provided to the Constitutional Assembly's specialist committees dealing with land and socio-economic rights.

Advisers from Australia and Zimbabwe are assisting the restructuring of the Department of Justice, including its personnel deployment, integration and financial priorities.

Following a visit by a retired Cabinet Secretary from Ghana in March 1995 and later a team of senior officials from Australia and Malaysia, funded by their governments, proposals for a new central structure for the public service, including the establishment of an Office of the Minister for Public Service and Administration, have been put forward. Continuing support for the central and provincial administrations will be implemented later in 1995. Four provincial public services have made requests for integrated training and development programmes and support to a fifth will also be examined.

A Region Under Reconstruction

Southern Africa is poised to chart a new course in regional co-operation. With peace in Angola and Mozambique, and the end of apartheid in South Africa – all of which have profound implications not just for each country but also for regional neighbours – a window of opportunity has opened. South Africa, which in the years of apartheid destabilised its neighbours, is now joining with its Southern African Development Community (SADC) partners in promoting regional integration, development and democracy.

The Commonwealth is assisting the reconstruction of this important region. Nine of the 11 member states of SADC are Commonwealth members and the Commonwealth has helped in the 'community-building' process, notably in institutional development for political co-operation and democracy. Support for economic co-operation, principally in trade and industry, mining and tourism, has also been maintained.

In 1993/94, as well as spending £200,000 of CFTC resources on SADC projects, the Secretariat provided assistance to SADC member countries amounting to more than £4 million, including special funds and AusAID contributions for Angola and Mozambique.

The Windhoek Treaty of 1992 enshrines Southern Africa's new course, marrying as it does democracy, development and human rights in the terms of the treaty establishing SADC itself. It is through programmes and policies built on these foundations that the Commonwealth continues to support the efforts of countries in the region to help themselves. When Lesotho's newly restored democracy was grievously threatened by internal problems during 1994, the Commonwealth supported the efforts of the three Presidents of the Frontline Contact Group (President Masire of Botswana, President Mandela of South Africa and President Mugabe of Zimbabwe) to buttress democracy and to underwrite their continued moral and technical assistance to the government and people of that country.

The Secretariat has responded to requests from the governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi and Seychelles to run workshops in administrative law for legal officers and other members of the public service to promote the principles of the Commonwealth's Lusaka Statement on Government under the Law.

The privatisation experiences of Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia have been examined and an interim report identifying both organisational and design weaknesses in the privatisation strategies of these countries has been prepared. In June 1995, a series of roundtables to examine the relevance of techniques adopted elsewhere began and are expected to result in suitably adapted strategies to overcome the impediments to privatisation in African countries.

The seriousness of the Commonwealth's commitment to Southern Africa, and to what were then the Front-Line States in the struggle against apartheid, is demonstrated by its involvement in Mozambique, initially through the Special Commonwealth Fund for Mozambique (SCFM), a voluntary fund established by Commonwealth governments in 1987, and now through the Commonwealth Capacity-building Facility for Mozambique. Assistance to this non-Commonwealth country arose from recognition of the importance of Mozambique's position and role in a Southern Africa destabilised by apartheid. Since 1988, Commonwealth multilateral technical assistance to Mozambique, together with bilateral contributions (mainly from Australia) managed by the Secretariat, has been worth about £10 million.

At Cyprus, Heads of Government sought to advance Mozambique's peace process in various ways and placed particular emphasis on multi-party elections. They also welcomed arrangements made to maintain Commonwealth multilateral assistance to Mozambique.

Working with the UN in the peace process, troops from Bangladesh, Botswana, India and Zambia formed an important part of the UN Operation in Mozambique (Onumoz), and many Commonwealth countries contributed to the peace process in other ways. Under the Commonwealth Capacity-building Facility for Mozambique, the Secretariat manages for AusAID the bilaterally-funded Mozambique-Australia Human Resource Development Programme amounting to A$5 million (£2.25 million) over three years. This provides technical assistance and training, principally in agriculture, health, telecommunications and English-language teacher-training.

Using residual funds from the SCFM, assistance continues to be provided in debt management (Mozambique, like many SADC countries including now South Africa, uses the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System or CS-DRMS) and in agriculture.

Technical assistance to Mozambique in electoral matters began in January 1991. In April 1994, the independent chairman of the newly appointed National Elections Commission, which consisted of representatives of the Government, RENAMO and the 'non-armed parties', asked the Secretariat to organise a seminar to review the issues involved in establishing an independent and impartial electoral commission and in running free and fair elections. The chairman of the Ghana Electoral Commission, together with electoral commissioners and other electoral officers from Commonwealth countries in Southern Africa, and representatives of South Africa's Independent Media Commission met with their Mozambican counterparts. The seminar was held with the encouragement and active participation of Onumoz.

In May 1995, the Commonwealth worked with Unesco and the European Parliamentarians for (Southern) Africa to organise a study visit by Mozambican parliamentarians to South Africa and Malawi. In June 1995, two Mozambican senior electoral officials joined their colleagues from African members of the Commonwealth in a regional workshop on election management.

With peace in Southern Africa comes the hope for development

Agricultural Training in Mozambique

Following the devastation of much of its rural infrastructure by war and drought, Mozambique is now trying to re-establish its agricultural base, as refugees and displaced families return to their homes. During the war, farming ceased in many areas, traditional varieties were lost, and support and marketing services disrupted. In some regions, NGOs have set up their own agricultural support and extension services, but limited resources and manpower constrain Provincial Departments of Agriculture from co-ordinating these independent efforts and initiating new activities.

Peace in Mozambique has made it possible for technical assistance and training, previously concentrated largely on the capital, Maputo, to penetrate more deeply into the provinces and rural areas. Agriculture was therefore identified as a priority for the Mozambique-Australia Human Resource Development Programme, a three-year AusAID-funded programme which started in July 1994. Agricultural extension was felt to be particularly important, but one difficulty for external trainers was the low-level or non-existent knowledge of the English language among potential trainees.

After wide consultation, the Secretariat drew up a proposal with the Mananga Management Centre in Swaziland for a six-week special course, 'Training of Trainers in Extension Management' (TOTEM). Two extension officers were selected to attend from each Provincial Department of Agriculture. The first three weeks consisted of intensive English-language training at Mananga, followed by three weeks of technical work.

Months later, all participants could point to new ways of working which they had adopted; one had for the first time drawn up and submitted his own budget to an international donor and had it accepted; others had started new extension programmes; several said that the module on adult learning had helped them communicate more effectively with farmers.

As a result, a more specialised course on the Training and Visits extension system was run at Mananga in May 1995 using the same pattern. A second TOTEM course is planned for September 1995. When these two courses have been completed, the programme will have trained about half of the senior agricultural staff in the provinces.

Mozambique tries to re-establish its agriculture base