
CEPA ANNUAL REPORT



Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy
2018

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Summary of key achievements in the year 2018

2018 has been another exciting year at the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy which was the 3rd year of implementation for the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. In the year, CEPA implemented various projects under its 3 priority areas; Natural Resources, Biodiversity and Climate Change. Guided by our advocacy strategy, CEPA pursued a number of policy issues related to mining, land, biodiversity and climate change.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Sustainable Agriculture Lead Farmer Project (SALFP)

The Sustainable Agriculture Lead Farmer Project is a five year project aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability to climate change in Malawi through the promotion of sustainable agriculture practices.

In the year, CEPA conducted a Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) awareness campaign in SALFP project areas where agriculture and SALFP officials interacted with communities on the different practices, and how farmers are benefitting from adoption of CSA technologies. The meeting allowed for a constructive discussion of the challenges of adoption such as the need for more technical support, and the labor intensity of some of the practices. Farmers were encouraged to link up with lead farmers in their project areas for any technical assistance they need to learn about the promoted CSA practices in their areas.



Figure 1: A participant at the awareness rally receives a t-shirt prize during the learning games

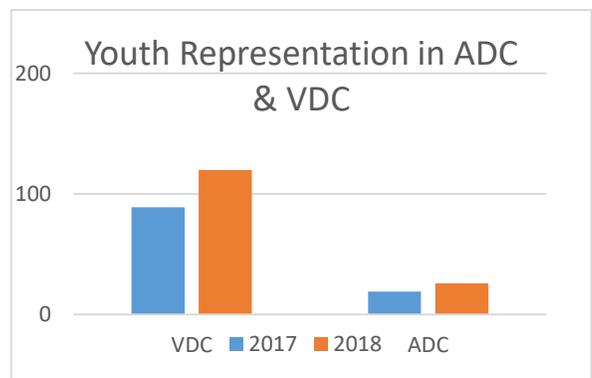
CEPA also followed up on the last 4 years of implementation by documenting and disseminating success stories under the project. These success stories followed up on the benefits realized by farmers through the different interventions such as the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA's). Some of the successes documented include the use of savings to buy vehicles, motor cycles, and engines for use in irrigation. Other farmers reported to have used their savings to buy livestock which they are using to make more manure for CSA. Above all, farmers reported increased food security due to the increased land productivity.

My Life My Choice Project

My Life My Choice Project is a youth empowerment project that facilitates youth participation in development processes.

In the year, youth in the project especially girls demonstrated the ability to present and follow up on issues with policy and decision makers at district and national levels. Over the years, the youth have improved in their confidence, critical thinking and eloquence demonstrated through the presentation of youth issues and ability to provide for checks and balances to their duty bearers. As such, youth have utilized local and national platforms where they influence decisions by raising issues affecting them in their localities.

At district level, the youth have lobbied for their space in decision making platforms such as in Village Development Committees (VDC) and Area Development Committees (ADC). As a result, there is increased representation and participation of youth in these bodies despite resistance of some ADC and VDC members. In 2018, there has been an increase in youth representation with 120 youth¹ in VDC compared to 89 youth² in 2017. Likewise, in 2018 youth representation has increased with 26 youth³ in ADC compared to 19 youth⁴ in 2017.



Furthermore, youth were able to engage duty bearers at district and national levels through dialogue sessions held with duty bearers. In Dowa district under TA Mkukula, the youth facilitated the formulation



of bylaws to regulate malpractices such as early marriages, child labor and deforestation. At national level, they effectively lobbied decision makers, and followed up on advocacy issues such as limited access to tertiary education and limited employment opportunities. These dialogue sessions were held to follow up on the commitments made by the policy and decision makers. The youth have built and maintained strong linkages with district and national stakeholders to ensure sustainability of the project as it phases out in 2019.

¹ 53 Girls, 67 Boys

² 52 Girls, 19 Boys

³ 7 Girls, 19 Boys

⁴ 7 Girls, 12 Boys

Strengthening Land Governance System for Smallholder Farmers in Malawi Project

The customary land governance project is a 4 year project with the objective to pilot, test and recommend for scale up improved gender sensitive land governance systems for customary estates. The projects aim is to ensure that rural women and men in Malawi practice sustainable agricultural production and secure livelihoods through security of tenure.



“PEOPLE NOW UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LEASES ON CUSTOMARY LAND AND CUSTOMARY ESTATES; AND THAT REGISTRATION OF CUSTOMARY LAND WILL NOT INTRODUCE LAND TAXES AS IS THE CASE WITH LEASES”
Land Governance Programme Officer

In 2018, CEPA facilitated establishment of gender sensitive customary land committees (CLCs) and land tribunals (CLTs) in both Group Village head Ching’amba in Kasungu and Maoni in Phalombe in line with the Customary Land Act of 2016. These institutions will be responsible for land administration and management at local level. The members of CLCs were elected through a secret ballot and communities expressed that the process was transparent and participatory as intended. Both T/A Lukwa and

Nazombe had nominated members of CLTs. At the time of reporting, the process was not yet finalized, pending approval by the Commissioner of Lands.

Customary land committees were also trained in new land laws and other relevant policy instrument including voluntary guidelines for responsible governance of tenure of land. The project also conducted awareness and sensitization campaigns in Kasungu, Rumphi and Phalombe districts on the new land laws and other policy instruments.

This enhanced community members understanding of new land laws and the project. There was increased understanding of the difference between leases on customary land and customary estates; and that registration of customary land will not introduce land taxes as is the case with leases. In addition, people are now able to understand the need to allow women register their land jointly with their husbands or as an individual.

Publish What You Pay (PWYP)

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Malawi is a coalition of civil society organizations (CSOs), both local and international that is undertaking an efficient and effective campaign for a transparent and accountable extractive sector in Malawi. The coalition is being funded to facilitate advocacy and awareness activities on extractives revenue transparency and accountability.

Through persistent advocacy efforts and strategic engagement with Members of Parliament, PWYP-Natural Resources Justice Network (NRJN) Malawi contributed towards the efforts which led to the enactment of the revised Mines and Minerals Act 2018. The revised Act has made provisions for: the vesting of mineral resources in the state rather than in the State President; community development

agreements, and the establishment of an independent mineral resource committee for administering the issuance of mineral licenses.

Furthermore, the coalition witnessed the launch of the second Malawi Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (MWEITI) through the coalition members represented in the Multi-Stakeholder Group. The report has made it possible for civil actors to hold investors and government to account for revenues in the extractives sector. In addition, three members of the PWYP Malawi steering committee have been nominated into the Malawi EITI Multi Stakeholders Group (MSG).



The coalition also facilitated Malawi chapter contributions to the global PWYP strategy for 2020- 2025. This included convening members to provide inputs and identify key issues to form the agenda. This inputs were submitted and the strategy will be validated and officially launched at the PWYP Global Assembly in 2019.

Strengthening Governance of the Extractive Industries Project

The Extractives Governance Project is being implemented to ensure that Malawian Women, Men and Children enjoy socio economic benefits from participating in the extractive industries sector.

During the year, CEPA conducted awareness raising trainings on Free, Prior and Informed Consent in Phalombe District. The outcome of the training has been witnessed in the increased demand for information by the communities from government and investors. On account of the training, Phalombe communities have been able to influence Mkango Mineral Resources, the investor who has been conducting mining exploration in Songwe Hill, to compensate the members of the community whose land had been affected by the construction of the road leading to the mining site.

The project has also facilitated greater public debate and awareness on mining issues across the country on account of the media training which increased the capacity of journalists to conduct systematic coverage on issues of transparency and accountability. The pressure applied by media has also contributed to the advocacy efforts towards the enactment of a new mining law.

CEPA also conducted an issue identification meeting with Thundulu Quarry mine stakeholders amidst alleged disagreements between the community and a mining company. As a result of this meeting communities have been able to take charge in convening subsequent meetings and have managed to convince the mining company to show up for further consultations. This was followed by a dialogue session between the community, the company and the government. The key outcomes were the review of the Thundulu EIA and commitment from the company to follow up on outstanding activities.

BIODIVERSITY

Malawi – Mozambique Sustainable Agriculture Programme (MAMO)

CEPA led like-minded stakeholders in advocating for inclusion of farmer seed system in the National Seed Bill and to change some provisions in the Bill which were harmful to farmer seed system. Proposals were developed and presented to Department of Agricultural Research Studies (DARS) in a dialogue meeting. The meeting resulted to some changes in the Bill, and a commitment was made by DARS to develop a separate policy framework for farmer seed system. At this meeting DARS through the Seed Services Unit allowed farmers to package and sell their farm seed with conditions to be met such as packaging and labelling. The revised Seed Bill also addressed the key contentious issues of policy direction regarding formal and informal seed systems by introducing a new section⁵ to provide for clarity that provisions in the law will only apply to the formal seed system. As such, small holder farmers will not be affected by this Bill.



Figure 2: A farmer provides her inputs during the Seed Bill dialogue meeting with government

CEPA also influenced the development of National Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) framework. The issues raised by CEPA that were addressed include:



- ✓ how information will be shared amongst other CSA players with government through the department of land resources;
- ✓ how the Department of Land Resources will coordinate different efforts on CSA by partners; and
- ✓ how to recognize and promote indigenous knowledge and practices.

A review of policies that promote Climate Change Adaptation in Malawi was also conducted through the project; and presented at the National Climate Change Adaptation Symposium. This was done as part of awareness and advocacy towards relevant policy reforms and harmonization.

⁵ Section 3

Benefit Sharing Fund Project

CEPA hosted the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) visitors in March, 2018 who visited the BSF project in Rumphi and Mzimba. The visitors visited farmers that had benefitted from the project through access to seed and had planted in their fields. The farmers also displayed the seed diversity in their communities in a seed and food fair that was participated by farmers from Mzimba, Rumphi and Chikwawa districts. The event gathered about 300 people 60% of which were women. The Guest of Honor at this event was the Norwegian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food.

CEPA organized a seed and food fair in Chikwawa in collaboration with the Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre where farmers displayed the crop diversity in their communities; including the 5 crops (sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, cow peas and pigeon peas) that the project is promoting. At this event, farmers exchanged, sold and shared seed amongst themselves thereby increasing seed accessibility in the area.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Landscape Management in the Smallholder Tea Sector Project

This is a 2 year project aimed at improving resilience to climate change for men and women smallholder farmers in the tea sector in Mulanje and Thyolo by 2020.

The project facilitated capacity building sessions on sustainable agriculture, natural resource management and alternative livelihoods. During the season, project targeted farmers adopted at least 1 technology in their own fields. Farmers in Thyolo engaged local leaders to request land for establishment of Village Forest Areas and on the need to establish and enforce agriculture and forestry bylaws. Draft bylaws were developed awaiting further engagement with forestry and agriculture officers for further processes.



Figure 3: Farmers share a fun moment during a training on CSA practices

Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCAS) - Enhanced Resilience and Participation of Women Farmers Project

This is a six months project whose goal is to empower rural smallholder women farmers to benefit from their participation in the agricultural value chain. The project intends to achieve an effective and more equitable participation of Malawian women smallholder farmers in development planning and decision making through access to climate-smart agricultural technologies.



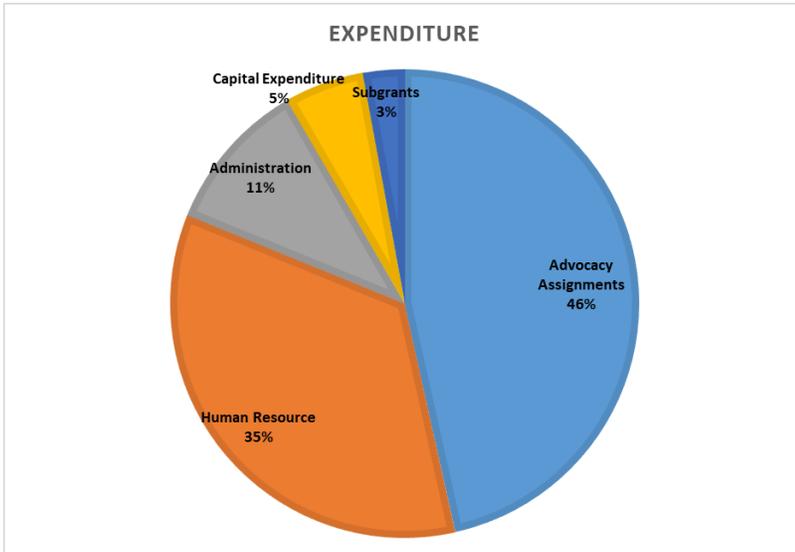
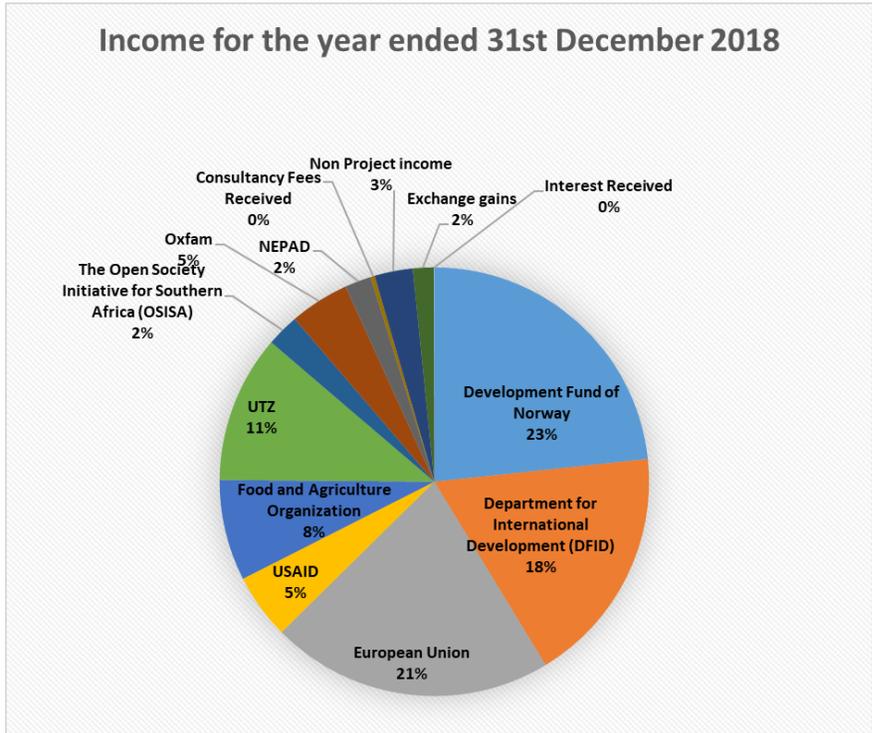
The Enhanced Resilience and Participation of Women Farmers Project which is supported by NEPAD was presented and accepted by the District Executive Committee (DEC) to be implemented at T/A Chikulamayembe in Rumphi. This onset of this project was a milestone for Rumphi women farmers to have voice on Agricultural value chain as well as building their resilience to climate change impacts. Through the project, women farmer groups were established and strengthened. The farmers were trained on CSA practices and have been using the

knowledge gained so much that those who were trained are practicing at least two CSA technologies.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total income during the year was MK516, 557,800. The income was below the approved budget by 12%.

During the period 1st January to 31st December 2018, CEPA received 6% of total income as deferred income for implementation of activities. CEPA had exchange gains and also earned interest on both local and Foreign Currency Denominated Accounts.



Total revenue and capital expenditure during the period was MK484, 417,072. The expenditure was below the approved budget by 17%.

CEPA's 2019 budget was projected at MK618, 040,627.

OTHER NEWS

World Environment Day Commemorations



CEPA collaborated with other likeminded CSO's to commemorate the 2018 World Environment Day through a cleanup exercise and awareness march.

CEPA Employee of the year 2018

CEPA recognized Mrs Cynthia Mughogho for her outstanding performance in the year with a performance award.

