing Sheet

These activities are run concurrently in this exercise because they use the same literature. The objectives of this exercise are:

1. To describe social and environmental change in the communal areas in general and in Shurugwi where possible.

2. To describe the climatic, soil, arable, pasture, tree and water resources of Shurugwi, and its human population.

3. To identify the key policy issues for the communal areas.

The output from this exercise will be briefing documents in note form which will be presented in plenary session at 1500 hours, and subsequently placed in the library as a resource for the whole training team. They will form a background for our agroforestry diagnosis and design work in Shurugwi and should therefore be explicitly linked to agroforestry issues.

The work will be carried out by three groups and is divided into two parts:

i) literature review, and
(ii) analysis of aerial photographs.

(i) In the first part each of the three groups will prepare information for its sector, drawing upon a specific set of reports and papers. The sectors are:

- forestry, deforestation and energy;
- land tenure, land use and population;
- soils, soil erosion and climate.

Human population increase and its relation to resource use are relevant to each sector and demographic information should therefore be drawn upon by all groups.

(ii) The second part of the work is an analysis of aerial photographs of Shurugwi taken in 1965 and 1985. Each group will analyse the aerial photographs in turn, assessing changes in woodland cover, roads and tracks, arable and grazing land, the frequency of erosion gullies and the density of settlements. The results of each group will be pooled for all to use, but each group should extract from the aerial photographic data information particularly relevant to its sector.

Example II(2) – Activities 1 and 2

Historical Chart – Land Tenure, Land Use and Population: 1900-1988

	1900	1914-15	1920	1930	
LAND USE	Scattered settlement, vlei and river bank cultivation. Toplands and some vleis used for grazing.			1929 Centralisation piloted in Shurugwi	Toplands are now allocated for arable cultivation
LAND TENURE	Selukwe Reserve set at 64,326 ha	Reserve reduced to 63,496 ha by Carter Land Commission		Land Apportionment Act	

MILESTONE EVENTS			1918 End of WW1 'Flu epidemic	1922 Drought maize on credit	1927/8 First agric. demonstrations under Alvord	1929 'Lantern lectures'		1936 Influx of people to Shurugwi	1939 Hitler's war

HUMAN POPULATION	Country: 712,000 Shurugwi C.A.: 4,500		5,000				1.4 million 13,000	1934 Mines/farms opened up	
					Chibharo	People moved off farms into reserves			

LIVESTOCK	Cattle						24,000		
		Low livestock populations			Dipping starts				
	Goats						22,000		
	Donkeys					Donkey start arriving	2,000		
	Sheep								

WOODLAND					1925 4 acres of gums planted	Firewood collected from white farms			

RAINFALL	Droughts (<600 mm)			21/22 *	23/24 *	26/27 *			
	Good rains (>1250 mm)	14/15 *		22/23 *	24/25 *	28/29 *		34/35 *	38/39 *

Example II(2) - Activities 1 and 2

Historical Chart - Land Tenure, Land Use and Population: 1900-1988 Cont'd

	1940	1950	1960	
LAND USE / TENURE	1941 Natural resources Act lead to further restrictions on vlei cultivation.	Separation of land uses reinforced. Arable land surveyed and reallocated 'mabeacans' introduced	More expansion of arable land area. Area: 80,625 ha	1969 Land Tenure Act
MILESTONE EVENTS	1944 Godlonton Commission report sets scene for Good Husbandry Act	1951 Native Land Husbandry Act	Nationalist politics: NDP	1962 Land husbandry is abandoned. The reserves become tribal trust lands. Land authority reverts back to the chiefs
HUMAN POPULATION	Country:			1969 5.1 million
	Shurugwi C.A.:			31,850
	1945 Whites return from war: ranches opened up. More blacks to reserves	Post war boom - employment rises	Union power grows - wages rise	
LIVESTOCK	1944	1945	1951	1955
	Cattle: 23,181	First destocking	21,104	12,600
	Goats: 8,750		60% of households own cattle	1,000
	Donkeys: 2,320			500
	Sheep: 650			221
				Second destocking 24% of households own cattle
	First unfenced grazing schemes			68/69 Cold: cattle deaths
WOODLAND	30m streambank cultivation rule enforced under NLHA*	53/54 Gum plantations established under the ADF**		
RAINFALL	Droughts (<600 mm) 41/42 * 46/47 *			67/68 *
	Good rains (>1250 mm) 42/43 *	52/53 * 54/55 * 57/58 *		

* Native Land Husbandry Act; **Agricultural Development Fund

Example II(2) - Activities 1 and 2

Historical Chart - Land Tenure, Land Use and Population: 1900-1988 Cont'd

	1970	1980		
LAND USE	War period Expansion of arable into grazing areas.	1982 District Councils Act		Resettlement schemes and cooperatives started
LAND TENURE	'macouncils'			
MILESTONE EVENTS		Independence		
HUMAN POPULATION	Young join struggle Comrades arrive	Country: Shurugwi C.A.:	1982 7.5 million 41,717	1987 8.5 million 48,975
LIVESTOCK	Grazing schemes revived	Cattle: 43,000 Goats: 1,800 Donkeys: 1,250 Sheep:	82-84 Drought: Livestock deaths. Use of resettlement areas for grazing	86-87 Drought: More livestock die. Grazing schemes promoted again.
WOODLAND	Council woodlots	Shurugwi - a wood deficit area 8.1m³/family/year.	Rural Afforestation Programme (1982). Individuals, schools, and groups plant 51% of woodlot area.	84/85 Natural resource usage by-laws
RAINFALL	Drought (<600 mm) 72/73 * 73/74 * 74/75 * 77/78 * Good rains (>1250 mm) 80/81 * 81/82 * 82/83 * 84/85 * 86/87 *			