



CEPA LAUNCHES A New Strategic Plan

CEPA 2016
2020
STRATEGIC PLAN



Centre for Environmental
Policy and Advocacy

Nature's Voice

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A Word from the Executive Director

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In this issue CEPA is very proud of government for launching a number of policy frameworks, such as the climate change and Disaster Risk Management and the National Agriculture Policy, that have been under development for some time. In addition, CEPA applauds government for involving different stakeholders in the development processes of these frameworks. It is our hope that the road does not end here and that all stakeholders will collaborate in implementing the policies to achieve the goals of the frameworks.

CEPA is also honoured to give our readers some highlights of the launched 2016-2010 Strategic Plan, which is a road map for CEPA for the next 5 years, and the Information Knowledge Management System (IKMS) platform that will promote accessibility of information in the environmental sector from different stakeholders including government, the private sector and the civil society.

We wish you all the best as you read this issue.

It is our hope that the road does not end here and that all stakeholders will collaborate in implementing the policies to achieve the goals of the frameworks.



From the Editor's Desk

AGATHA NKHONJERA

As the CEPA strategic plan came to an end in 2015, CEPA has developed a new strategic plan to guide CEPA from 2016 to 2020. This road map was launched in the year at BICC in Lilongwe where different stakeholders were in attendance. This story is followed by an impact of CEPA's advocacy in empowering communities to hold duty bearers to account on different issues. Then a taste of the CEPA's Information Knowledge Management System platform that has been recently developed follows as a special feature in this newsletter.

On the advocacy front CEPA is applauding government through the Ministry of Lands for the passing of the Customary Land Laws which has been long overdue. In addition CEPA is also applauding government for the approval of different frameworks such as the Climate change and Disaster Risk Management as well as the National Agriculture Policy that CEPA contributed to.

CEPA in a Snap follows after the policy advocacy front then by a word from our friends where an analysis on the fisheries for tourism has been made. This will be followed by some highlights of the ABC project which has just phased out in 2016.

Enjoy reading this issue.



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Looking to the future

CEPA Launches a New Strategic Plan, Advocacy Strategy and Online Library



BY GLORIA MAJIGA

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Setting the pace for the next five years, CEPA officially launched its Strategic Plan (2016-2020), Advocacy Strategy (2016-2018), and the long awaited online library. The documents were launched at the Dissemination Conference held by CEPA with support from its development partners at the Bingu International Conference Centre on 24th November 2016, in Lilongwe. The five year long roadmap was officially launched by the Chief Director of Environment and Climate Change Management, Dr Yanira Ntupanyama. The audience was a mix of stakeholders who contributed to the development of the strategy including representative for USAID and the Development Fund of Norway.

The CEPA Strategic Plan (2016-2020)

This document is the organizational roadmap for the next five years and it highlights the key areas of focus that will guide CEPA as an institution and in programming. According to Professor Ephraim Chirwa, the Board Chairperson for CEPA, "...the Strategic Plan provides direction and forms a basis for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the organization in terms of assessing itself on its deliverables." In the new plan, CEPA has redefined its goal, identified new thematic areas and its key priority areas under advocacy and research.

CEPA STRATEGIC PLAN	
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	Environment and natural resources policies implemented for sustainable development.
Themes	Policy research and advocacy Institutional strengthening
Priority Areas	Natural resources Biodiversity Climate change



The CEPA Board Chair handing a copy of the CEPA Strategic Plan to the guest of honor, Dr Yanira Ntupanyama at the Launch.

This document is the organizational roadmap for the next five years and it highlights the key areas of focus that will guide CEPA as an institution and in programming

The CEPA Advocacy Strategy

The strategy presents key advocacy issues that CEPA will focus on during the period 2016-2020 in line with the new CEPA Strategic Plan. The objectives of this strategy are: i) to provide a framework for CEPA's advocacy work; and ii) to enhance monitoring and learning from advocacy processes. CEPA identified the following 9 priority advocacy issues within the organizational priority areas:

NATURAL RESOURCES



- i) Ineffective enforcement of mining regulatory framework
- ii) Customary land tenure insecurity
- iii) Limited implementation of water related policies and legislation;

BIODIVERSITY



- iv) Limited implementation of forestry policy and legislation
- v) Weak enforcement of fisheries legislation
- vi) Lack of policy direction on local plant genetic resources;

CLIMATE CHANGE



- vii) Lack of comprehensive policy direction on climate change
- viii) Limited access to climate information; and
- ix) Limited information sharing by government on national climate change mitigation efforts

In the implementation of the strategy, CEPA will employ the following strategies: *Policy research, developing policy positions, multi stakeholder dialogue, lobbying meetings, media engagement and information and knowledge management.*

As part of information knowledge management, CEPA launched its online library. The library contains a vast range of resources relevant to policymakers, civil society organizations, research institutions and academia, and development partners. It also provides access to a catalogue of resources available in the physical resource center located at the CEPA offices.



Gloria Majiga making a presentation on the CEPA Online Library.

The CEPA Strategic Plan, Advocacy Strategy and other resources can be accessed from the online library (<https://cepa.rmportal.net>)

The launch was officially closed by Dr. Ntupanyama who applauded CEPA for the role it plays in linking different government agencies in policy issues, and encouraged different partners and organizations to continue to work together towards sustainable development.

What Can I do Here

www.cepa.org.mw

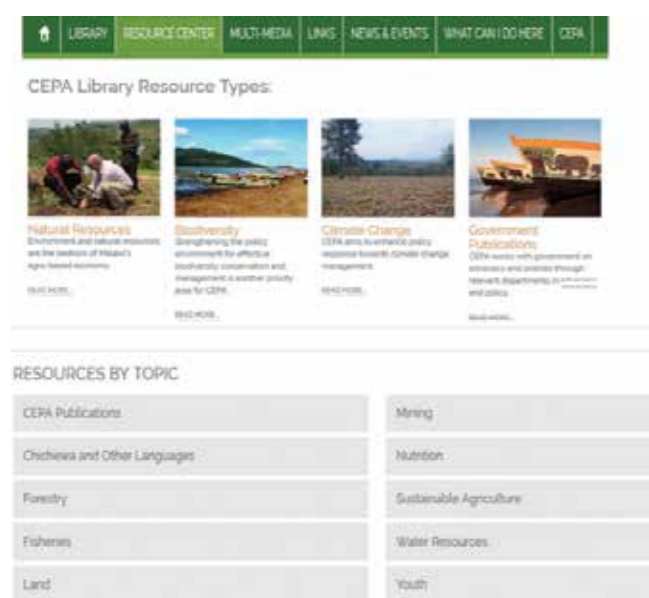
Welcome to the CEPA online library, a one stop shop for environmental information relevant to policymakers, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia, development partners, and EVERYONE!

1. ACCESSING THE LIBRARY



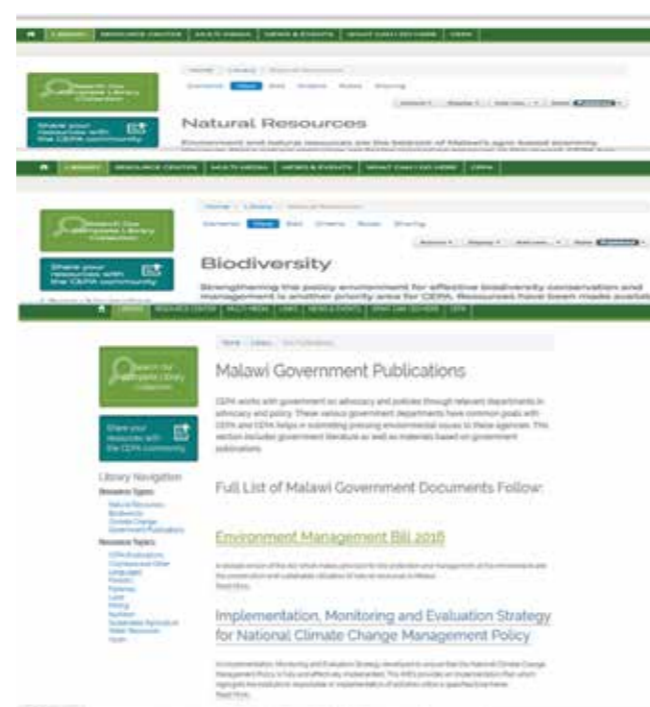
Log on to the CEPA website and access the Library

2. NAVIGATING THE LIBRARY

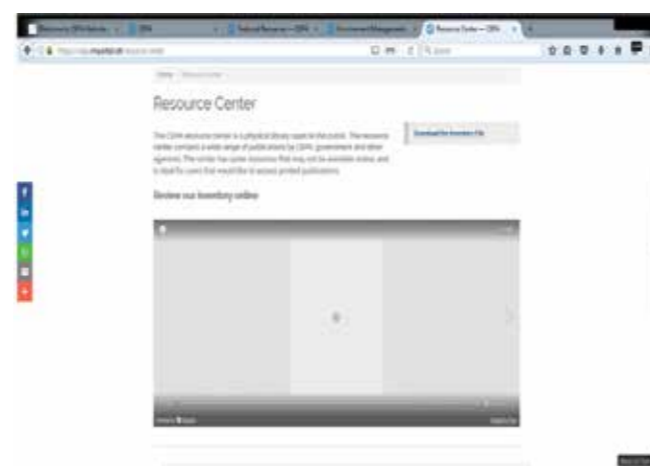


The Library is organized into resource types, based on the CEPA 2016-2020 thematic areas. And into topics which make it easier for you to find what you are looking for. Navigate sections of the Library using the Tabs.

3. ACCESSING RESOURCES

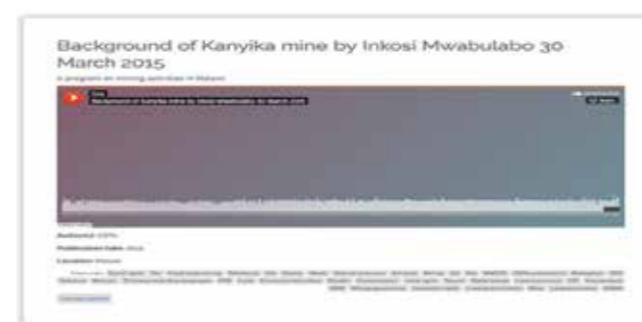


Access a wide range of publications from the different topic areas.

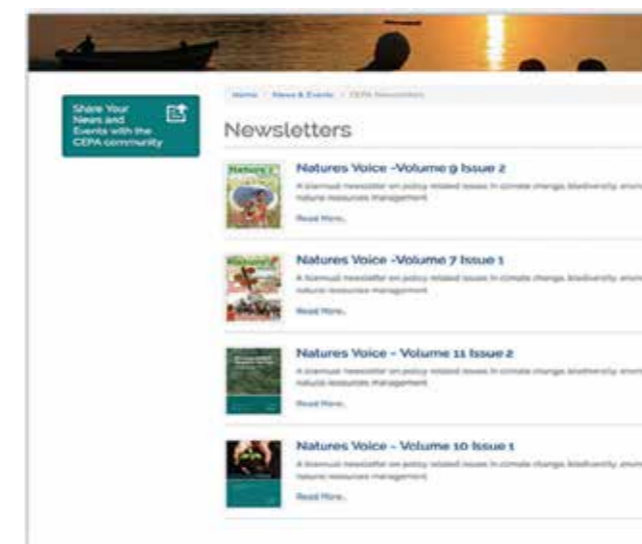


Explore the resources available in the physical library at the CEPA offices.

4. WATCH A VIDEO DOCUMENTARY



Listen to an informative programme.



Catch up on the latest and previous CEPA Newsletters - Natures Voice.

5. TRANACT IN THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY AND SHARE YOUR RESOURCES WITH THE CEPA COMMUNITY



Did you know

- 1 You can search for a resource anywhere in the library by accessing the search panel at the top of each page
- 2 You can share upcoming events and news to the CEPA community and beyond
- 3 The Library provides for links to relevant websites and pages for your quick access to information
- 4 You can access live feeds and keep track of events in real time from the CEPA face book page on the site
- 5 You can follow us on Twitter Like our Facebook Page; and Share this site and its resources with all your friends and family on any social media platform

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 Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy

PHALOMBE COMMUNITIES EMPOWERED To Hold Duty Bearers to Account on Mining Activities

CUSTOMARY LAND ACT 2016: A Step Towards Strengthening Land Tenure Security and Promoting Good Land Governance



BY CYNTHIA SIMKONDA
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Through the Oxfam supported “Strengthening Governance of the Extractive Industries (EI) Project”, communities in Senior Chief Nazombe area in Phalombe have been empowered to monitor company’s accountability on mining activities taking place at Nzongwe Hill. Communities isolated key areas and developed an accountability monitoring tool that will help them to monitor the company’s accountability on mining. The five key areas are Natural resources management; waste management, Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Development Agreements, Free Prior and Informed Consent and Health and safety.

The community accountability monitoring tool was developed and printed in Chichewa and is referred to as “Bukhu Lothandizira Kulondoloza Ntchito za Migodi”. This has empowered communities to demand their benefits through participation in the EI sector. In addition, community’s capacity has been built to monitor compliance of mining companies with mining guidelines, regulations and commitments. Moreover, the development process of the tool has contributed towards building the capacity of the communities to engage the mining company, government and CSOs. Besides, this will ensure that there is a continued capacity of communities in monitoring mining activities in their area.

So far, implementation of the tool has begun. As part of the orientation session, the communities monitored Mkango’s exploration site to apply the tool. The monitoring exercise enabled the communities to identify the impact that the exploration activities are having on natural resources in and around Nzongwe Hill; and establish how they could work with government in assessing and monitoring Mkango’s compliance with environmental management guidelines in the exploration activities.



CEPA, media and community members monitoring Mkango exploration site in Phalombe

As part of the orientation session, the communities monitored Mkango’s exploration site to apply the tool.



BY VINCENT MOSES
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Malawi Parliament this year 2016 passed four land bills; Customary Land Bill, Land Bill, Land Survey Bill and Physical Planning Bill which were eventually assented to by the State President on 1st September. The four Land Bills passed are among the total eleven land related bills which were already tabled but referred to relevant parliamentary committee for further review.

The enactment of four land Bills presents another milestone in land reform process which started around 1996 when government of Malawi acknowledged that sound land policies and their effective implementation could contribute to reduction of poverty levels in Malawi. While the land bills were tabled and approved by parliament in 2013, the Presidential Assent was denied in view of stakeholders demand to withdraw the bills and allow for wider consultations before subsequent enactment.

Despite significant improvements of the land law 2016, some stakeholders continue to express their disapproval of the law particularly the Customary Land Act. Most of these are based on misinterpretation of specific provisions in Customary Land Act 2016 but also lack of goodwill by some stakeholders. For instance, some chiefs fear that the new land law seizes their power in land administration and therefore fear of losing their supremacy. Similarly, the general public is misinformed that the new land law has introduced revenue on customary land, a development people fear will threaten their land tenure security in the event of failure to pay land rent.

Most significantly, the Customary Land Act 2016 strengthens land tenure security of customary landholders by providing mechanisms for formally registering ownership rights individually or jointly. This is vital considering the fact that about 85 per cent of Malawian population live in rural areas and survive by farming on customary land. Security of tenure of land gives landholders a guarantee that their rights to land will be recognised, respected by others and protected in cases of specific challenges such as forced eviction. Thus without security of tenure, households are significantly impaired in their ability to secure sufficient food and to enjoy sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, Customary Land Act 2016 ensures transparent, inclusive, participatory and decentralised administration of customary land. For instance, the Act provides for establishment of customary land committees and land tribunals at local level to administer customary land within their jurisdiction. Of more particular interest, the Act provides for equal representation of women and men in both committees to ensure that women committee members advocate and safeguard other women land rights.

While customary land could not legally be sold and made available for rent before the advent of this Act, it is now possible to sell or rent out customary land as long as it is registered but also subject to specific conditions under this Act. In addition, people with registered customary land referred to as customary estates under this Act will have the opportunity to use their land as security to access credit and therefore improve agricultural production. It is therefore indisputable that Customary Land Act 2016 supports land market and food security.

While it is common knowledge that there is no law that is perfect in every respect, Customary Land Act 2016 addresses most challenges faced in land sector, most especially the rural population whose livelihood depends largely on farming on customary land. Other challenges that deemed to not have been adequately addressed in the law such as inequality in land access should be covered in subsidiary legislation. However, there is need to put synergies together if the law is to be implemented effectively and successfully.



Communities in Phalombe T.A. Nazombe discussing the existing customary land administration system and the new Land Law.

ECRP CONTRIBUTES TO THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

On Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management



BY DOROTHY TEMBO-NHLEMA
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For the past 6 six years that Enhancing Community Resilience Project (ECRP) has been in implementation, a number of government policies, programmes and strategies have been influenced or contributed to.

In 2012, ECRP through CEPA developed a comprehensive five year advocacy strategy which identified 5 advocacy issues towards enhanced coherence between Climate Change (CC) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policy instruments and implementation; increased budgetary allocations for CC and DRM from 0.9% to at least 2% by 2015; revised Energy Policy by 2015 that reflects an integrated approach to rural energy provision, combining different renewable, efficient and equitable solutions to provide village energy supply systems to meet both domestic and small and medium enterprise resilience-building needs; enhanced climate forecasting service that supports resilience-building by 2014; significant profile and priority to conservation agriculture, the draft National Agriculture Policy to provide direction and guidance by 2015; and Climate Change adaptation and Disaster Risk Management plans and interventions at national, district and community level are gender sensitive.

In 2014, the policy and advocacy issues were reviewed and forestry was added, specifically to support the ECRP strategy on sustainable charcoal and advocacy on harmonizing forestry approaches. During implementation relevant advocacy issues were also added, which were not originally part of the strategy.

To date, ECRP has registered a number of success stories ranging from contributing towards development and approval of the National Climate Change Management Policy, National Agriculture Policy and National Disaster Risk Management Policy. The programme conducted policy reviews and development position papers which were used as advocacy tools when engaging government and consultants developing the policies.

Furthermore, there are several processes that are still under way with which ECRP can be identified with, and these include the draft National Meteorological Policy, Draft National Energy Policy, Draft National Resilience Plan and draft Disaster Risk Management Bill. With all these processes, the programme conducted brief policy reviews and developed positions which were presented to the relevant consultants and government. On the forestry advocacy issue, ECRP engaged Department of Energy Affairs with proposals on renewable energy after the second draft and on speedy

finalization of the process and also engaged Department of Forestry on the need to improve forestry conservation. On budgetary allocation towards climate change and disaster risk management, ECRP conducted several budget reviews since 2012 to 2015. The progress was very minimal with budget advocacy. However, the finding that disaster is not yet devolved affecting various operations, assisted in advocating for development of Disaster Risk Management Devolution Plan which would facilitate fiscal devolution for disaster.

ECRP has gained recognition from government and other non-governmental organization through its work on advocacy. The programme engaged policy and decision makers such as members of parliament, relevant parliamentary committees and key personnel in the relevant sectors.



Some of the stakeholders (including CEPA: third from the left) that received recognition by government in taking part in environmental conservation.

THE LAUNCH

Of National Agriculture Policy



BY AGATHA NKHONJERA
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For a long time the agricultural sector in Malawi had operated without a coherent national agricultural policy, the government realized the need for a policy framework to guide the sector's operations in the face of many sectoral and cross-cutting issues that affect productivity of this sector. In this regard, the government of Malawi developed a National Agricultural Policy (NAP).

The policy development process was initiated in 2012 where a task team was established. The task team then hired a consultant, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), to take a lead in the development process. The consultant came up with an issues paper and different stakeholders were consulted in all regions of Malawi.

As a way of advocating for issues to be addressed in the NAP CEPA with support from the Development Fund of Norway (DF) developed a model NAP which involved many consultations with different stakeholders including farmers themselves. Some of the issues that were in the model NAP include agro-biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation which were addressed in the final draft of NAP.

The NAP was approved in 2016 and was launched in November 2016 at BICC in Lilongwe. The guest of honour was the President of The Republic of Malawi, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika who expressed that the growth of our economy largely depends on the way we plan in our agriculture sector and time has come to address the different policy problems faced in the agriculture sector. He assured the Malawian nation that the policy will drive agriculture in Malawi to the best results.

CEPA also contributed in increasing awareness on the NAP in collaboration with the Ministry of agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development by facilitating a panel discussion on MBC TV before the NAP was launched.

The next step is to see the implementation of the policy in the country, however to achieve the best results there is need for the Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders to increase awareness of the Policy at grass root level where implementation happens. In addition, there is need for collaboration of different stakeholders in agriculture including the Civil Society, to take part in implementing the Policy for it to achieve the ultimate goal of increasing productivity, people's incomes, food security, and nutritional status of all Malawians.

As a way of advocating for issues to be addressed in the NAP CEPA with support from the Development Fund of Norway (DF) developed a model NAP which involved many consultations with different stakeholders including farmers themselves.



A Panel discussion in progress on the MBC TV with Mr. Rex Chapota from Farm Radio Trust (on the far left), Mr. Alex Namaona, Policy Planning Director in the MoAIWD (second from left), a representative from the Irrigation Department in MoAIWD (second from right) and Mr. Chawezi Banda from MBC TV anchoring the discussions.

LAKE CHILWA COMMUNITIES

Embark on Financing Fisheries Management



BY STEPHEN CHIKUSE
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For households in Traditional Authority Mposa, in Machinga district, fishing has been a long time source of income. The village used to sit on the shores of Lake Chilwa. Now its residents, have to walk two hours to reach its edge. Lake Chilwa, Malawi's second largest lake, used to measure 60km by 40km, but it is rapidly shrinking. Its shores have receded with about 15km, and experts warn that in a few years, the lake could dry up completely.

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. The project works with local communities and local government along these water ecosystems. In so doing, it is expected that livelihoods of thousands of households that rely on these lakes for nutrition and income will be improved. FISH project has seen the revival of once inactive local structures involved in fisheries management which include beach village committees - BVCs.

Considering the challenges fishing communities along Lake Chilwa, working with WESM through FISH project, Mapira BVC from group village head Mtambalika in Mposa has embarked on a drive to finance their activities in order to promote fisheries management. For the past years, the BVC has been lacking financial resources to perform its functions which include enforcing by-laws governing fisheries management and natural resources conservation and management. The BVC has come up with a range of activities aimed at generating its own finances which include introduction of fines to fishers using illegal gear and those fishing during closed fishing season.



Member of the BVC deliberating during a meeting



Fred Sita VNRMC Chair (far left) showing the group's rice field to CEPA staff

Over the past two years, with technical support from WESM, the BVC developed by-laws which are yet to be endorsed at district level. However, awaiting the endorsement of these by-laws, with approval from their local chiefs, the BVC has already started using them. "WESM provided us with trainings and support in managing our fisheries resources. Having seen how fishers were unsustainably exploiting fish from the lake, as a BVC, we found it necessary to formulate our by-laws to govern use of the lake" said Wilson Ndomondo, chair of Mapira BVC. "Using required channels, we have submitted the by-laws to Machinga district council for approval. The BVC conducted awareness meetings with fishers in the area in order to disseminate the by-laws and currently conducts patrols on the lake to comprehend fishers breaking the by-laws. Offenders are fined and revenue collected is used to fund BVC operations. The BVC also collects landing fees from fishers. This revenue is also used for other operations. In the same drive, the BVC has built toilets along the beach. This is not only aimed at promoting beach sanitation, but also an income generation activity as the fishers pay for using the facilities.

Further, knowing that deforestation in the upland areas and ecological degradation along the shore contribute to degradation of fishery resources, the BVC is working in partnership with Mwayiwathu village natural resources management committee (VNRMC) working in the same area particularly on reforestation. The VNRMC was as well embarked on financing its own operations. To finance itself, the VNRMC was offered a large field and has embarked in rice and maize production. Revenue from selling the produce is used to purchase seedlings for reforesting Chikala hill which, three years ago, was heavily deforested but now has hugely improved. The VNRMC also generates revenue by imposing a heavy fine of K10,000 on those found cutting trees in the hills. The group also practices bee farming and has 20 beehives where they harvest and sell honey. Fred Sita, chairman of the VNRMC says in the future, they also plan to establish themselves as a cooperative and expand their income generating activities to include chicken farming.

All these local structures are working with the aim contributing to effective participatory fisheries management and the evidence is tangible.

Over the past two years, with technical support from WESM, the BVC developed by-laws which are yet to be endorsed at district level.

cepa in a Snap

cepa in a Snap

CEPA CONDUCTS A TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP

The workshop was conducted on 20th to 21st December, 2016 at Sun 'N' Sand in Mangochi. The overall objective of the exercise was to make CEPA team achieve the status of high performing team by knowing each other, establish positive team culture, develop good relationships between all members, problem solving among others. CEPA staff also learned how to communicate effectively in order to meet the organisation's objectives. Outdoor activities such as swimming, beach soccer and volleyball were also conducted in order to keep the team in good physical shape. The exercise saw the members of CEPA interacting freely and in high spirit.

CEPA DOCUMENTS AGROBIODIVERSITY AND ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

CEPA in collaboration and support from Development Fund of Norway (DF) documented agrobiodiversity from Rumphu, Mzimba, Dowa and Lilongwe districts which are some of the impact areas of DF's programmes. The aim of the activity was to document the agrobiodiversity available in these districts and their utilization. Some of the agrobiodiversity documented include local crops such as denje, Bambara nuts, yams, sesame e.t.c. some of these crops are used as food and medicine.



A farmer demonstrating how to make an energy giving food from millet flour and sugar called Nthimphwa.

CEPA FACILITATES A FARMER FIELD SCHOOL TRAINING IN MZUZU

CEPA in collaboration with Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) facilitated a farmer field school training under the Access and Benefit Sharing Fund Project funded by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The aim of the training was to train frontline officers of the project on the concept of farmer field and schools and how they operate. The participants of the training were from Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (BCI), Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre (MPGRC) and CEPA.



A BCI field officer, James Chirwa, showing the Matunkha demonstration plot, in Rumphu, to the other participants of the training and the farmers who came for the training's field visit.

CEPA, under Fisheries Integration of Society and Habitats (FISH) project, facilitating identification of local advocacy issues with Local Fisheries Management Authorities at Namanja fish landing site in Lake Chilwa.



A CEPA staff, Stanley Mvula facilitating the identification of local advocacy issues.

TILITONSE' STRENGTHENING MINING GOVERNANCE IN MALAWI PROJECT WINDS UP

As CEPA concluded the implementation of the Tilitonse supported 'Strengthening Mining Governance in Malawi project', a platform was created for community members from Phalombe, Mzimba and Karonga districts to interface with the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Climate Change. Captivating was the moment when the floor was opened for community members to engage with the duty bearers. Community members showed their skills in advocacy and lobbying as they articulated issues to be addressed in the draft Mines and Minerals Bill (MMB). During the meeting, the communities emphasized that among others the following the MMB should consider strengthening environmental monitoring in the mines to avoid cases like those from Mwalumbambo, provide benefits directly accruing to mining communities and provide for decentralization of the ministry responsible for mining.



A community member from Mwalumbambo highlighting some of the issues faced by community members due to mining activities.

CHECK OUT THE NEW ADVOCATES AND LOBBYISTS IN TOWN

Youth in the My Life My Choice project have been capacitated to engage local duty bearers in advocating and lobbying for issues such as school dropout, early marriages and limited information on development work in their area. It has been realized that after the advocacy training that CEPA conducted, youth now have the



The youth who participated in the meeting in Nkhotakota.



Some of the Nkhotakota Young Women Can Do It members explaining how advocacy and lobbying is being done in the district.

skills and the capacity to engage with their local leaders. In the year, CEPA ensured that engagements between youth and local leaders were initiated and facilitated by the youth. This way, the youth have

been motivated to follow up on commitments made by their leaders. CEPA participated in the meeting with the senior TA and the ADC chair to assess how the youth are engaging with their leaders.

A Word from Our Friends

Fishing Core to Promotion of Tourism



BY FRANCIS PHIRI

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It is 7:30 AM on the beaches of Lake Malawi, near Andrews Hotel and Boadzulu Hotel in Mangochi. Eyes do not only catch the blue waters of this massive fresh water lake, a farther panning brings a spectacle of presumably business taking place. Men and women carrying fish, in baskets, tins and even hooked in strings to showcase quality; are busy on the beaches trading their merchandise. Local and international tourists are also seen sampling the fish, many of them also buying them. There seem to be also an art of bargaining by both buyers and sellers – and one immediately realizes that though they come from far apart, the two respective parties are “united in fish”.

“We concentrate on this part of the beach to sell our fish to guests at these two resorts and indeed other resorts around. We prefer to be right on the beaches near Andrews Hotel because many customers get us here,” says Elias Magaletta, a fish vendor. He says both local Malawian tourists and international tourists buy from them. Some [Malawians] take the fish to their homes when they check out from the hotels; while international tourists mostly would want the fish prepared [cooked] for them to eat, sampling this one aspect of tourism promotion in the country. “We are part of the tourism industry; we sell fish to people staying at Andrews Hotel and other resorts around, and we know of others who come here in the Lake District of Mangochi to mix tourism and fish buying,” says Magaletta, a sentiment echoed by other fish mongers and fishermen interviewed.

“Other tourists actually book fish before they check in, they tell us to avail to them the fish on the days they are checking out. We have to hunt around for specific types of fish they would want,” he says. Magaletta says his livelihood depends on fish and tourism, hence is always part to any policy that hinges on promotion and uplifting of tourism in the country.

And, Andrews Hotel Manager Byson Kapanga says when fishing is on the low, tourism is affected in that part of the tourism haven. “Tourism and fishing are inseparable here and many other parts of Malawi along the lake. Other people come to our resorts just to enjoy our fish cuisine – we have people who specifically ask whether they will have a chance to eat fish like Chambo, big micheni, and other species that are a darling for many fish eaters,” says Kapanga.

He says fish is also crucial even to local tourism - bearing in mind of the national concept of “*tiziyamba ndife Amalawi* [let us be central to partaking in sampling tourism”.

If people over fish and abuse fish breeding spots by way of fishing there continuously, it means that fish would be extinct in the lake and hence this would have a drastic effect on our tourism business



Some of the fish drying areas in Mangochi

“When fish is plenty in the lake and fishermen have a good catch, our hotels also benefit heavily. Patronage to our hotels reaches the peak as those involved in the fish business – be it fishermen, fish mongers and vendors – would indeed want to have a good time at our hotel bars, sampling beers, drinks, and snacks; in other words, we make more sales and feel the benefit of local tourism,” says Kapanga.

Both Kapanga and Magaletta agree that considering the role of fishing in tourism, it was imperative that fishermen and other stakeholders subscribe to all the by-laws enacted by Beach Village Committees, aimed at protecting fish breeding spots and curbing overfishing.

“If people over fish and abuse fish breeding spots by way of fishing there continuously, it means that fish would be extinct in the lake and hence this would have a drastic effect on our tourism business,” says Kapanga. In addition, it is not only the

high appetite of fish by guests and tourists that helps propel good tourism business in Mangochi and other lakeshore districts, he added. “Other tourists come all the way from Europe, America, South Africa and other countries in Africa, just to physically see some species of fish, for instance the Mbuna,” he says.

True to his sentiments, Mangochi has the Lake Malawi National Park, where tourists sample aqua life and where species like Mbuna are protected by law. “I am from England and I am on holiday, I heard of the species of fish you have here, hence I decided my destination should be Lake Malawi, mostly the Cape Maclear. Look at those small blue fish swimming in the lake; are you not lucky to have this wonderful natural lake and fish? You should indeed feel proud as Malawians,” says a tourist calling himself Sean, and he goes on to swim in the blue waters of Lake Malawi and later to sun-bath on its golden beaches.



Strategic Plan Launch in Photos



Strategic Plan Launch in Photos



1. Prof Ephraim Chirwa, CEPA's Board Chairperson making opening remarks
2. Mr. William Chadza contributing to the discussions at the Launch
3. Dr Yanira Ntupanyama contributing to the discussions at the Launch
4. Prof Chiotha of LEAD contributing to the discussions at the Launch
5. The participants of the Launch
6. Dr Ntupanyama, the guest of honor presenting the CEPA strategic plan to the CEPA Board Chairman
7. Victor Katchika-Jere of the Development Fund of Norway making a contribution to the plenary

8. Mrs. Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema from CEPA interacting with some journalists present at the Launch
9. Mr. William Chadza interacting with Mr. Gracian Banda, a CEPA board member and Ramzy Kanaan, the Chief of Party of PERFORM at the Launch
10. Dr Chidanti Malunga, the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development Chairperson interacting with some CEPA board members
11. Participants group photo
12. USAID's David Chalmers making a speech



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