

**REPORT ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
INITIATIVES**



**SUBMITTED BY
BY ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

1.0 Introduction And Background

Environmental Affairs Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining is participating in a regional project on “Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning Initiative”. As part of the activities of the project , the department conducted a national workshop focused on identifying key entry points and strategies for biodiversity mainstreaming and identifying capacity needs to engage effectively with the different processes happening in various government and non-government sectors in Malawi. It is hoped that the initiative will make the best use of revised NBSAPs – by using it to improve the way development actors and processes handle the opportunities and constraints associated with biodiversity. The meeting was held on 4th December at Ufulu Gardens in Lilongwe.

2.0 Methodology

The national workshop brought together a total of 24 participants from government (ministries, departments and agencies), civil society, academia and the private sector (including local council and statutory organizations). The meeting centered at identifying entry points for biodiversity mainstreaming in the various sectors. A follow up visit and information collection was done to departments that were invited but were not able to come. Annex 1 gives a list of participants at the meeting. The first part of the workshop was a presentation of the revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Malawi and what role each sectors play in the NBSAP and how each sector is impacted by or impacts biodiversity. The presentation was followed by the plenary where participants discussed biodiversity conservation issues in Malawi and its economic importance.

3.0 Results of the diagnostic exercise

The workshop discussed the diagnostic tool based on the guide provided by IIED and UNEP-WCMC. With the tool, the workshop identified ongoing development and planning activities in several sectors to see entry points for biodiversity. The following questions were developed to guide discussion on identifying the initial entry points for biodiversity in Malawi:

1. Identify Plans, Policies, Institutions and projects where biodiversity is well mainstreamed in your sector
2. Identify development policies, plans, projects in your sector where biodiversity is not well mainstreamed
3. What opportunities and entry points exist for biodiversity in your sector
4. Suggest on-going, initial processes where biodiversity can be mainstreamed in your sector currently

The participants were divided into three groups to enable them discuss the questions and each group was asked to make a report their work in plenary. Annexe 2 shows the responses from the groups to the questions .

4.0 The mainstreaming target

Following the outcomes of the workshop and the follow up visits that were made, the follow sectors and process will be amongst the initial sectors where biodiversity mainstreaming will be focused in Malawi.

4.1 . Revision of Malawi's MGDS II

The workshop identified the National Development Plan, Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) revision process as an immediate opportunity to include biodiversity as a priority issues. The workshop realized that the major development sectors like agriculture, energy, trade, manufacturing and irrigation are priorities in Malawi's MGDS II which is under revision process. Considering the contribution of these sectors to biodiversity loss or

sustainable use , targeting successor national development plan (which could be MGDS III) will ensure that the value of biodiversity is mainstreamed in the sectors. The next step is to prepare an issue paper to the Ministry responsible for development of the plan and lobby for biodiversity mainstreaming the plan.

4. 2. Revision of the National Land Policy

Malawi's Land Policy is currently under review and was identified as an initial entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity in the Land and physical planning sector. The project team has been earmarked as a key stakeholder in the review process. Next steps will include making a case for biodiversity mainstreaming in the National Land Policy by lobbying. It is anticipated that issues of Access and Benefit Sharing, ownership , conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity will be included in the land policy. . Furthermore, the project team will lobby for the land policy to have provisions on preservation and restoration of land with unique and valuable biodiversity .

4.3 Revision of Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and Development of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations

Malawi's Environmental Management Act of 1996 requires projects in agriculture, mining, transport, construction and other projects, especially those that trigger land use changes, social and environmental impacts to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). EIA regulations are currently under review and the process of developing EIA regulations has begun in Malawi. Considering that this is the most effective way to ensure the protection and preservation of biodiversity when new projects are being introduced, the workshop identified this process as one of the major processes to target in mainstreaming biodiversity. As a way forward, project team has met the coordinator of the process and lobbied for the inclusion of biodiversity issues in the revised EIA guidelines . Currently, the project team has provided its comments on biodiversity to be incorporated in the EIA guidelines. We anticipate that the final document on EIA guidelines and regulations will have provisions and guidelines on how project developers should treat biodiversity during their projects.

4. 4. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process

Finally, the initiative has targeted the NAP process which has just been initiated in Malawi to ensure that issues of biodiversity have been included. We have participated at the NAP inception workshop and made a case for biodiversity-climate linkages.. From the NAP process we expect the project team to be amongst the stakeholders that will formulate and implement the NAP; We also expect inclusion of biodiversity indicators to measure its implementation in the NAP process.

5.0 The anticipated outcomes/outputs

We anticipate that by the end of the project , biodiversity provision will be present in the Land Policy, Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations and the NAP. Further, we hope that the successor of MGDS II will include biodiversity amongst its priorities with clear indication of biodiversity link to development sectors. We hope to enhance awareness on biodiversity through presentation at working sessions and meetings that are being undertaken to ensure development of these documents, policies, plans and guidelines takes consideration for biodiversity mainstreaming. Finally, we hope that incorporating biodiversity in other sectors will increase the amount of resources (human, infrastructure, financial) that are allocated to biodiversity.

6.0 The mainstreaming plan

To ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity in the identified processes, the project team has included the coordinator for the development of the land policy, 2 officers from the Ministry of Economic planning and development in charge of revising the MGDSII; a representative of the team coordinating revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines and development of EIA regulations to be part of the project team. Two of the team members are also actively involved in the NAP process and have been participating in the initial meeting of the NAP. We plan to continue having dialogues with the identified department and improving the information that needs to be incorporated in these

documents to make sure that the understanding is the same and that the information is in line with the vision of the whole plans, policies and processes. We further hope to promote the NBSAP and clearly ensure that each sector is able to identify their role in ensuring the effective implementation of the NBSAP. The next activities of the project have been indicated in the table below as a way forward.

ACTIVITY	TIME
Lobbying planners and Development experts for the mainstreaming of biodiversity in MGDS	February 2016
Lobbying Physical Planners for inclusion of biodiversity in the Land Policy	February 2016
Incorporate text in the EIA guidelines and EIA regulations	February and March 2016
Conduct a stakeholders meeting to report on the mainstreaming progress so far and build awareness to politicians, the media and other stakeholders on mainstreaming biodiversity.	March 2016 or April
Develop a financial report	March 2016
Develop a technical report	April 2016.

7.0 Conclusion

The country workshop and follow up visits enabled us to generate an overview of the extent to which biodiversity has been integrated into existing national policies, strategies and activities across various ministries and sectors. The general observation is that biodiversity has been included under the environment umbrella in most sectors and the context in which it is included is not satisfactory enough to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Given the poor state of capacity and knowledge on relationship between biodiversity and development, there is a lot of baseline information and capacity needed to make a case for biodiversity at national development planning level.

In terms of capacity needs and effective implementation of future mainstreaming work, the project team would require better skills in communicating to policy makers and non-natural resource sectors on biodiversity to ensure that we present biodiversity in a way that motivates them to integrate it in their activities. Considering that some sectors consider mainstreaming biodiversity as an additional activity in their sectors, there is need to identify innovative ways of raising funds and ensure that budgetary allocations have been made to those activities as this will improve the status of implementation of biodiversity activities

There is also a need to establish national coordination mechanisms to facilitate a coordinated approach to the implementation of biodiversity activities amongst various sectors to keep the morale and ensure that sectors have a platform to share experiences.

So far the project is on track and four processes have been identified for biodiversity mainstreaming and there has been positive response. The diagnostic tool was very helpful in the initial workshop although there was a lot of need to give background information on biodiversity and make sectors aware of their role and what is expected of them

ANNEX 1: list of participants

Thokozani Malunga	Department of Energy Affairs	
Micheal Mponda	Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi	
Chifundo Chinyama	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs	
William Mgoola	Department of Parks and Wildlife	
Mercy Dube	Department of Physical Planning	
Mshawa Tembo	National Commission for Science and Technology	
Madalitso Mwale	Department of Disaster Management Affairs	
Dr Emma Stone	Conservation Research Africa	
Gloria Khoswe	Department of Forestry	
Brino Chirwa	Department of Fisheries	
Catherine Kulemeka	Lilongwe City Council	
Emmanuel Mwathunga	Mines Department	
Michael Mmangisa	Economic Planning Department (Poverty Environment Initiative)	
Annie Mapulanga	Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining	
Victoria Kachimera	Environmental Affairs Department	Chief Legal Officer
Hanna Siame	Environmental Affairs Department	Environmental Officer (Climate Change)
John Mawenda	Environmental Affairs Department	Environmental Officer (Planning section)
Mphatso Kalembe	Environmental Affairs	Environmental Officer

	Department	(Biodiversity)
Micheal Makonombera	Environmental Affairs Department	Assistant Director (Education, Information and Outreach).

ANNEX 2: OUTPUTS FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

SECTOR	ENTRY POINTS FOR BIODIVERSITY	PLANS, POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS ALREADY MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY	PLANS, POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS NOT MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY	ONGOING PROCESSES THAT CAN MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY
Lilongwe City Council	Master Development Plans Urban Structure Plans City development Strategy Town and Country Planning Act Standards and Guidelines and other statutes Public Health Act Local Government Act Waste Byelaws Waste management Policy	Master Development Plans, Urban Structure Plans,	Local Government Act	Land use plans and detailed layout plans, Green house gas monitoring , City Socio-economic profile , Establishment of waste transfer stations
Department of Energy	National Energy Policy – Under review Renewable Energy Strategy – Draft Feasibility study on Hydro Electoral Power Plants Projects on improved cook stoves, brikketes, biogas, green charcoal or sustainable charcoal production, solar PV and LPGs	National Energy Policy – Under review Projects on improved cook stoves, brikketes, biogas, green charcoal or sustainable charcoal production, solar PV and LPGs	None	Energy Policy Renewable Energy Strategy Energy related Acts Projects on improved cook stoves, brikketes, biogas, green charcoal or sustainable charcoal production, solar PV and LPGs Hydro and thermos project Carbon Credit financing

<p>Mining Department</p>	<p>Mines and minerals Policy Artisanal and small scale Policy Mines and Minerals act Mines and Mineral regulations, Guidelines and Standards Explosives act Petroleum Act</p>	<p>Mines and Minerals act Petroleum Act</p>	<p>Explosives act</p>	<p>Artisanal and small scale mining sector</p>
<p>Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi</p>	<p>Integrated Strategic plan Electricity By laws</p>		<p>Electricity byelaws</p>	<p>HEP projects Afforestation</p>
<p>National Commission for Science and Technology</p>	<p>Science and Technology Policy, Science and Technology Act</p>	<p>Science and Technology Policy</p>		<p>More research Programmes on Biodiversity</p>
<p>Department of Fisheries</p>	<p>Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy – Under review Fisheries and Aquaculture Act – Under review Fisheries management plans Aquaculture Strategic Plan Fisheries Bylaws Fisheries and Aquaculture Research</p>	<p>Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy – Under review Fisheries management plans Aquaculture Strategic Plan Enforcement Fisheries Research Unit Fisheries Training Unit</p>		<p>Aquaculture development Fisheries management Plans development Fisheries research on biodiversity and stock assessments Fisheries Bylaws formulation Feasibility studies in biodiversity risk assessment Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy finalization Enforcement of regulation Fisheries Community Outreach</p>

Environmental Affairs Department	National Climate Change Investment Plans EIA guidelines (being updated) EIA regulations (being developed)	Environmental Management Act National Environmental Policy National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Climate Change Source books Climate Change Response Framework	Integrated Waste Management Project National Budget	EIA Guidelines – should clearly include issues of biodiversity Strict compliance monitoring of implementation of Environmental and social management plans
Local Government	District Social Economic Profiles District Development Plans District State of Environment and Outlook Report	District State of Environment and Outlook Report, District Environmental Action Plans		District Development Plans
Economic Planning Department	Malawi Growth Development Strategy: Public Sector Investment Programme: National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: provide indicators to track biodiversity conservation activities/			

Department of Physical Planning	Physical Development Plans: Urban Structure Plans/Special physical development plans for Lakeshore areas/ Detailed Layout plans for development/biodiversity issues could be considered in the review of these documents/Building standards to ensure there are no negative impacts on the environment/Lease covenants/use of the land	Physical Development Plans Land Use Planning Policy	Building Standards, Town Planning Act/provides for preparation of physical development plans	
Department of Disaster	Disaster Risk Management Policy	Priority area 5 in the Disaster Risk Management Policy: focuses on reduction of underlying risks/sustainable management of the environment and natural resources/		Priority area 5 in the Disaster Risk Management Policy: focuses on reduction of underlying risks/sustainable management of the environment and natural resources/
Department of Forestry	Forest Policy: Co-management of forest reserves/community involvement	Forest Policy		
Department of parks and wildlife	Parks and Wildlife Policy	Wildlife Policy		Wildlife: Eleven hotspots, an opportunity to build on already existing ecosystems/protected areas, environmental

				crimes/issues of poaching/
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