

Government Develops National Charcoal Strategy.



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Nature's **Voice**



Centre for Environmental
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A Word From the Executive Director

WILLIAM CHADZA

I welcome you to the first edition of Nature's Voice in 2017. The previous edition shared with you interesting developments and success stories one of it being the launch of Disaster Risk Management and National Agriculture Policies by government.

In this Edition, however, CEPA celebrates with the rest of stakeholders the launch of National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy and National Charcoal Strategy by the government of Malawi. This signifies Government efforts towards sustainable management of forestry resources while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, the launch alone is not enough, implementation is

what matters. Concerted efforts are required from all stakeholders if goals and objectives are to be achieved.

Our dear readers should also expect to learn a lot from a range of interesting articles in this edition. In addition, we have also shared our recent efforts in mining governance and many other interesting stories.

Enjoy your reading!

William Chadza
Executive Director

CEPA celebrates with the rest of stakeholders the launch of National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy and National Charcoal Strategy by the Government of Malawi.



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From the Editor's Desk

STEPHEN CHIKUSE

Welcome to Volume 13 Issue 1 of Nature's Voice, Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) bi-annual newsletter.

As mining has generated a lot of debate in Malawi on whether the nation is benefiting from it or not, our feature story discusses issues of sustainability and closure of mines. Emphasis has been put on the numerous questions that communities and civil society have concerning government mechanism in monitoring mine closure processes.

Again, as charcoal production in the country remains controversial as far as environmental sustainability is concerned, in light of lack of alternative energy options to fulfil household energy demands, the issue also takes a look at the National Charcoal Strategy which was launched during the Southern Africa (SADC+) Bonn Challenge Ministerial Meeting hosted by Malawi during the first half of 2017. The aim of the strategy is to address the growing charcoal production and demand in the country.

Having been under implementation for six years in

twelve disaster-prone districts of Malawi, we also take a brief look at the achievements of the Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) which is phasing out in September 2017. The programme has been implemented during a time when the country faced one of its worst flood disasters in its history.

On the advocacy front, we also take our readers through some of the work CEPA has been engaged in over the past six months under various projects. This period has also seen the organisation joining the International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) Consortium led by Save the Children in the implementation of a resilience project with funding from the Department of International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.

On behalf of Mrs Agatha Chimsewa-Nkhonjera, the Lead Editor, I would like to thank Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema, Gloria Majiga, Stanley Mvula, Vincent Moses, Cynthia Simkonda and Tiwonge Chirwa for the great job that has led to the publication of this issue.

Enjoy reading!

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Of Mine Closures and Unfilled Holes: *A Gloomy Mining Legacy*

By Cynthia Simkonda, CEPA.

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Mining in Malawi has stimulated a lot of debate across stakeholders on whether the nation is benefiting from it or not. Of particular interest are issues of sustainability and closure plans. Eland Coal Mine in the northern part of Malawi has given Malawians a gloomy side of mining. There are claims that the company left without fulfilling agreed community development projects as outlined in the agreement between communities and the company in 2012. Civil society and communities have questioned the implementation mechanisms that government has in place to monitor mine closure processes. That aside, communities still have a lot of questions that for sure would also be of interest to many. For instance, if Kayelekera Uranium Mine were to close today, what would be the most pertinent economic, social, environmental, health and safety issues that surrounding community, civil society and government would be faced with? Would communities be able to identify benefits that the mining project brought to their community and the nation? Would the citizenry be able to follow how their money was utilised? Would government be able to show where the money went? The polluter pays principle, who starts the conversation and who monitors and enforces compliance with environmental requirements? Are mining companies willing to talk about mine closure?



A river such as this may be polluted if closure plans are not effectively monitored

Civil society and communities have questioned the implementation mechanisms that government has in place to monitor mine closure processes.

Mine closure has been topical globally with some experts providing guidance on good practices for mine closure. Mine closure is said to be a complex issue that needs proactive management. But broadly, mine closure encompasses all activities occurring after ore-extraction of a mine has ceased, and final decommissioning and mine reclamation are being completed. This process is characterized by reduced employment levels and other socio-economic challenges that communities have to adjust to during closure processes. In the region, countries like South Africa have developed legislations for mine closure. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act was developed as a mechanism to promote sound management of mine closure and rehabilitation by mining companies.

Malawi's Mines and Minerals Act 1981, provides for closure. The Act highlights that an application for the grant of a mining licence shall give information regarding proposals for the prevention of pollution, the treatment of wastes, the safeguarding of natural resources, the progressive reclamation and rehabilitation of land disturbed by mining and for the minimization of the effects of mining on surface water and ground water and on adjoining or neighbouring lands. In its submission to government, Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) analysed the draft Mines and Minerals Bill 2015 and proposed the establishment of a Mining Development Fund to be funded from levies on rights holders and other sources as Parliament may allocate. CEPA also proposed that the fund be responsible for financing promotional and regulatory activities including mine closure and post closure stabilization. Mine closure challenges become even a bigger problem for artisanal and small scale mining activities. Closure plans ought to be a process initiated during mine design stage. This entails thinking about how a licensed land would look like after a mine project. Mine closure processes should be inclusive. Inclusivity in this regard encompasses monitoring mechanisms that are developed to ensure that community's rights are put at the centre. Globally, most mine closure practices consider efforts to return the land to its functional use, which essentially means reclaiming the land to state where communities and government would utilize it. In most cases, the rights holders set aside a financial guarantee to allow them discharge of their rehabilitation obligations. When instances of rehabilitating the land are less than



An abandoned mine in Mwabulambo, Karonga District

estimated, the finances are returned to the company by the government upon issuing a closure certificate.



Parliamentary Committee on Natural resources and Climate Change inspecting abandoned mine in Mwabulambo

So what happens if the investor disappears overnight? After the profits and losses, the land should still be reclaimed to its useful purpose by an investor. It has been noted that when mining companies' say that they are over with extraction, that's when the real work begins. This situation is exacerbated with the absence of a robust legislation for mining in a country. Being a complex process for investors, there should still be support for communities to be able to cope with after closure events. Practically, the legal and regulatory framework and good implementations plans should be able to address most concerns that come with closure such as environmental, social and economic impacts. Multi stakeholder approach in managing closure processes could reduce some incidences relating to closure. However, with weak and outdated legislation, mine closure can lead to undesirable effects as witnessed in Karonga.



ECRP Wraps Up Its Activities in September 2017

By Dorothy Tembo - Nhlema, CEPA.

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Christian Aid Malawi and United Purpose (formerly known as Concern Universal) led two separate consortia comprising a number of agencies and implementing partners in a six-year project (August 2011 to September 2017) under the Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP). The project brought together various experience and expertise into a comprehensive and holistic package of activities designed to improve food security, reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience of 820, 000 direct beneficiaries in 11 districts most prone to natural disasters and climatic hazards across the country. United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Irish Aid and the Royal Norwegian Embassy fund the ECRP. Its total budget was £30.6m, of which £27m was provided by DFID.

ECRP had five major components that aimed to build resilience to climate change. They are 1) improved capacity of local authorities (especially village, area and district civil protection committees); 2) improved and resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households in target areas; 3) enhanced early warning for District Governments and vulnerable households; 4) informed policy in areas relevant to climate and disaster resilience; and 5) strengthened humanitarian response and recovery. Component 4 was managed by CEPA which aims to distil lessons learnt from the programme to advocate for improved policies and programmes at district and national level. Component five was added in 2015-16, following large scale floods that affected the country in January 2015, with the recovery component supporting households affected both by floods and the subsequent drought.



Solar-Powered irrigation scheme in Chikwawa



Truncheon tree planting, one way of sustaining tree planted

The programme has made significant improvement to the lives of various households in the targeted districts, for instance households that were under ECRP were better off during the 2015 disasters. Furthermore, the asset value for beneficiaries had improved compared to non-beneficiaries, the capacity of District, Area and Village Civil Protection Committees had improved towards flood early warning, saving lives and quality of humanitarian assistance and the programme has food security and incomes outside the rain-fed harvest through small scale irrigation. Finally, the programme has contributed to the various related policy frameworks on climate change and disaster risk management in ensuring that the voice of the vulnerable communities are represented.



Jestina Mogha Planting Katope Seedling at Kabale Primary School in Lyamayolo, Karonga



Formalising Customary Land Tenure in Malawi through EU-funded Land Governance Pilot Project

By Vincent Moses, CEPA.

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Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) in partnership with Landnet and Oxfam is implementing EU funded 'Strengthening Land Governance Systems for Smallholders Farmers in Malawi' Project in the districts of Kasungu, Mzimba and Phalombe. The overall objective of the project is to ensure that rural women and men in Malawi practise sustainable agricultural production and secure livelihoods. Specifically, the project will pilot, test and recommend for scale up improved gender sensitive land governance systems for establishment of customary estates.

The project officially started in 2015 and responds to some of the objectives of the Malawi National Land Policy of 2002 which include recognising and protecting rights of customary land holders through land titling and registration; devolution and formalising traditional land administration through establishing Customary Land Committees (CLCs) and Customary Land Tribunals (CLTs). Further to this, the project seeks to promote equitable access to land for all citizens both in the guidelines and their implementation.

In an effort to achieve the above policy objectives, CEPA initiated the process of developing gender sensitive guidelines and procedures for land titling and registration, establishing local level institutions for customary land administration, and dispute resolution and conflict management on land issues.

The process started with desk review of land related policies and legal instruments, literature from land titling programmes carried out within and other African countries. Among many factors, the review revealed that cultural dynamics is the most challenging factor to the implementation success of land titling programmes.

In many African countries including Malawi, customary land is governed by laws of patriarchal and matriarchal systems. Both systems promote gender discrimination in the sense that women are not allocated land in patriarchal system and this works to the advantage of men. In matriarchal society, land ownership rights are in principle traced through women. In practice however, men control its use and disposition.

Gender inequality on land access and control has a negative impact on social and economic life of households and the country at large. While studies show that women provide more labour force than men in agriculture sector, they do not own land on their own to improve their social and economic status. The guidelines will therefore aim to provide opportunity for both men and women, aged, physically challenged, orphaned, and widowed to have private land rights and strengthen their tenure security through titling and registration. This will ensure sustained agricultural production and enjoyment of agricultural benefits by both men and women.

Currently, CEPA is in the middle of conducting stakeholder consultations at national, district and local level in order to understand current experiences and best practices in customary land governance. Information and lessons from the consultations together with the findings of the desk review will be used as a reference for developing inclusive guidelines and procedures for land titling and registration, establishing local level institutions for customary land administration, and dispute resolution and conflict management on land issues.



CEPA Interacting with communities in TA Mpherembe (Mzimba) during stakeholder consultations on Customary Land Governance



Government develops a National Charcoal Strategy to address the Growing Charcoal Production and Demand

By Dorothy Tembo - Nhlema, CEPA.

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The levels of deforestation in Malawi have increased at a supersonic speed compared to reforestation due to energy needs for cooking and heating fuel and projections indicate that by 2030 Malawi will not have enough biomass to meet demand for firewood and charcoal.

On 12th and 13th July 2017, Malawi Government hosted Southern Africa (SADC+) Bonn Challenge Ministerial Meeting. The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. At this meeting, among others, Malawi government launched the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy and National Charcoal Strategy.

Forests sustain life on earth and directly support the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people and indirectly support all of us through the valuable ecosystem services they provide, yet, forests continue to be destroyed at an alarming rate, often in the name of development.

The levels of deforestation in Malawi have increased at a supersonic speed compared to reforestation due to energy needs for cooking and heating fuel and projections indicate that by 2030 Malawi will not have enough biomass to meet demand for firewood and charcoal.

The current hydropower energy can only meet 10% of the population with 1% in the rural areas. Furthermore, the current hydropower energy is expensive for a common Malawian and is not reliable due to low levels of water in the Shire River. The efficiency of hydropower has been affected by climate change effects and catchment degradation.

Nearly every Malawian household (97%) relies on firewood or charcoal for cooking and heating fuel. Firewood remains the most used cooking fuel (87.7% of households), but charcoal now predominates in urban areas (54%) resulting in deforestation and forest degradation of about 2.8% and loss of 28,000 tonnes of soil per year.

Deforestation and forest degradation is negatively impacting agricultural productivity and food security, water security, and hydroelectric generating capacity leaving the country more vulnerable to climate shocks.

To make matters worse nearly all the charcoal produced is illegal and about 60% of charcoal is produced from Forest Reserves and National Parks; approximately 38% comes from customary land, and 2% of charcoal enters Malawi from Mozambique.

Resolving the growing charcoal crisis is neither fast nor easy and requires focused and consistent attention from the Government and its partners to address growing energy demands and forest conservation and management priorities sustainably hence development of the National Charcoal Strategy (NCS) through the Department of Forestry and Energy Affairs in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining in collaboration with other likeminded Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The NCS aims to provide a framework to address the linked problems of increased deforestation and increased demand for

household cooking fuel.

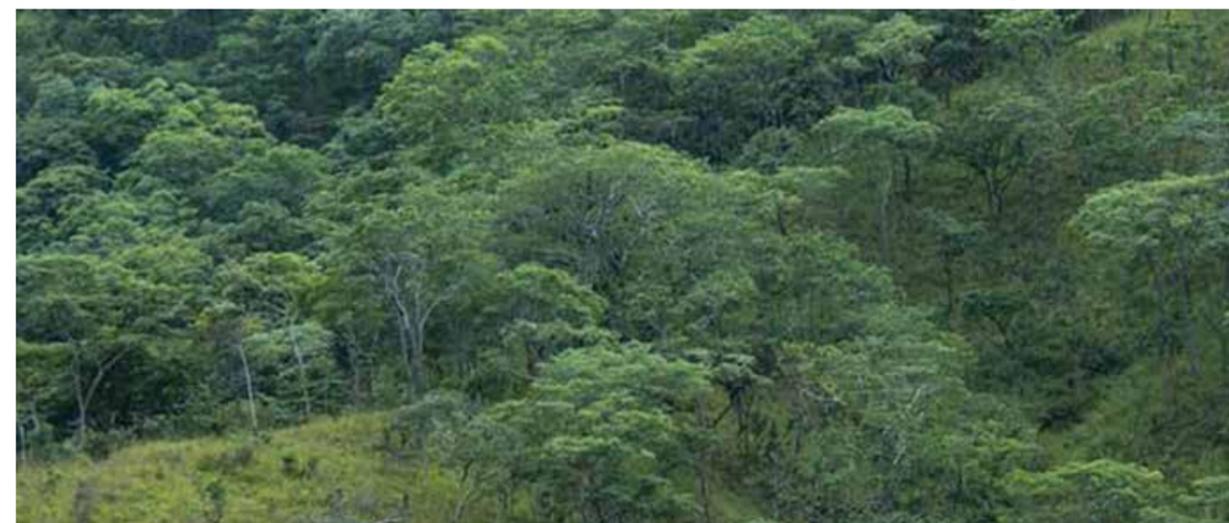
The NCS promises to promote alternative household cooking fuels. The NCS acknowledges that effective control of illegal charcoal and reduction of dependence on biomass fuels is impractical without affordable, reliable, and readily available alternative energy sources, along with private sector involvement.

The strategy also aims to promote the adoption of improved charcoal and firewood cook stoves for household cooking and heating. Malawi especially in urban areas has achieved gains in adoption of more fuel-efficient firewood cook stoves however the adoption in rural areas remains quite low. The NCS further plans to promote sustainable wood production through promoting large-scale/commercial cultivation of fast growing tree species and/or alternative feedstock suitable for charcoal and commercial firewood production, through concessions or other appropriate means.

NCS recognizes that enforcement related to charcoal production and marketing has been inadequate, inconsistent and ineffective, therefore the NCS will enhance enforcement of existing laws and regulations in order to reduce illegal wood harvesting and charcoal production and to create a market for sustainable

wood and charcoal production. Also placing a “ban” on charcoal in the absence of affordable alternative cooking and eating fuels leads to illegal charcoal production and marketing is not viable; therefore the NCS will support to establish a professional and regulated charcoal value chain that promotes sustainable and efficient production of charcoal in the country.

Government also recognises the role that livelihoods and income generation play in charcoal production and marketing, with this recognition, the government will strive to secure livelihoods for legal producers and find alternative livelihoods for other forest dependent communities. To increase uptake of alternative sources of energy and strengthen law enforcement among others government will work with partners to develop information, raise awareness and change the behaviours. Finally, NCS aims to incentivise and promote private sector investment in the supply and demand solutions and ensure that the needs of men, women, children and vulnerable groups are addressed.



Forests sustain life on earth and directly support the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people and indirectly support all of us through the valuable ecosystem services they provide



Bush Fires:

Retarding Natural Resources Conservation Efforts

By Dorothy Tembo - Nhlema, CEPA.

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Every year as we move towards summer around July and August, cases of bush fires across the country become rampant. When one travels along M1 road especially from Zalewa to Kasungu, the nice view one appreciates are blazing fire and is welcomed with heavy fumes. Both old and regenerating trees show signs of sympathy, no wonder the vegetation is stunted in most of our districts. The fires are well known for emitting gasses into the atmosphere contributing to climate change. The air quality has over time been affected too because of smoke from the same bush fires.

From time to time CEPA has been engaging various stakeholders including community members on the reasons behind increasing bushfires. One of the District Forestry Officers, indicated that bush



A Samaritan tries to put off the uncontrolled fire lit by unknown people.

fires in most parts of the country are not new but traditional and become worse towards September. The DFO continued that most bush fires are caused by poachers including mice hunters, clearing of fields because bush fires clears fields very quickly. The communities visited in T/A Simon in Neno indicated that are being affected by the bush fires and most of these bush fires are caused by mice hunters, jealousy people, poachers, garden clearing and some who lights fire for heating themselves. Specifically, some villagers fire grass after cutting theirs so that their neighbors have nowhere to sickle but buy from them. In most cases their intentions are not aimed at other people's gardens but the fires get huge and become uncontrollable

and in some cases houses get burnt. Fields and forests which acted as wind breaks are clear today and this results whirl winds and hailstorms destroying our houses, a young lady commented.

It is obvious that bush fires put many things are at risk, including ESCOM poles, forests reserves, biodiversity. Bush fires retards development and every effort towards ecosystem conservation. It is high time government and all stakeholder strengthened their coordination efforts to reduce incidences bush fires and its dangers through increased awareness to the rural and urban communities to build an environmentally friendly Malawi.



Bush fires reaching ESCOM poles.



Uncontrolled fire in the Viphya Forest.

It is high time government and all stakeholder strengthened their coordination efforts to reduce incidences bush fires and its dangers through increased awareness to the rural and urban communities to build an environmentally friendly Malawi.



Journalists Commit to Advocating for Seed Sovereignty, Food and Nutrition Security and Culture Preservation

By Tiwonge Chirwa

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Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) in collaboration with Chancellor College (CHANCO) and Association for Environmental Journalist (AEJ) organized a media orientation seminar on seed sovereignty, food and nutrition security and culture preservation. The objective of the orientation was to increase awareness on seed sovereignty, food and nutrition and culture preservation in Malawi following the non-recognition of the informal seed sector in the draft seed policy. CEPA, CHANCO and AEJ engaged the media in a seminar to help in advocating for the inclusion of the informal seed sector in the seed policy. The training package unpacked the background information on seed sovereignty, farmer's rights, food security, indigenous knowledge and culture, an overview of the seed sector in Malawi and the legal and policy framework. The seminar engaged the journalists from 8 media houses which included Times Group, Zodiak Broadcasting Corporation, Timveni Radio, Nation Publications Limited, Malawi Mews Agency (MANA), Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), Galaxy Radio, and Radio Islam.



Some of the participants captured during the training.

As part of the advocacy campaign, the media were identified as the best actors to transmit information on the seed sector to the public. Media advocacy was one of the strategies that were adopted in order to influence key decision-makers to support the recognition of the informal seed sector in Malawi. This entailed the media raising awareness by disseminating information in different media houses to effect change and also to ensure issues related to the seed sector are disseminated, advocated for and included in the draft seed policy.

The seminar also gave practical experience to allow journalists appreciate the work of small-scale farmers in the field. As such, the journalist went on a field day visit in Lobi, Dedza where they interacted with farmers from the Malawi Farmer to Farmer Agro-ecology Project (MAFFA). The farmers exhibited diverse crops which ranged from different varieties of maize, Bambara nuts, finger millet, sorghum, pearl millet, cucumbers, cocoyam, yam, water melon, cow peas, beans, pigeon peas, black jack, baobab and amaranthus.

MAFFA encourages farmers to grow diverse food crops for commercial



Some of the produce by MAFFA farmers being showcased.

and subsistence farming. However, seed regulations in Malawi hinder the farmer's productivity due to non-recognition of the informal seed sector in the regulations despite contributing 70% to agricultural produce. Studies have shown that over 70 percent of seed accessed by local subsistence farmers in Malawi is farm-saved seed.

The journalists appreciated the diverse crops that were exhibited by the farmers. They later documented stories from the field visit that would be used to raise awareness of the issues raised by farmers and advocate for the inclusion of the informal seed sector in the regulations.

In Lobi, the journalists learnt that the farmers promoted growth of indigenous crops which have proven to be early maturing, disease resistant, and adapting to climate change. In addition, it is relatively cheaper and readily available just at the time the seed is needed. It is more reliable and its sustainability is more guaranteed than formal seeds. The possession of attributes such as taste and nutrition that give the varieties added value to the communities. It was also revealed that most farmers prefer open pollinated variety and local seeds other than hybrids because they are easily accessible as they can be recycled making them affordable to local farmers unlike hybrid varieties which require recurrent purchase of seed and high levels of inputs.

Farmers also love their landraces as it is storage of their culture. The seed is not only the source of food for the farmers but also storage place for culture. Due to adoption and heavy reliance of the formal seed system, the informal seed system is neglected hence loss of the dominant source of seed security leading to extinction of seeds. Most of the crops that are grown by the farmers are those that were grown by

their forefathers. For instance, kagolo maize is a type of maize with little husks and it was there in the past. The farmers also expressed their preference for local maize to hybrid for it stays longer compared to the later hence good for house consumption.

The informal sector has not made much impact in many countries as expected because the sector is not financially funded by governments. Therefore, its improvement is limited and non-existent as such this has effects on agricultural productivity and the income of farmers and more particularly to poor and marginalized farmers.



Some of the participants captured during the training

The complementarities of the formal and informal sector offers multiple opportunities to develop a well-integrated seed sector in which both formal and informal actors play a significant role. Farmers' capacities and knowledge regarding local conditions, seed selection and traditional mechanisms of seed exchange are valuable elements in the functioning of the informal seed sector. Instead of replacing the informal sector, the formal sector can build on these elements to address more effectively the seed demands of small-scale farmers. The informal system can be significantly strengthened, for instance, by introducing improved genetic materials and adapting improved seed technology to local conditions.

However, does the government have capacity to feed everyone by using the formal seed sector? One cannot help but acknowledge that the conservation of the seeds from the informal seed sector is critical to the development of the agricultural sector in Malawi and needs to be at the core of the government policy. With the ongoing debate on seed systems in Malawi, one would wonder what the future looks like for the seed sector in Malawi.

Media advocacy was one of the strategies that were adopted in order to influence key decision-makers to support the recognition of the informal seed sector in Malawi.



Enhancing Coordination of Natural Resources Management Policy implementation for Ecosystem Fisheries Management

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The project aims at increasing resilience to climate change and improving biodiversity conservation through sustainable fisheries co-management.

Malawi's fisheries sector, built around the four primary freshwater ecosystems of Lakes Malawi, Malombe, Chilwa, and Chiuta, plays a significant role in the economics, politics, and social dynamics of the nation. The sector provides employment for about 60, 000 fishers and more than 450, 000 fish processors, distributors, and others involved in the domestic fish trade and allied industries¹.

CEPA, through the Fisheries Integration of Society and Habitats (FISH) Project led by Pact and working in partnership with Christian Aid, University of Rhodes Island Coastal Resources Centre (CRC), Community Initiative for Self-Reliance (CISER), Emmanuel International and Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) with funding from USAID, is implementing a five year project in four major lakes of Malawi, namely; Malawi, Malombe, Chiuta and Chilwa.

The project aims at increasing resilience to climate change and improving biodiversity conservation through sustainable fisheries co-management. Among other outputs, the project seeks to improve the legal framework for sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation. This will be done through advocacy which will be informed by, among others, an understanding of gaps in the existing policy and legal framework that govern fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the context of climate change.

FISH recognizes that effective management of these fisheries resources requires collaboration with other sectors. The most important inter sectoral linkage is that of water, land, forestry, environment and climate change. This necessitates harmonization of the fisheries policy and legislation with the stated sectors in order to effectively manage fisheries ecosystems. It was against this background that the project conducted a review of environment and natural resources management (ENRM) policies and legislation.

The review followed up on a previous 2013 'Review of Malawi's Fisheries Legislation' which was carried out under the European Union funded Strengthening Fisheries Management in African Caribbean Countries Project² but used an ecosystem approach to align with related natural resources management legislation and the revised National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy. Thus instead of focusing

exclusively on fisheries legislation, the current review included a review of NRM policy instruments that have a bearing on fisheries either directly or indirectly.

Key issues in ENRM Policies impacting on fisheries ecosystem management

Productivity and ecosystem stability of fish ecosystems are dependent on the integrity of terrestrial (rivers, forests, agricultural) ecosystems as these provide services that are critical for maintaining lake water levels and fish breeding. However, aquatic ecosystems in Malawi which support fisheries production suffer from lack of coordinated policy guidance as they are governed by multiple sectors. While most ENRM policies are consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, they do not prescribe coordination and suffer from limited implementation. This has negatively affected effective management of the fishery ecosystems leading to deforestation and

soil erosion in catchment areas and siltation of water bodies. In addition, proliferation of upstream water abstraction for irrigation activities without consideration of sustainable ecosystem management has limited filling up of water bodies. This in turn has led to habitat loss and degradation affecting breeding success of fish species. Consequently, there has disappearance of commercially important fish species such as Chambo. Moreover, some species have been red listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Index such as *Mpasa (O. microlepis)*, *Sanjika (O. macrocephalus)* and *Ntchila (L. mesops)*.

Failure to address the limited coordination, harmonization and implementation of ENRM policies will undermine the livelihoods, food security and economic benefits generated from the freshwater ecosystems. This policy brief therefore, seeks to identify gaps in ENRM policy instruments that directly



FISH Technicians and Department of Fisheries extension workers drawing ecosystem-based catchment management plans.

¹Jamu, D., et al., Challenges to sustainable management of the lakes of Malawi. J. Great lakes Res (2011);

²Megapesca Lda (2013), Review of Malawi's Fisheries Legislation, "Strengthening Fisheries Management in ACP Countries" Project;

Enhancing Coordination of Natural Resources Management Policy implementation for Ecosystem Fisheries Management *(cont'd)*

Failure to address the limited coordination, harmonization and implementation of ENRM policies will undermine the livelihoods, food security and economic benefits generated from the freshwater ecosystems.

impact on fisheries ecosystem management based on in-depth review of existing policies and stakeholder consultations. The brief also highlights some of the practices constraining management of fisheries ecosystems. In addition, it provides recommendations for improving policy and practice in the management of environment and natural resources that impact on fisheries.

A current review of ENRM sector policies highlights the following issues that impact on fisheries management; (i) Limited policy guidance on institutional linkages; (ii) Lack of policy guidance on cross district fisheries ecosystems management and; (iii) Inadequate holistic planning of sectoral development interventions.

In light of the findings from the review, the following actions were recommended; (i) speedy implementation of revised Environment Management Act; (ii) need for policy specification on institutional linkages; (iii) promote cross district coordination; (iv) enhance coordination of institutional structures at the local level; (v) promote catchment management; (vi) facilitate development and implementation of participatory forest management plans and; (vii) promote Integrated Water Resources Management.

Integrated Catchment Management Training of Trainers

In a bid to implement some of the recommendations review of the environment and natural resources policies and legislation impacting on fisheries from an ecosystem perspective within the context of FISH project, a training of trainers was organized for FISH frontline staff and the Department of Fisheries (DoF) extension workers. The aim was to facilitate familiarization and identification of conflicting practices at the local level and their impact on freshwater ecosystems management. Among other outputs, the training to equipped FISH project implementation staff with skills on effective catchment management approaches and how to collaborate with other sectors at the district especially on conflicting issues such as , Irrigation and Riverbank cultivation. At the end of the training the participants drew ecosystem based catchment management action plans for immediate implementation. The participants appreciated the need for holistic approach to fisheries ecosystem management and the need to leverage on existing sector institutions such as agriculture, water and village natural resource management committees for collaboration in the implementation of ecosystem based catchment management plans.



CEPA Joins the DFID Resilience Project under the INGO-Consortium

By Dorothy Tembo - Nhlema, CEPA.

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In June 2017, CEPA joined the INGO consortium to implement a Transformed Community Resilience Programme. The programme is titled "Breaking the Cycle of Humanitarian Assistance through Enhancing Resilience and Shock-Responsive Capacity". The nine-month programme is being funded by DFID. The programme is being implemented in ten districts namely, Karonga, Salima, Dedza, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Phalombe, Mulanje, Chikwawa and Nsanje. The programme is being led by Save the Children International, and being implemented by various international and national partners.



Participant pose for a photo during an advocacy training in Blantyre.

The programme is being led by Save the Children International, and being implemented by various international and national partners.

The programme has three outputs and CEPA is contributing to output "Test innovations to gather evidence for advocacy on effective approaches linking resilience and shock response". The other two outputs are "Vulnerable households and communities in the targeted areas receive support to strengthen their resilience and preparedness to climate and weather-related shocks" and "vulnerable households in the targeted areas at risk of food insecurity (either due to climate – related shocks or chronic food insecurity) receive adequate support through cash transfers."

CEPA in a SNAP

Do the youths have a role in advocating and lobbying for issues affecting them?



Members of the Young Women Can Do It clubs in Dowa organised a debate which was centered on a motion, “do the youth have a role in advocating and lobbying for issues affecting them?” During the debate, youth shared experiences on the importance of youth participation and their role in lobbying and advocacy. It was interesting to see the youth expressing the need for their participation in developmental issues and calling for space in community development structures. The debate was recorded and broadcast on MBC Radio 2.

CEPA in a SNAP

11th Community-Based Adaptation



Over 15 delegates from Malawi participated in the 11th Community-Based Adaptation that took place in Uganda, organized by Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovation (MUCCCRI) and the host Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) of the Government of Uganda. The conference took place from June 26 to 29. Over 300 participants from over fifty countries from all the main continents took part in the conference of whom nearly 100 went on the pre-conference field visits. The theme for the conference was “harnessing natural resources and ecosystem based adaptation”. One of the major outcomes from the conference was the importance of using success stories as evidence for promoting scaling up community based adaptation interventions.

CEPA in a SNAP

CEPA in collaboration with Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre (MPGRC) and Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (BCI) under the Access and Benefit Sharing Fund Project funded by Food and Agriculture Organization carried out a Joint scientific and farmer's assessment of climate change contexts and trends. The activity was done in 4 Extension Planning Areas (EPA) in Chikwawa in Mitole EPA and Mikalango EPA in addition to Mzimba in Mpherembe EPA and Rumpi in Bolero EPA in the project sites. The activity was done with the intent of linking traditional and scientific adaptation strategies and knowledge on climate change where scientists and farmers assess jointly the climate change contexts and trends in the project sites and further develop climate change adaptation strategies.



CEPA under EU funded Strengthening Land Governance Systems for Smallholders Farmers in Malawi Project carried out stakeholder consultations on customary land governance in Group Village Head Maziro in Lilongwe district. The consultations aimed at learning experiences from customary land titling and registration programme that government implemented in Lilongwe South West. From the discussions, it was learnt that land

titles were conferred to a clan representative in trust of the clan members rather than individual holders of customary land. Women participation in the titling process was limited on the basis of culture and tradition. "Women are not good at making crucial decisions except for deciding who should become the next chief for a community. Given a chance to select the next chief in a compound like that one, they will take very few minutes to endorse one and men are not comparable", GVH Maziro narrates. In light of this, there is need to develop guidelines that promote gender equity and inclusive land governance.

CEPA in a SNAP

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Malawi advocates for the transparent and accountable use of revenues government receives from mining companies that are exploiting minerals in Malawi. PWYP Malawi's work is part of the Natural Resources Justice Network's (NRJN) broader mandate of ensuring natural resources are managed for sustainable and equitable development. In June this year, PWYP Malawi members elected a new steering committee and host organization to lead PWYP's work for the next two years. Livingstonia Church and Society and Oxfam Malawi were elected as the new chair and vice-chair of the Steering Committee, respectively. The Institute for Policy Interaction and Ufulu Wathu are also part of the committee. Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy was elected as the new host organization.



In March this year, women from Malawi and Zambia gathered in Ethiopia to recognize and strengthen women by empowering them to influence and inform Extractive Industries (EI) policy-making processes. Women empowerment session was envisaged to address women specific needs and interests in the artisanal and small scale mining (ASM) sub sector. Oxfam under the Pan-Africa EI programme realized that it was vital for women to come together and discuss about challenges that women face in the sub sector. The overall goal of the workshop was to foster a community of practice on women in ASM and EI in

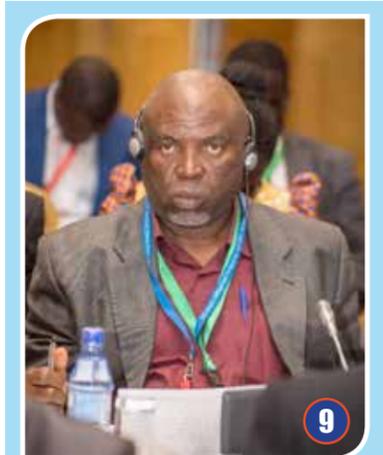
Africa that can mobilize women in Malawi and Zambia and eventually across the continent to engage with country mining vision, and more broadly to articulate women's interests in ASM in their engagements with governments and mining companies.

Pictorial Focus

Launch of the National Charcoal Strategy



On 12th and 13th July 2017, Malawi Government hosted Southern Africa (SADC+) Bonn Challenge Ministerial Meeting. The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. At this meeting, among others, Malawi government launched the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy and National Charcoal Strategy. CEPA and other civil society organisations were part of the meeting.



1. Participants during the Event. 2. Hon. Bright Msaka is presented with the document. 3. Hon. Bright Msaka officially presents the document to the audience. 4. CEPA Executive Director, Mr William Chadza makes a presentation during the event. 6. Minister, Hon Bright Msaka cuts the ribbon to officiate launch of the document. 7. Hon. Bright Msaka and other delegates listening to presentations during the event. 8. Hon Bright Msaka (centre) and other delegates listening to presentations during the event. 5,9, 10 & 11 some of the delegates who attended the ministerial meeting.

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