

cepa Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy

Nature's voice

Volume 9 Issue 2: July – December 2013



**Progressive
Land Laws:
It's about
time!**

A word from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It gives me great pleasure to once again welcome you to the second Issue of Nature's Voice in 2013.

During the last half of this year we have been steadily making progress in improving the governance structure of the organization. The Board of Directors has put in place two committees: one on Appointments and Administration, and another on Programme, Finance and Audit. These committees have already proven to be useful tools in giving timely strategic guidance to management.

This Issue of Nature's Voice has also come at a time when we have experienced expansion in the scope of our work on environmental advocacy and justice by initiating policy advocacy work around mining governance. We believe that this is a good decision and that it will benefit from our years of experience in undertaking environmental policy research and advocacy work.

Looking ahead to 2014, by building on gains made this year, we hope to invest in implementation of policy issues that we have been able to identify together with our collaborating partners; and increase our visibility.

Enjoy reading this Nature's Voice as you



make some important choices and decisions on what you will contribute in 2014 to achieve sustainable environment and natural resources management.

Published by:

Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy

Plot No. LK 388 Namiwawa, Along Glynn Jones Road

P. O. Box 1057, Blantyre, Malawi.

Tel: +265 (0) 212 700 104;

E-mail: cepa@cepa.org.mw; Website: www.cepa.org.mw

***CEPA and Authors take responsibility for any errors that
may arise from reading this edition of
Nature's Voice***

From the Editor's Desk

So far so good, what's next?

Doris S. Nuval
doris@cepa.org.mw
CEPA



As we end 2013 and begin a new year, CEPA embarks on a new format for its bi-annual newsletter; all in the spirit of being pro-active and dynamic.

This is being done to make "Nature's Voice" reader friendly and as inter-active as a newsletter possibly can be. For a start, we have sectionalized the publication to make for easy and fun reading:

- **Policy and Advocacy Front** which contains all articles related to policy planning, formulation and implementation and chosen environmental advocacies;
- **On the Ground Running**, a section featuring programs and projects of CEPA and its partners' at ground/community level;
- **People, Events, Places**, a center spread of the most interesting photographs of activities that CEPA, the government or its CSO partners undertake;
- **A Word from our Friends**, a section where we invite friends to submit articles so they can be shared with a much wider readership. We hope to be receiving articles from students enrolled in environment courses, civil servants and environmental practitioners.
- **Blogs, Tweets and Posts** is our social media section containing exactly that – blogs, tweets and posts; posts mainly extracted from CEPA's Facebook page. We would love to get feedback from you and hope to respond to them in a nanosecond.

"Nature's Voice" is not just a good read; but more importantly, is informative and enlightening. After leafing through the next pages, we hope you'll think so too and become an environmental advocate and warrior in the near future.

Front cover: A smile may be on her lips, but this woman farmer is in all probability landless even if she has worked on land for decades.

Back cover: A village leader from Chipananga, Chikhwawa points to his village's most vulnerable environmental hotspot along Mwanza's dry riverbed.

Contents

Progressive Land Laws: It's about time!
— Page 4



Mwanza Formulates Forest Management Bylaws— Page 6



Warsaw underscores the necessity of international climate negotiations
— Page 8

People Places & Events
— Page 10

A Blog on Climate Change
— Page 12

The road to a profitable tangerine enterprise
— Page 14



The Role of Communities in Climate Change Adaptation
— Page 16

Editorial team



Dorothy Tembo



Bright Phiri



Doris S. Nuval



Elyvin Nkhonjera

Design: Andrew Mtupanyama

Progressive Land Laws: It's about time!

Land grabbing increases land-related conflicts in Malawi

Yvonne Mmangisa

yvemangisa@yahoo.com
National Coordinator for LandNet



LandNet Malawi has been consistently pushing for the enactment of progressive land laws that will help protect the land rights of Malawians.

Land grabbing, popularly and beautifully coined as large scale land investments, is proving to be a cause for many challenges relating to food security among many countries in Southern Africa. Worse still, when in the pre-colonial days it was the colonial masters perpetuating this practice, today, even the local elite do it. LandNet Malawi, with support from Oxfam, has been visiting some areas, especially in Nkhota Kota and Chikwawa to understand the implications of large scale land investments on the local people.

Communities of Kasitu and Mtupi in Nkhota Kota have been going through many challenges due to their chiefs' pressure to go into sugarcane production. As Illovo's demand for sugarcane increases, the pressure on the land is increasing as well. However, a group popularly known as Mkhuto in these areas has stood their ground that come rain or sun they will not let their land be used for sugarcane plantation, accusing chiefs of grabbing their land and taking advantage of the absence of the land law.

Mkhuto group has been protesting against government's decision to introduce sugarcane plantation in their areas for fear of losing their land, following reports that in some areas within the same locality, people have lost their farming land because of accepting sugarcane plantation. Towepasi Banda, treasurer of the group, indicated that they are resisting this development due to the following reasons:

1. This development has brought in various levels of corruption among villagers and the chiefs as people from outside the villages are coming to buy or grab land from poor people, thereby compromising their food



Mkhuto Group members from Kasito

security. Chiefs and rich people are the ones that own most of the land under sugarcane cultivation now and they wonder where this land came from and what happened to the original owners of that land.

2. They rely very much on food crops which grow well and have been proven to bring in more money than sugarcane as rice and maize are grown twice a year due to the land's fertility without requiring any artificial fertilizer. With the high prices of farm inputs, they are benefiting from the natural fertility. They have proven that those that grow food crops have more money and food than those that grow sugarcane.
3. Sugarcane production has proven to bring in a lot of rules, which lead to a lot of deductions when the sales have been realized.
4. They have also witnessed a lot of land disputes since the introduction of sugarcane growing which have led to loss of lives. Unfortunately, government and the chiefs in the district



Some costs that sugarcane growers have to meet: sugarcane hauling



Above and below: Some of the crops produced by Mkhuto Group



have not been responsive to the people's complaints.

5. They have also discovered that when they sell their food crops, all the money realized becomes theirs and no one comes to deduct anything as opposed to sugarcane growers who suffer huge cuts from what they realize per hectare.

In January this year, government suspended the implementation of a million dollar sugarcane project which was funded by the African Development Bank through the Agriculture Infrastructure Support Program following land related tension which led to acts of violence. One can only imagine what could have become of this area if the sale was concluded. The villagers were sued by the investor, and later on their own chief but the villagers won the case in court.

In Chikwawa, over 10,000 hectares of land would have been lost to a businessman had the communities not resisted the sale. This is land that over 30 villages rely on to grow crops on and use as pasture for graze their animals to graze on.

The communities have also been complaining that their chiefs, who are for sugarcane growing, have been sending cane growers to slash Mkhuto members' food crops in an effort to force them to release land for sugarcane plantations.

The communities have asked government

to fast track amending the bill which was not assented to by the President to enhance tenure security and promote the people's right to land.

Malawi adopted the AU/AfDB/UNECA Framework and Guidelines in Land Policy in Africa which aim at strengthening land rights of the local people, enhance their productivity and secure livelihoods. Among others, the guidelines demand that countries in Africa should develop effective land administration systems; provide appropriate strategies for land policy development and recognize the centrality of land in development. The guidelines also stress the need for adequate and meaningful consultations with the land owners and a clear resettlement plan should there be a need to dispossess them of land for any development.

Community consent is part of the negotiation process which investors and government has to acquire before any development takes off.

Among others, LandNet Malawi has discovered that usually, there are inadequate consultations and information sharing between the chiefs and the people, the government and the people, and the investors and people when these developments are being planned. Coupled with this, some chiefs are unilaterally making decisions to sell land to outsiders without the involvement of the land owners. This is causing a lot of land conflicts in these areas and disturbing their peace.

Mwanza Formulates Forest Management Bylaws

Lizzie Shapa

lizzie@cepa.org.mw
CEPA



Mwanza is one of the districts whose natural resources are continuously being exploited due to rapid population growth. Communities are highly dependent on forest products for their livelihood which include firewood, timber, non timber forest products and many more. As a result, these resources are being utilized unsustainably and their rate of regeneration cannot keep up with the demand. Eventually they have become limited and scarce and soon may become extinct if proper management is not instituted.

The Community Improvement Project (COMEIP) being implemented by CEPA with funding from Christian Aid undertook a rapid assessment of key natural resources in Mwanza whose findings revealed that these resources are being degraded at a faster rate. Further to this, there are no proper management plans and by-laws governing the management of these resources especially those which are community based. One such resource being quickly depleted are community forests due largely to charcoal burning as a source of income generation.

Therefore, in order to recover the degraded forest resources, CEPA in collaboration with the Mwanza Forestry Department, Environmental Affairs Department and its partners, the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) and Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM), took a lead role in guiding communities in the formulation of forest management by-laws which will act as a tool in helping communities in the management and sustainable utilization of these limited forest resources. These by-laws were formulated at each TA level at TA Kanduku, TA Nthache and Sub TA Govati where communities themselves took on primary roles in drafting what should be included in the by-laws such as key resources found in their area, access, the offenses, penalties and fines, and the responsibilities of various committees in managing the resources and their power in issuing guidance and consent whenever one needs to access a certain resource.



Above and below: Communities participation in the Formulation of forest bylaws at TA level (STA Govati)



Currently, the by-laws are still in draft form and are being reviewed by a legal expert to ensure that they are in line with the related policies and are harmonized into one set of by-laws. The involvement of communities in the formulation process is vital in imparting a sense of ownership and empowering the communities to take responsibility in enhancing sustainable management, conservation and utilization of forest resources found on customary land.

These by-laws, though still in draft form until agreed to and endorsed by the responsible Ministry will, upon approval make Mwanza one of the few districts with forest management by-laws.



Key stakeholders discussing desired policy outcomes on agricultural biodiversity and farmers' rights at a consultative workshop held last November in Zomba.

Agro-biodiversity stakeholders identify key policy issues

Bright M. Phiri

bright@cepa.org.mw
CEPA



The Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) conducted a one day stakeholders' consultative workshop on the incorporation of Agricultural Biodiversity, farmers' rights and conservation agriculture into the National Agricultural Policy framework on 5 November 2013 at Anne's Lodge in Zomba. The workshop was organized with funding contributions from Tilitonse, Enhanced Community Resilience Programme and Development Fund of Norway. The objectives of the workshop were to solicit perceptions of key stakeholders on the incorporation of agricultural biodiversity, farmers' rights and conservation agriculture into the National Agricultural Policy framework and then make recommendations for the way forward.

A total of three presentations on incorporating provisions of agricultural biodiversity, conservation agriculture and farmers' rights into the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) framework were made. A plenary discussion on the presentations generated varied

comments and feedback from participants notably calls on the need for collective forecast to transform the agricultural sector based on national interests through adoption of policy provisions that supports livelihoods of small scale resource poor farmers. Participants made resolutions on supporting the development of deliberate policy provisions that promote local agro-biodiversity and protects contributions of small scale farmers to national food security.

Participants observed that communication issues have been overlooked and there is lack of prioritization on problems which needs to be addressed and on identified challenges. It was also noted that the draft NAP was thrown out on procedural grounds but not all the text in the NAP is invalid. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security officials clarified to participants that thematic teams have been established to remould the text and focus of the NAP taking into account all emerging issues. It also emerged from Ministry of Agriculture officials during discussions that the ministry had more than 50 policy documents to review during the drafting of the discarded draft NAP and it was then decided to reflect detailed provisions of key issues such as conservation agriculture and agro-biodiversity management in the Strategic plan that will operationalize the policy.

The key issues identified for policy response included

- Institutional Placement of farmers rights
- Combined farmers' rights and plant breeders' rights in one legislation/policy
- Definition and registration of farmers rights
- Documentation of farmers varieties: available information is fragmented
- Non existence of policy guiding sustainable management and utilization of agro-biodiversity
- Impact of climate change on crops and livestock



Dorothy Tembo (second from left) sharing CEPA's experiences during a side event at the UN Climate Change conference in Warsaw

Warsaw underscores the necessity of international climate negotiations

Herbert Mwalukomo
herbert@cepa.org.mw
CEPA



As faith in the annual international conferences on climate change continues to decline worldwide, the outcome of the 19th session of the Conference of Parties to the climate convention which was held in Warsaw, Poland suggests that the global community is better off with a multilateral process of dialogue than not having one at all. The division of interests between developed and developing countries was so evident in Warsaw suggesting that a meaningful agreement to avert the looming climate crisis may not come easily. Hope in the multilateral process was restored largely through finance pledges made by a few countries and the historic 'Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.'

As climate negotiators from around the world gathered in Warsaw, a devastating Typhoon had wrecked havoc killing thousands of people in Philippines such that a leader of the Philippines delegation, Yeb Sano called on Parties to stop the ongoing 'climate madness' during the opening session. Yeb's widely publicized emotional appeal reflected the human reality of the impacts of climate change. In the same opening session,

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change made a presentation following the release of the 5th Assessment Report of one of its working groups. The message from the scientists was clear: We have to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases drastically and urgently or we are heading for disaster.

Against such a background, one would have expected more than business as usual throughout the negotiations. To a large extent, this was not the case as parties quickly fell back into defending their interests and avoiding action such that little progress was made on some of the key expected outcomes. In particular, developing countries were expecting a concrete pathway for developed countries to scale up climate finance after the fast-start finance period post-2012 towards fulfilling the commitments of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 as agreed in 2009. The fact that an agreement was not reached in this regard reinforces the skepticism around the world about the effectiveness of these international negotiations on climate change.

In terms of ongoing efforts by countries reduce emissions, Australia and Japan stepped back by announcing reduction in their emission reduction targets which they had initially committed to. With regard to a framework for emissions reduction in the new agreement set for 2015, countries were miles apart on the interpretation of the principles of the convention that should govern the agreement particularly that of common but differentiated

responsibilities with respective capabilities. It was apparent that developed countries will remain reluctant to consent to anything that excludes BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) which are big emitters currently and in the future from taking on binding targets. This has always been the battleground and it is becoming pronounced as 2015 is drawing near.

It had been agreed in previous meetings that the new agreement will also include adaptation to climate change and the means of implementation (capacity building, technology transfer, finance and transparency). With regard to adaptation, Africa proposed inclusion of an adaptation goal in the new agreement according to which the cost of adaptation for any temperature scenario of the global development pathway would be reflected as the adaptation goal. This would imply that the lower the ambition on mitigation, the higher the cost of adaptation. It remains to be seen if this proposal will win support by 2015 but is only logical to plan for adaptation in the same measure by which mitigation (emissions reduction) is failing. After all is said and done, success lies in tangible domestic action of reducing emissions by all countries especially those who have contributed the most.

One would think therefore that the Warsaw climate conference was another waste of time by 'climate tourists.' Such a conclusion would however miss positive outcomes of the conference. In particular the 'Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts' is good news for developing countries. While this mechanism could be considered as applicable to islands and coastal countries, Malawi and all other developing countries will suffer loss and damage from the impacts of climate change as much as anyone else soon or later such that adaptation measures will not be sufficient. Equally encouraging was the pledge to provide USD100 million by Germany, France, Finland, Norway and Switzerland to the Adaptation Fund. While this amount is by far less than what is required, it is a positive outcome to have some money in the Adaptation Fund considering that it is the only fund that supports tangible adaptation actions. Despite the numerous shortfalls of the negotiations process in general and the Warsaw conference in particular, such pledges could arguably not have come if it was not for the multilateral process.

The Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC) finalized its position to the 19th session of the conference of parties (COP19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last October. Some members including CISONECC National Coordinator Herbert Mwalukomo attended the conference held in Warsaw, Poland from 11-22 November 2013.

Excerpts from the CISONECC position paper:

2.1 MITIGATION

2.1.1 Near term ambition

The Civil Society Network on Climate Change in Malawi,

Appreciating domestic efforts being undertaken by various developed and developing countries to invest in various forms of low carbon technology,

Recognising the need for governments to take substantial steps to close the emission gap in the near-term to avoid the high cost of delayed mitigation,

Affirming the need to keep the global temperature rise well below 1.50C above pre-industrial levels to avoid dangerous climate change,

Cognizant of decisions 2/CP.17 and 1/CP.18 on the review the adequacy of the long-term global goal in the light of the ultimate objective of the convention and the overall progress made towards achieving this long-term global goal,

- i) Calls for an agreement on peaking of global emissions before 2020 based on the 2011 UNEP Bridging Emission Gap Report;
- ii) Calls for total emissions reduction that adds up to a 35 to 50% reduction relative to 1990 levels by 2020 as recommended by the 2011 UNEP Bridging Emission Gap Report;
- iii) Calls upon Russia, Japan, and New Zealand to join the Kyoto Protocol Second Commitment period by indicating their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments for the period;

2.1.2 Architecture of the 2015 Agreement
The Civil Society Network on Climate Change in Malawi,

Noting the need for an equity reference framework to inform the design of the 2015 agreement,

Acknowledging that developed countries have the biggest responsibility and capacity to mitigate the effects of climate change and that other countries also have a responsibility to take action,

- i) Calls for the new framework to be

Doris S. Nuval
doris@cepa.org.mw
CEPA



Kanduku ADC Chairlady was part of the policy dialogue on forest management which was followed by by-laws formulation aiming at sustainable utilization of forest resources in Mwanza.



CEPAs Programme Officer, Elyvin Nkhonejra (right) takes the Vice President Khumbo Kachali through the PPA Partners stand at the 10th National Agriculture Fair held last August represented by Environment Africa and CEPA, implementers of the Sengabay Climate Change Adaptation Project in Salima and the Economic Improvement Project in Mwanza.



Joseph Moyo of MRCS attaching a badge on the VP at the International Day for Disaster Reduction Commemorations held last October at the Kachulu Police Unit, Zomba.



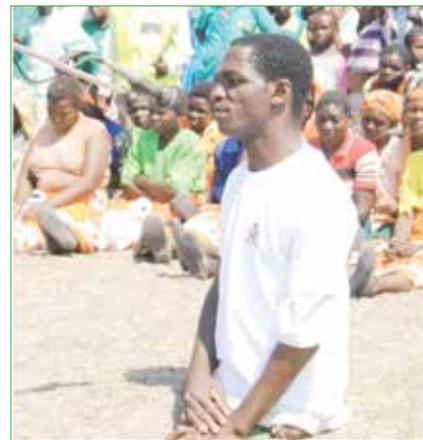
Village leaders from Chapananga, Chikhwawa collectively map out their area's most vulnerable hotspots including threats posed by their proximity to Lengwe and Majete National Parks at the VSO/WATER Futures Project's VNRMCS Knowledge Exchange and Training Workshop held in Zomba last October



A beneficiary of the Sengabay Climate Change Adaptation Project explaining the importance of moringa, drought resistant crops (cassava) and income generating products (honey) that Environment Africa is promoting as a climate change adaptation strategy.



Felix Minjale of OXFAM talks on sustainable development at a recording of CISONCEC's monthly radio program, "Nyengo Yasintha" aired over Zodiak Broadcasting every last Saturday of the month at 20:00.



Mr. Chakupata Ngundungwi narrating his experience during the February 2012 floods during the International Day for Disaster Reduction Commemorations last October at Kachulu Police Unit, Zomba.



Honourable Chibingu making a point at the policy dialogue held as a platform for sharing knowledge on the formulation of the forest management by-laws and solutions to the challenges that farmers face in marketing tangerines at TA Kanduku in Mwanza District last August.



Herbert Mwalukomo, CISONCEC National Coordinator (back to camera) explains to his colleagues the importance of a united stand on the peaking of global emissions before 2020 during CISONCEC's Pre-COP 19 meeting last October in Lilongwe.



Machinga's Jafali village leader explains to his counterparts from Chikhwawa and Nsanje the rudiments of planting trees and managing forest areas during the site visits portion of the VSO/WATER Futures Project's VNRMCs Knowledge Exchange and Training Workshop held in Zomba last October.

A Blog on Climate Change

Will Ashley-Cantello

Will.Ashley-Cantello@concern-universal.org
Concern Universal



Climate Change – 9 October, 2013

Unless you have had your head buried in the sand for a week, you will have heard something about the new climate science report that was released last week. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC - a body of scientists from all over the world who synthesise climate science reports from previous years) released the first paper in their fifth "assessment report." It tells a stark story.

The main headline is that the IPCC is even more sure now than they were a few years ago that human activity is causing a rise in global temperatures and climate change. It states: "Human influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes. This evidence for human influence has grown since [our fourth Assessment Report]. It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century."

They've gone from 90% sure to 95% sure. That's equivalent to how certain we are that smoking causes cancer. But who argues against that fact now? Yet scepticism over the extent and cause of climate change remains. Not least in Australia where the recent election hinged on the question of whether they should act on climate change at home. The side voicing scepticism won.

The IPCC report is timely, however. Nations come together in mid-November in Poland for the next round of climate talks under the UN. Nothing much is expected of this particular meeting but every meeting they hold on the road to a global carbon reduction commitment (by their own deadline of 2015) is a critical milestone. As the IPCC put it: "Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries even if emissions of CO₂ are stopped. This represents a substantial multi-century climate change commitment created by past, present and future emissions of CO₂." It would seem we already have a commitment, the question is whether we live up to it or not.

With my colleague Elias Gaveta, I recently represented Concern Universal at a meeting of Malawian civil society organisations to discuss our shared position on what the UN meeting



next month must deliver; the outcome of which will this week be presented to the Government of Malawi (which is also developing a domestic National Climate Change Policy). Inevitably, our position focused heavily on the need to support countries like Malawi adapt to climate change – particularly in agriculture – and operationalizing finance commitments made from developed countries to support this.

In Malawi the debate has long moved beyond "whether" or "why" climate change is happening, to "what are we going to do about it?" Another significant climate change report was released this week but to less fanfare: Malawi Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. The USAID funded research into the likely impacts of climate change in Malawi makes similarly stark reading. Farmers in Malawi don't need an IPCC report to know that the climate is changing – they've already seen it. The annual rains have become increasingly delayed, now last for a shorter period of time and fall on fewer days but at a greater intensity when they do. This extends what is already called the "hungry season" - when maize and other food supplies dwindle but before the rains arrive to deliver a new harvest. It also reduces yields when the harvest does arrive because rain is erratic, while the heavier bursts of rain increase the chance of flooding.

The vulnerability assessment did find that households have been very innovative in their coping strategies – e.g. generating income through informal work: brick making; collecting mushrooms, fruits, and wild honey; and collecting reeds for weaving into mats. But these will only provide so much protection. Communities will need to move from simply coping to truly adapting. According to the vulnerability assessment, this starts with nothing less than a "psychological" change to believe they can and should change practices to adapt before then taking up physical and financial options. As with the energy supply initiatives I wrote about earlier, the report also highlights that the diversity of options available

1. Would Malawians benefit from extracting oil from Lake Malawi?

Jack Gelvezon: Economic dev should not impact the environment. Thorough and independent environmental impact assessment should be done - among others. Get consensus of the people to be affected. Any displacement issues? Socio-cultural-historical sensitivities?

Agnes Dumisani Mizere: Are Malawians benefiting from uranium mining, if yes then yes they would too.

Chota Ng'andu: Yes oil is the backbone of any economy. Oil extraction on the lake, can be hazardous to the water life but a worthwhile move. What is required is to take a more cautious approach in undertaking this exercise then will it benefit the nation of Malawi. For example the uranium mine in Malawi is it beneficial? Yes it is but a more cautious approach to mining has been adopted so that the environment is not polluted or endangered. My opinion!

Thomas Chigowo: Can equally make references from what is currently happening with uranium mining! Living example!

Yvonne Chasukwa: Of course the oil product has the potential to contribute to great economic effects through exportation of its products hence bringing in foreign currency. The availability of foreign currency increases the country's importation power - a development that lessens the challenges of accessing crucial materials such as medicine products among others. On the contrary, if the process is not well managed, where the oil spills over the water, then the consequences may have multiple effects on the socio economic development and not to mention the environmental impacts of Malawi. The spills may clog fish spawn thus affecting the single most important source of protein in the country. It may also result into fish scarcity which can lead to nutrition deficiency in most households. The fresh waters of the lake which is largely used for domestic and irrigation purposes may equally be contaminated. Therefore, proper EIA is crucial.

Pondex Pondelani: The country can benefit economically from the drilling of oil on Lake Malawi. But there is a chain of environmental impacts that can emanate from this project

Fans' Posts from CEPA's Facebook page

We asked people to share their opinions on some issues; and here's what they think:

for example the risk of losing the biodiversity of the Lake. So proper EIA should be done first.

2. How best can we assist the city assembly in waste management?

Doris Nuval: By throwing our own trash properly AND by segregating our waste before doing so into the biodegradables and non-biodegradables. A little effort ... a lot of impact.

Loowee Andal: By starting with ourselves and in our own homes. Let us teach and show by example to our kasambahays/helpers in our homes. Teach and show people how to segregate our waste; having the proper receptacles for each type of waste. Proper waste disposal should be

part of our daily life.

Rebecca S. Gaddi: Mobilize the community.. but they need orientation first..start in segregation schools..at home

Yvonne Chasukwa: firstly, there should be purposefully built infrastructures for waste disposal where individuals and groups can dump their wastes. Government should also perceive waste disposal issues to be a high priority such that polluters should be fined. Lastly, people should act responsibly by practising proper waste disposal.

Agnes Dumisani Mizere: We have become a filthy nation and taking our once clean country many centuries behind. Our cities were not like this in the 70s and 80s. In many countries providing bins all over town are a solution so that people do not just litter everywhere.

Alex Dazilone: go to their offices with clubs and get them to pull this trash without those vehicles but with there own hands and muscles!

Chawezi C Longwe: We need to privatize refuse collection. People should be paying a monthly fee

Chota Ng'andu: by carrying out a sensitization campaign on the dangers of mismanaging wastes such as cholera outbreaks e.t.c.

Thomas Chigowo: These guys need adequate sensitizations on several waste mgt options. This is not the best so far and it is expensive, hence the negligence.

The road to a profitable tangerine enterprise

Chifuniro Somanje
Agribusiness Officer,
Mwanza



Mwanza district is well known for producing tangerines in Malawi with a production of over 5,900 metric tons every year. The district has a population of over 72,412 trees which produce 91kgs on average. Tangerines, popularly known as "mandalena" in the vernacular, was a dependable source of household income to farmers of Mwanza. Farmers would educate their children, meet basic household needs, and buy seed and fertilizer for their field from the sales that they made from tangerines.

Over the years there has been a twist of events that have seen farmers benefiting less and less from tangerines. This problem has been attributed to selling of unripe produce, vendor exploitation with low prices and disorganized marketing. Local leaders viewed the problem as one of the major reasons that the livelihoods of people in the district have not improved. The local leaders divulged the problem to Mwanza District Agriculture Office in 2011 and echoed it to CEPA in 2012.

In early 2012, the Mwanza district agriculture office

wrote a paper on how farmers can benefit from marketing of tangerines. The farmers were given an option to market their produce through Zipatso cooperative or market their produce as groups. The idea was conveyed to T/As and group village headmen. Local leaders were in agreement with the idea but opted for community members to select which one suited them best. CEPA together with the Mwanza agriculture office called the business development officer, One Village One Product representative, district community development officer, representatives of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) and the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) representatives to discuss and devise ways to reach the communities. The team agreed that Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO) and Community Development Officers (CDA) be trained through a training of trainers workshop to reach out to farmers according to sections set by Ministry of agricultural. This was then implemented through the Community Improvement Project (COMEIP), a project funded by Christian Aid.

In 2013, a task force was formed comprising all stakeholders involved in the marketing of agricultural produce. AEDOs

To page 17



Part of the market place in Mwanza where vendors come to buy tangerines in bulk at very low price leaving farmers with little or no profit at all.

Warsaw underscores the necessity of international climate negotiations

From page 9

designed on the basis of principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and historic responsibility;

- ii) Calls on growing economies which are projected to be big emitters and have higher capabilities, particularly the BASIC countries, to show more ambition in their emission reduction commitments;
- iii) Urges that national emission reduction targets in the 2015 Agreement must be informed by scientific evidence; and that these targets should be reviewed at least every five years to ensure their sufficiency to achieve the overall global temperature goal.

2.2 FINANCE

The Civil Society Network on Climate Change in Malawi,

Recognizing the existence of climate finance agreements such as but not limited to:

- the commitment by developed countries to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries;

- the decision for developed country Parties to further increase their efforts to provide resources of at least to the average annual level of the fast-start finance period for 2013-2015;
- the request to the Board of the Green Climate Fund to balance the allocation of the resources of the Green Climate Fund between adaptation and mitigation activities; and
- the decision for the Conference of Parties to provide initial guidance to the Green Climate Fund at its nineteenth session,

Recognising that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established to ease difficulties associated with existing channels of financing activities to address climate change in developing countries,

Recognizing the limited scope for private finance to generate returns on investment in developing countries,

To page 18

A Blog on Climate Change

From page 12

will again be critical to success.

Donors in Malawi are responding, with almost all (US, UK, Norway, Ireland etc) increasing their funding on adaptation or "resilience" programmes. For its part, CU is leading a consortium delivering one such programme to reach 11 communities and enhance their ability to manage shocks and prepare for climate change. It's called DISCOVER and you can read about it in Ludovica's blog.

So while the IPCC report and the global debate surrounding it rumbles on, decision makers and negotiators must keep in mind the reality for vulnerable corners of the world where debate and uncertainty is a long lost luxury. Concern Universal is joining the Environmental Justice

Foundation in a "postcards from the front" campaign to bring those stories from around the world to the desks of negotiators. After all, it is not only those adapting to climate change who need to believe they can and should change practices...

About the blogger: Having moved over from a job in London for the UK Government on international development and natural resources, Will is in Malawi for six months as a volunteer consultant to Concern Universal and to CEPAC/ CISONNECC. He uses his blog to put down some of his observations from this transitional perspective.



The Role of Communities in Climate Change

Adaptation

Elias Gaveta

elias.gaveta@concern
-universal.org
Concern Universal



The impacts of climate change are already occurring and affecting the lives of many people in the world, especially the rural poor in developing countries. In Malawi, climate change is negatively affecting agricultural productivity and increasing the risk of climate related diseases due to seasonal floods and droughts among other effects on the environment and livelihoods as revealed in the Malawi Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report (USAID, 2013).

Concern Universal, an international development organization, is implementing a number of projects in nine districts of Malawi aiming at increasing the resilience of rural communities and assisting them to adapt to the changes of the climate. However, true adaptation can better be understood by the communities themselves as it is also understood that the effects of climate change are highly location specific. Both the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and International Food Policy Research Institute reports (2013) indicate that impacts of climate change are dependent on the interactions with other processes within an ecosystem such as river line, forests, and water bodies, socio-economic and demographic activities.

It is because of these factors that Concern Universal's climate change adaptation activities



Preparing a conservation agriculture field



Promotion of energy saving stoves

emphasize the need of building the capacity of local structures and individuals to embrace adaptation initiatives. This has been well received in most communities where people (with women being very active) are able to commit their resources to improve their resilience to the effects of climate change. This community participation has been witnessed through the wide adoption of conservation agriculture practice as a way of reducing food insecurity

It has also been established that in some communities, production and use of Chitetezo Mbaula (energy saving stoves) is at above 70% within a village in Dedza and Ntcheu. Women have taken leading roles in promoting such interventions.

Communities have also been active in providing support during construction of irrigation schemes. An interesting scenario was observed in Nambuna village T/A Kachindamoto in Dedza where communities have organized themselves to enhance the construction of the scheme through timely provision of required local resources (bricks and rocks) and setting bylaws that will ensure continuity.

Although community input is not present throughout all the communities due to socio-economic dynamics, it is essential that communities take an active role in recognizing their vulnerability so that they can contribute to adaptation activities to allow incorporation of local coping mechanisms. This will ensure that adaptation initiatives move from only focusing on resilience but considering transformation, which provide for communities to construct knowledge on their own and contribute to enhance their adaptive capacity. Adaptation initiatives need to do more than build resilience in their own time window, but instead enable communities to

Oil is getting Malawi in troubled waters

Lusayo Banda

lusayob@cfjmalawi.org
Citizens for Justice



When oil is found, democracy or environment become burdensome afterthoughts. This rule of thumb looks set to go up for Malawi. The recent shift of focus from agriculture to large-scale extraction has been done without the required institutional, policy and legislative frameworks that would ensure equitable, socially just and environmentally sound exploration and extraction of various natural resources. The discovery of oil on Lake Malawi alone has triggered much excitement among the government and various stakeholders consider oil production in Malawi as a lasting solution to the erratic supply of fuel at domestic level.

The government has already awarded exploration licenses to a British based company, Surestream Petroleum and a South African company, SacOil Holdings Limited, to start drilling oil

on Lake Malawi. The lake has been divided into six oil blocks; two blocks have been given to Surestream Petroleum, 1 block to SacOil Holdings Limited and the other 3 blocks are up for grabs. However, the process leading to awarding such contracts in Malawi lacks transparency and is not in line with best practice. The current Petroleum Act (1983) vests all powers to control petroleum exploration and production in Malawi in the hands of the president.

The discovery of oil on the lake – which borders Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique – has brought back border disputes between Malawi and Tanzania. Tanzania now claims ownership of half of the northern part of the lake, arguing that the border is supposed to run through the middle of the lake. Tanzania argues that most international Laws support sharing common bodies of water by bordering nations. Malawi still goes by the 1890 treaty between the Germans and the British, which puts the border at the shores of the lake. Despite Malawi refuting

To page 19

Road to a profitable tangerine enterprise

From page 14

and CDAs were trained in both marketing strategies and sent to the communities. During a feedback meeting, farmers opted to market as groups. The extension staff then sensitized and mobilized farmers into groups; and with assistance from CEPA and COMEIP, a training of trainers was done on group marketing. In August 2013, farmers were trained on how to form and market as groups. Currently, there are more than six hundred farmers who have registered; and out of these, two hundred and fifty have already been trained and oriented on the advantages

of marketing their produce as a group.

In 2014, the marketing groups will be trained in financial and business management, market research, village savings and loans, cooperative formation and value addition.

The vision of Mwanza district is to form a self financed and sustainable cooperative that has high farmer shareholding and contributions. Farmers should soon be able to bargain for better prices and add value to their produce in order for them to start increasing their margin of profit from the tangerines they are best known for.

Role of communities in adaptation

From page 16

identify and devise their own adaptation approaches after the projects phase out.

The opportunity to participate in decision making processes is essential to the growth of a culture of climate justice at local levels that incorporates ideas from the most vulnerable sections of communities. Learning to live with the impacts of climate change is a priority for human development and can be further enhanced if the social and natural systems interact, especially in Malawian communities where social and cultural aspects can play significant roles.

Warsaw underscores the necessity of climate negotiations

From page 15

- i) Calls as a priority, for the mobilisation of existing resource commitments to enable a scaling up of climate finance each year to reach the target of 100 billion per year;
- ii) Calls for commitments from developed countries on the annual increases in finance flows to developing countries in the years building up to 2020 be firmed up to ensure there is predictable access and no gap between the current commitments to 2015 and the target of mobilising US\$100 billion per year by 2020;
- iii) Urges developed countries to urgently capitalise the Green Climate Fund in accordance with paragraph 29 of the governing instrument and for disbursement of funding to start in 2014;
- iv) Calls for climate finance for adaptation to be new and additional to existing commitments on development assistance in which countries agreed to spend 0.7% of their gross national income on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA);

2.3 ADAPTATION

The Civil Society Network on Climate Change in Malawi,

Recognising the adoption of technical guidelines for developing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for Least Developed Countries and other developing countries as developed by the Least Development Countries Expert Group

Affirming the recognition of the importance of balanced allocation of resources between adaptation and mitigation;

Recognising the support provided by developed countries to support actions to address climate change in developing countries;

- i) Calls for provision of adequate finance to support formulation and implementation of NAPs to all developing countries in

accordance with the Cancun Adaptation Framework;

- ii) Invites developed to provide more financial resources to enable full implementation of urgent adaptation actions as defined in the National Adaptation Programmes of Action;
- iii) Urges developed countries to provide voluntary commitments of finance to the Adaptation Fund to support implementation of adaptation activities in developing countries;
- iv) Calls for an agreement to be reached that 50% of all public climate finance will be utilized for adaptation including in the design of the Green Climate Fund;

2.4 LOSS AND DAMAGE

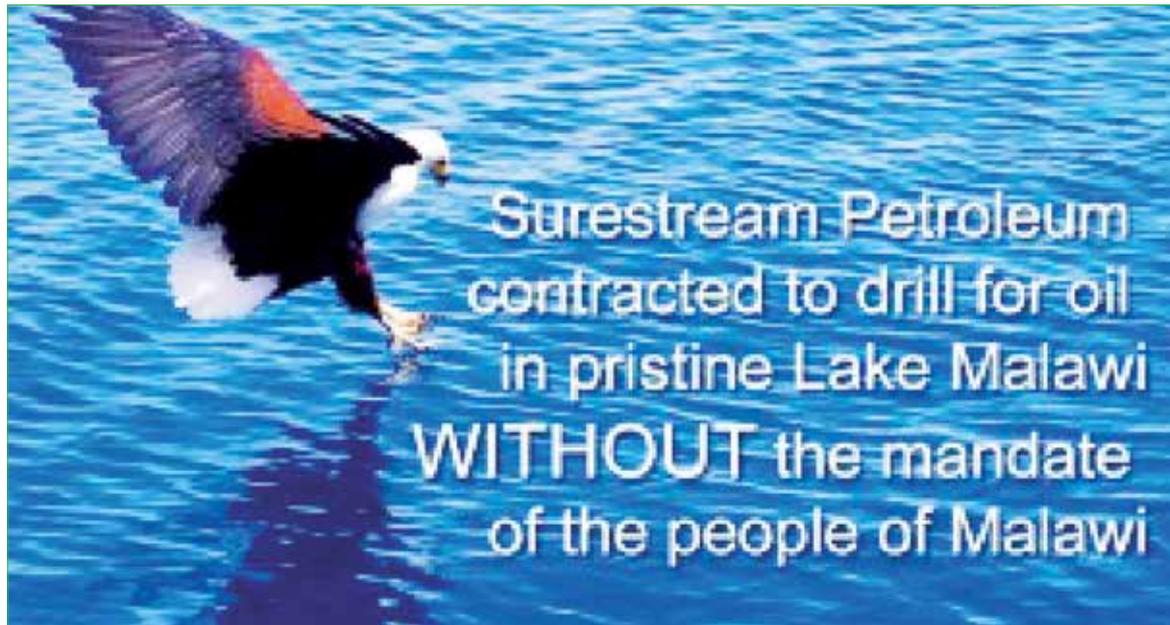
The Civil Society Network on Climate Change in Malawi,

Cognizant of the establishment of a work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

- i) Welcomes the establishment of the International Mechanism on loss and damage;
- ii) Calls upon Parties to ensure that the principles of the convention guide the processes and design of the international mechanism on loss and damage including on issues of compensation rehabilitation and non-economic losses;
- iii) Calls for an agreement on financing of the international mechanism in accordance with principles and provisions of the convention;
- iv) Calls for the international mechanism on loss and damage to provide for enhancing knowledge of comprehensive risk management approaches, strengthening dialogue with relevant stakeholders and enhancing actions and support structures to address loss and damage.



UNFCCC-COP19 Delegates including CISONECC delegates in Warsaw last November



Oil is getting Malawi in troubled waters

From page 17

the claim, Tanzania's position still remains and the matter is yet to be adjudicated by former heads of state. It has the potential to go to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The dispute resurfaced in 2011 following the discovery of oil and gas on Lake Malawi, and it deepened last year (2012) when Tanzania published a new map indicating half of the lake is Tanzania's.

The General Public and Civil Society Organisations also have mixed reactions over oil production on Lake Malawi. They fear oil exploration and drilling would have catastrophic impacts on eco-tourism and the fisheries industry on the lake, which has over 2,000 different fish species. Without a proper and effective regulatory and enforcement system, local communities are bound to experience negative environmental, social and economic impacts and various other threats to their human rights thus posing enormous challenges for Malawi. Over two million people depend on Lake Malawi for their source of income, food, transportation and water.

The institutional framework for oil production in Malawi is grossly inadequate. At present, the only certain revenue from oil operations is the royalty and license payment. The revenue framework for upstream operations activities is neither coherent nor progressive, the legislative framework does

not address issues of community development to facilitate distribution of revenue from the national level to the local level, there are glaring discrepancies between the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act (PEPA) and the Environmental Management Act (EMA) regarding environmental impact assessments, and both PEPA and EMA do not require the carrying out of a Social Impact Assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Environmental Impact Assessment is also known to suffer from a number of weaknesses; public participation including the participation of local communities is not an integral part of the EIA process in Malawi. Oil production has the potential to cause severe environmental degradation. It also has significant impacts on health and wellbeing of employees and communities living in surrounding areas constituting of risks and opportunities. Some of the risks include environmental threat to health resulting from air, water and soil pollution. Oil spillages go a long way and they are hard to maintain.

Even if Malawi would want to drill the oil, the country has no effective petroleum revenue framework and there are fears that the resource curse won't just be about the potential conflicts with the neighbors but also about abuse and mis-use of revenue from oil. As Citizens for justice, we strongly oppose any efforts to destabilize the lake's eco-systems. We like to remind all that the Lake Malawi National park is a world heritage site with over 500 fish species.

