The background situation of the forestry sector was virtually in a crises situation by 1980, resulting from a low investment and high removal of cover, and the near total absence of suitable policies and programmes. Domestic energy relied, almost entirely, on fuel wood. The loss of forest and wood land reduced products and benefits to a wide range of stakeholders, and there was severe environmental degradation and spread of desertification. Neither staff numbers nor funds were adequate, and control of resource had passed to regional authorities who were not replacing after clearance nor was there adequate control of the allocation of land for large scale agriculture.