



Centre for Environmental
Policy and Advocacy

2023

Annual REPORT



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Message from the Board Chairperson

I am delighted to present the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA)'s 2023 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our organization's work in the year. Despite the difficult economic times, we continued to deliver on CEPA's mandate, guided by the 2021-2025 strategic plan.



Karen Price

In 2023, CEPA registered various achievements. Notably, we managed to fill all vacant positions in the Board with the

recruitment of Mr. William Chadza and Mrs. Audrey Mwala into the Board of Trustees. Likewise, we welcomed Mrs Tiwonge Simkonda and Mrs Nellie Nyang'wa on the Board of Directors.

A major milestone in the year has been the establishment of an office in Lilongwe for the first time since the organization was established. This development has enhanced CEPA's visibility and networking capacity with key stakeholders.

CEPA's income for 2023 increased by 44.56% from 2022. This enabled CEPA to deepen and expand programme work in natural resources, biodiversity and climate change and to remain relevant to emerging issues.

I would like to extend our gratitude to Donors, Trustees, Directors, partners, management and staff for your contribution to CEPA's achievements in 2023. We look forward to more learning and sharing in the coming year as we continue to work together for the interests of the present and future generations.

Message from the Executive Director

We are excited to share with you some of the key highlights of CEPA's work in 2023.

During the year, CEPA embarked on two new projects funded by the European Union (EU). One of the projects is focusing on promoting waste to compost systems for improving soil health. The other one is focusing on promoting increased and equitable access to clean energy in the context of the evolving energy sector reforms in the country.



**Herbert
Mwalukomo**

As a result of the new projects, more staff were recruited in the year. At the same time, CEPA continued to undertake various policy research and advocacy initiatives across the three thematic areas of natural resources, biodiversity and climate change. These include promoting an enabling policy framework for mineral resources governance and farmers' rights; and awareness creation on land governance instruments.

In addition, CEPA experienced growth in monitoring and evaluation capacity through recruitment of a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer and secondment by Bread for the World of an expert in Planning Monitoring and Evaluation.

We look forward to another exciting journey in 2024 as we continue to work together towards a sustainable Malawi.

About CEPA



VISION

A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY THAT PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.



MISSION

A THINK TANK AND ADVOCACY INSTITUTION PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.



GOAL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICIES IMPLEMENTED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

The Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) is a civil society, non-profit organisation and a think tank founded in 2002, which contributes to the development of environmental policies and best practices in Malawi and the Southern Africa Region. CEPA fills an existent gap in research and advocacy on environmental and natural resources management issues in response to local and global environmental challenges.

Thematic Areas



Natural Resources



Biodiversity



Climate Change

CEPA seeks to strengthen governance of non-renewable natural resources as a contribution to natural resource governance in Malawi.

CEPA works to improve implementation of biodiversity conservation and management policies.

CEPA seeks to enhance climate change policy implementation and learning.



2023 at a glance





NATURAL RESOURCES

2023



SUSTAINABLE ARTISANAL MINING

CEPA, through the Sustainable Artisanal Mining Applied for Livelihoods Advancement (SAMALA) for Women and Youth project funded by IM Swedish, has enhanced the operation capacity of Nchalo Salt Mining Cooperative through the provision of a salt processing machinery.

The machinery is meant to increase the production of top quality salt once production starts in July 2024. The specialised salt processing unit has been locally produced in Malawi by Pro-Cad Engineering with specifications suitable for the mineral salt found in Nchalo to ensure maximum extraction of salt during processing.

**"30 tonnes of
salt per
month."**

It is expected that the cooperative on full operation will be able to produce over 30 tonnes of salt every month, an amount that will significantly transform the lives of the members. Once operational, the salt will be tested and certified by Malawi Bureau of Standards in its quest to penetrate the Malawi salt market dominated by imported salt.



Nchalo Salt Mining Cooperative

Females: 22
Males: 18



GOVERNANCE OF MINERAL WEALTH



In the quest to strengthen governance of non-renewable natural resources and improve governance of extractive sector wealth, CEPA through the UNIKA project funded by the Southern African Trust led the participation of CSOs in Malawi Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MWEITI) processes including assessing and inputting into the 6th MWEITI report. In addition, CEPA produced a MWEITI Citizens Report which is a summary of the main report tailored to specific mining affected communities. The project also raised community awareness on mining regulatory frameworks and various mining related issues in 4 selected districts; Phalombe, Mangochi, Karonga and Lilongwe districts. Through the project, 20 members of the Balaka mining multi-stakeholder group had their capacities strengthened in extractive governance.

LAND MANAGEMENT

The Promoting Inclusive and Progressive Land Governance for Sustainable Livelihoods Project funded by the Government of Flanders, led the establishment of 22 Customary land committees and training of 64 committees to facilitate adjudication, demarcation and registration of Customary land. This plays a great role in ensuring land tenure security. As a result of an orientation on the new land governance frameworks that was made to 1,320 (894 males, 462 females) traditional leaders in Lilongwe, Traditional Authorities and Group Village Heads have improved their understanding of the provisions of the new land laws and have started sensitising their communities on registration of customary land and what is required of them. CEPA directly reached 19,317 (12,415 males, 6,902 females) community members, including women and youth, with information of the new land laws and registration of customary land.



CEPA also participated in the validation of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) of the land laws enacted in 2016 and the amendments of 2022. This will formalise information dissemination as well as responses given to the community from the questions asked by the community on the new land laws.





BIO DIVERSITY

2023

CLEAN ENERGY



"There are gendered challenges with regard to energy access with women disproportionately affected".

To help transform the national energy sector, CEPA under its biodiversity thematic area aims at increasing adoption of cleaner energy technologies. A study on energy access by the marginalised groups was conducted in Blantyre under the Promoting Equitable Access to Clean Energy EU funded project. Findings from the study show that approximately 90.6% of households rely on biomass for cooking; around 65% of households lack access to sustainable energy for lighting.

In response, the project raised awareness of effective clean energy technologies including operation, accessibility and benefits among communities in the project impact area. Additionally, the project facilitated district-level engagements for communities with the government and energy firms empowering citizens to demand their right to access electricity.

There are gendered challenges with regard to energy access with women disproportionately affected. For example, women predominantly responsible for cooking, spend over 5 hours daily on cooking-related tasks and are exposed to smoke from unclean energy sources posing a huge long-term health risk. The study recommended the following actions;

Increase

Energy investment from the national budget

Depoliticised energy access for sustained and inclusive improvements

Knowledge on clean energy through targeted awareness campaigns.

Create

An enabling environment so that new and diverse energy providers are introduced to enhance service delivery.

Establish

Transparent frameworks for efficient resource use within energy programs.

Policy reforms that ensure inclusivity in the wake of the highlighted disparities across different groups of people.

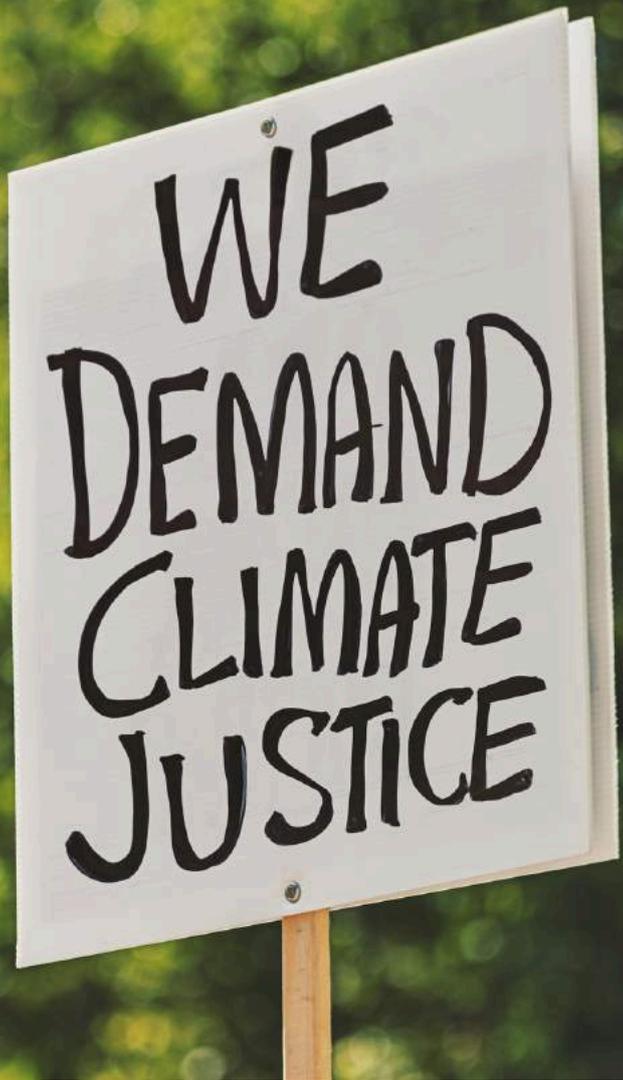


POLICY DIRECTION ON LOCAL PLANT GENETICS

In 2023, CEPA achieved significant milestones in advocating for improved legal frameworks specifically of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). These accomplishments have not only strengthened our position but also empowered the farming community, promoted international collaboration, and raised awareness on critical issues related to PGRFA. Through the Malawi Agrobiodiversity Network, CEPA organized the 4th National Farmers Rights Conference which gathered various stakeholders including Farmers and policy makers. The platform provided a space for the validation of the Draft National Strategy on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture laying the foundation to a comprehensive approach to PGRFA management in our country. Additionally, we validated and submitted a Model Policy on Farmer Managed Seed Systems and Farmers Rights to the government that an inclusive seed sector is possible in the country. Overall, the conference empowered farmers by providing them a robust platform to voice their concerns and actively participate in the decision-making process in the seed sector.

In the year, we also strengthened our partnership with the National Gene Bank, fostering a collaborative environment for the conservation of genetic resources at the Global Symposium on Farmers Rights in New Delhi, India. This event promoted collaboration and knowledge exchange among countries. Through a joint presentation with the Malawi Gene Bank, we shared the status of the legal frameworks that govern the country on issues of plant genetics and various activities implemented to contribute and enhance global efforts to protect Farmers' Rights. To continue our efforts in lobbying for improved frameworks we led an Eastern and Southern Africa CSO working group to drive the regional initiatives and collaborative efforts in PGRFA conservation and Farmers' Rights. With the working group, we combined our efforts to engage the African Governments Representatives on the importance of PGRFA and for them to take the critical issues to the 10th Governing Body Session that PGRFA remains a priority in national agendas. We participated at the Tenth Session of the Governing Body in Italy ensuring our continued influence and contribution to global PGRFA policy discussions. We submitted five interventions at the Africa Region preparation meeting in Kenya and during the Governing Body Session in Rome. Notably, four out of these five interventions were incorporated into the resolution for the implementation of Article 9 of Farmers Rights.

CEPA provided support to 3 communities with their Climate Adaptive Village Plans as a way of advocating for good and responsive government services and legal frameworks. The community representatives submitted their plans to local government structures and representatives of District Councils in Machinga, Rumphi, and Mzimba on promoting sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing resilience to climate change at the community level to lobby for more support towards their plans.



CLIMATE CHANGE

2023





FOOD AND SOIL SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

To be part of the transformation of food and soil systems in Malawi, CEPA under the Promoting Organic Systems of Soil Improvement to Build a Lasting Economy (POSSIBLE) project funded by the EU, facilitated a policy study on waste-to-compost systems for soil organic matter restoration. The policy study has reviewed existing global and national policy and legal frameworks supporting waste to compost systems for soil organic matter restoration to identify enabling provisions, existing policy gaps and opportunities for upscaling of efforts.

997 (430 males and 567 females) farmers in Lilongwe and Blantyre

9 bags of compost (65Lt each).

2kg of Maize seed.

1Kg of Pigeon Pea seed or 3 kg of Nua Bean seed and 4 Gliricidia tree seedlings.

The project has made two policy proposals to the government. These policy proposals are:

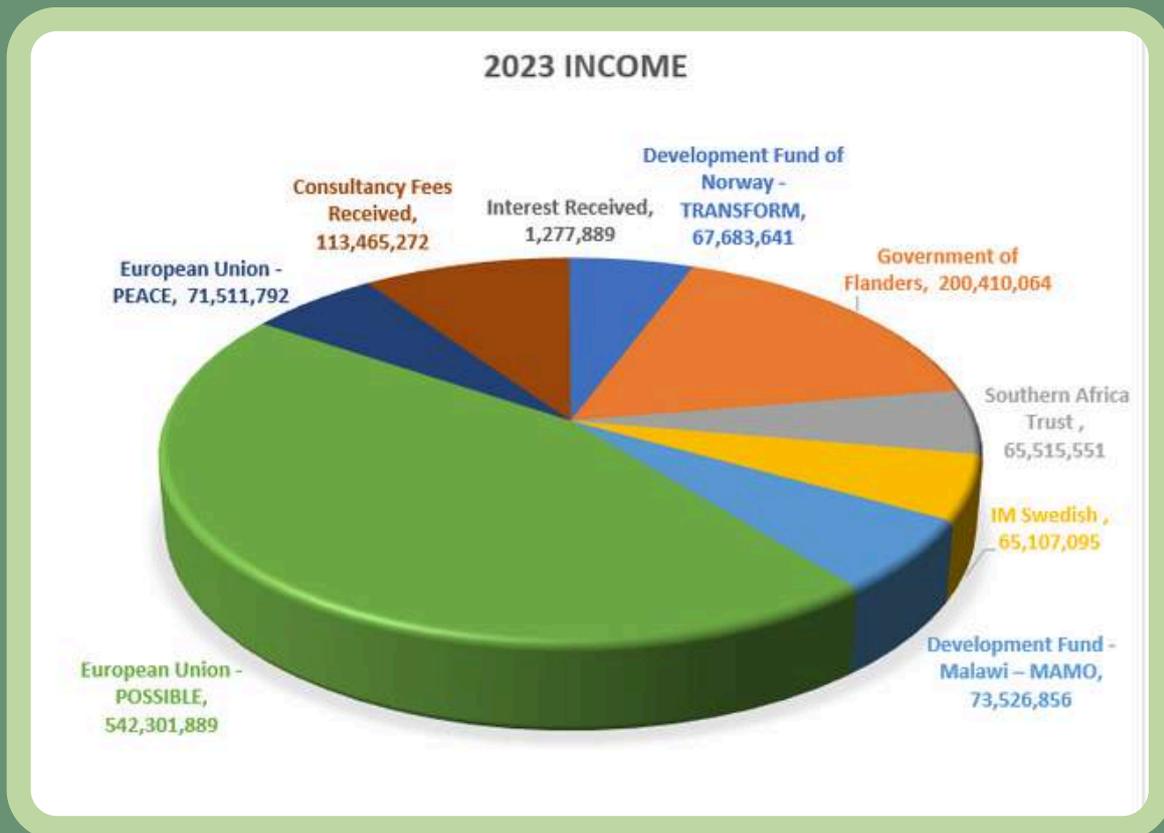
- the redesign of the Malawi’s Affordable Inputs Program (AIP) to incorporate compost as a way of improving soil health. The proposition was made during the project launch and during the pre-COP28 dialogue.
- that the policy statement in the draft National Agriculture Policy 2023 on soil health should be stand-alone so that proper strategies are developed in the policy to address the challenge of declining soil health in Malawi soils.

The project will continue to engage policy and decision makers for uptake of these proposals. The policy research on waste to compost systems has come up with other policy proposals which will be presented to the government through a policy brief and a dialogue meeting on the report.

During the 2023/2024 growing season, the project in Lilongwe and Blantyre demonstrated the impact of compost and conservation agriculture practices on soil organic matter restoration.

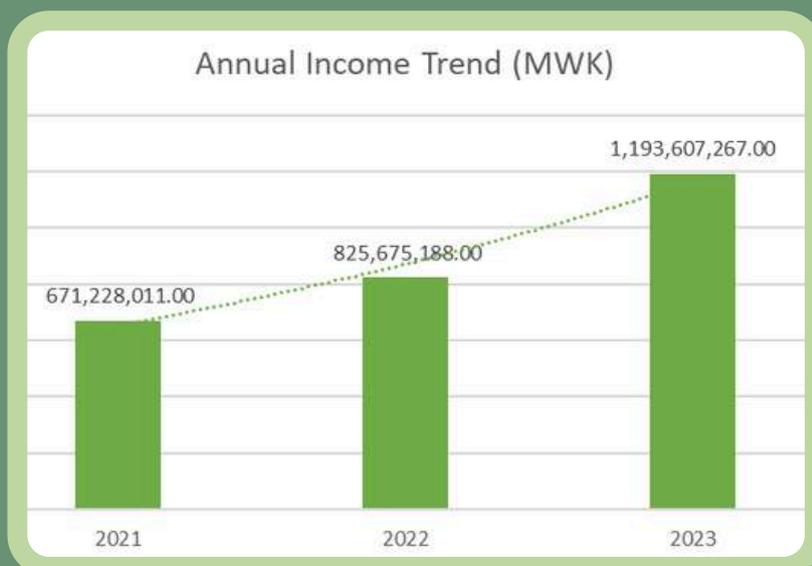
Financial Report 2023

TOTAL INCOME



In 2023, CEPA reported a total income of MWK1,193,607,267.00, representing 44.56% increase from 2022.

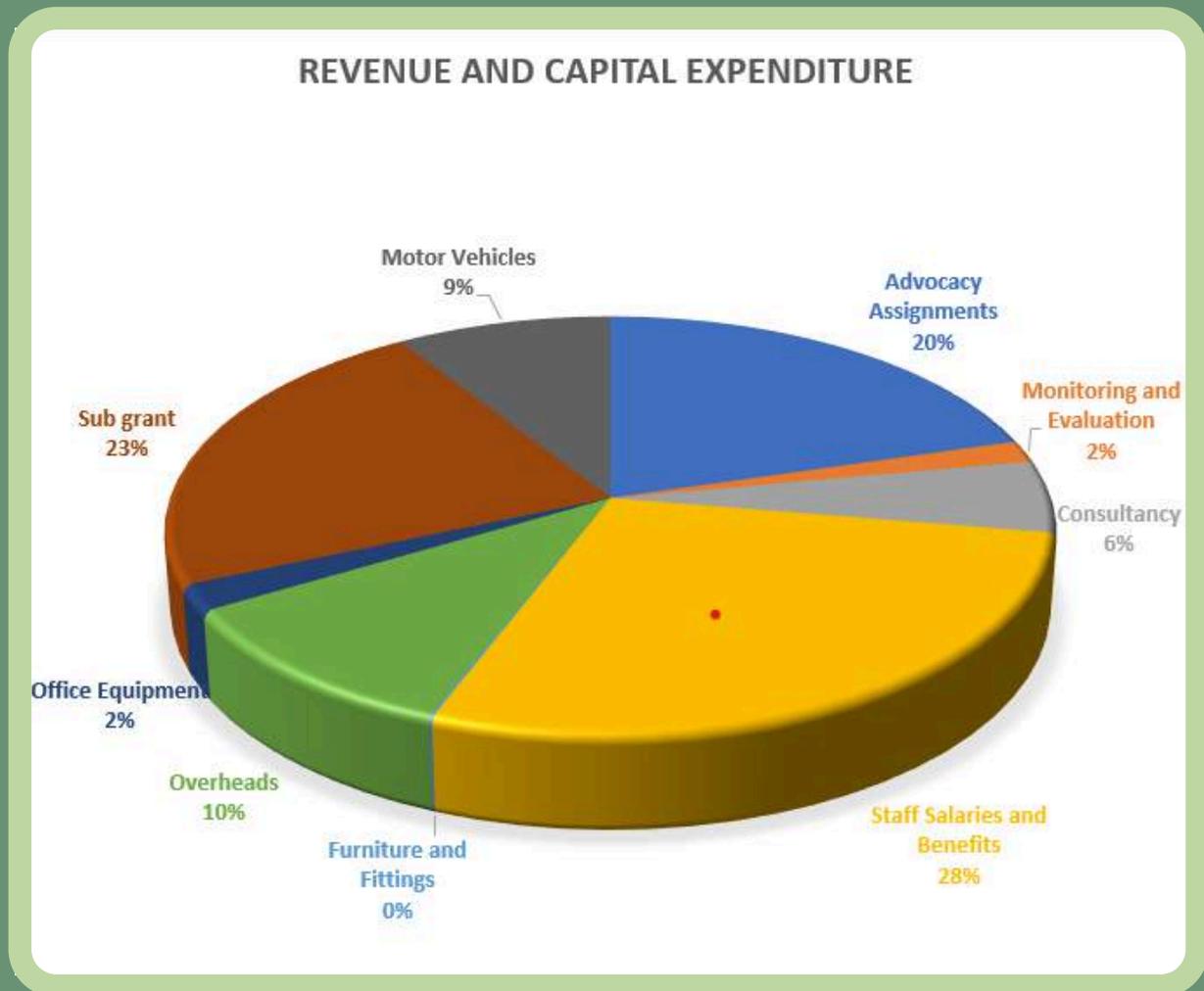
By year-end, CEPA held a deferred income of MK239,006,724.00.



Financial Report 2023

REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Total revenue and capital expenditure for the period amounted to MK954,600,543.00, representing 80% burn rate.



Thank you to our partners



Funded by
the European Union



Flanders
State of the art



in solidarity for a climate resilient Malawi

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