

ZAMBIA COUNTRY PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Ephraim Mwepya Shitima

*Chief Natural Resources Management Officer &
Zambia's CBD National Focal Point*

emshitima40@gmail.com

1. Top people and processes engaged with/influenced

- Officials in the Ministry of National Development Planning, which is spearheading the formulation of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) 2017-2021;
- The formulation process of the 7NDP process, resulted in one "team member" from the mainstreaming team, invited to serve on the technical team finalizing the 7NDP;
- Government officials from other key ministries such as Finance, wildlife, agriculture, mines, energy through national stakeholders meeting other follow up sessions

2. Top change achieved or expected

- The expected reflection of biodiversity in the National Development Plan and not just reflected broadly as cross cutting environmental issues;
- Contributed to the impetus on putting value on biodiversity through on-going processes of the Biofin and The Nature Conservancy (TNC);
- Contributed to increased awareness of biodiversity issues building on the NBSAP formulation processes;
- Contribution to identification of national and regional priority areas for biodiversity conservation and create information maps which will guide mainstreaming biodiversity into national Plans and integration into provincial and local planning decisions.

3. Top lessons about successful mainstreaming

- Mainstreaming as a process is about identifying and seizing opportunities that present themselves;
- The champions of mainstreaming in key institutions are not necessarily the top level policy makers such as Permanent Secretaries or Ministers, but technocrats who buy into the concept can influence decisions (exclusive engagement with MNDP in Second workshop resulted in actual engagement in 7NDP)
- To ensure effective mainstreaming of the NBSAP there is need to expand the engagement with both the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of National Development Planning, Mainstreaming requires conviction and commitment among team members
- Getting biodiversity concerns into the policies and plans of government ministries and private sector companies is a goal that can take many years to achieve
- Realised that economic valuation of biodiversity assets and ecosystem services are useful tools for engaging ministries of finance and national planning and building a business case for biodiversity

4. Top challenge/problems

- Sectors still working in silos
- Inadequate funding
- Influencing decision makers, still on going
- Developing a 'business case' for biodiversity
- entrenched ideologies, limited capacity, the challenge of connecting biological sciences with the social and economic discourse used by development planners

Thank you