



MAJI PROJECT

International Knowledge Exchange Workshop



Workshop Report

Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe Malawi
March 21-25, 2016

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We are also appreciative of the presentations and active participation of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation colleagues from 5 countries including Rwanda (VSO), Zambia, Scotland (SCCAN), Tanzania (VSO) and Malawi. In-country representatives (NGO's and District Councils) from Karonga, Dowa, Salima, Zomba and Lilongwe should also receive our appreciation. We are also thankful for the communities of Chithandala, Mlambe and Magumbwa VNRMC for hosting our field day visits.

Our thanks also go to the supportive role of Tithokoze Khonyongwa (rapporteur) and Marumbo Simwaka (photographer) for their valuable role in the workshop.

Dawn Consulting

*Patrick Semphere
Masankho Banda*

Acronym List

CA – Conservation Agriculture

CSO – Civil Society Organizations

CISONECC – Civil Society Network on Climate Change

DDP – District Development Plan

DEOC – District Emergency Operations Center

DoDMA – Department of Disaster Management Affairs

DRM – Disaster Relief Management

ESAp - Ecosystems Approach

IGA – Income Generating Activities

IWRM - Integrated Water Resources Management

JHI – James Hutton Institute

LCBCCAP - Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme

LEAD SEA - Leadership for Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa

LUANAR – Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources

MAJI – More Action for Just Initiatives

MDF – Malawi Defense Force

MDG – Millennium Development Goals

MOMS - Management Oriented Monitoring System

NAP – National Action Plan

NEOC – National Emergency Operations Center

PDNA – Post Disaster Needs Assessment

REOC – Regional Emergency Operations Center

SACCO - Savings and Credit Co-operative

SCCAN - Scottish Communities Climate Action Network

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

VNRMC – Village Natural Resource Management Committee

VSL – Village Savings & Loans

VSO – Voluntary Service Overseas

Executive Summary

A four-day International Knowledge Exchange Workshop for the MAJI project that was held from 21st to 24th March brought together participants from Malawi, Scotland, Zambia, Tanzania and Rwanda with the aim of sharing knowledge and experiences in climate change mitigation and adaptation best practices. A total of 35 people (24M, 11F) attended the workshop. Malawi is experiencing harsh effects of climate change pushing socio-economic development of the country backwards hence the need to empower communities with climate smart interventions that would help mitigate the impact of climate change.

VSO has developed the MAJI Project focusing on three district councils in vulnerable districts prioritised in Malawi's NAPA – Salima, Karonga and Dowa to develop inclusive and participatory IWRM plans with government, civil society and communities thus reducing their vulnerability. This will be monitored by participation of beneficiaries in the project steering committee, by encouraging inclusive and participatory planning, and through ongoing dialogue between project stakeholders.

In the spirit of information sharing the workshop received a number of presentations from Malawi scenario and the other four countries represented. Local presentations included the 2015 Flood Situation in Malawi by the Director of Disaster Management; overview of the MAJI districts project in Dowa, Salima and Karonga; contributions and experiences from civil society organizations and the academia. Experiences from outside the country included Best Practices in Climate Change from Tanzania; Experiences and Best Practices from Rwanda and a joint presentation from the Scottish team.

While the contexts surrounding each project experience might be unique, the sense of urgency that underpinned each intervention was common as participants drew lessons from each other while critiquing methodologies that could potentially yield greater dividends.

This report sheds light on key issues raised by a diversity of stakeholders during the workshop. Some of the lessons and observations made during the workshop which will inform more effective future programming include the following areas of need:-

- Sustained empowerment of the local people to ensure community resilience.
- Timely provision of adequate resources for response at national and district levels.
- Capacity building at both national and district levels in emergency response, coordination of early warning systems, contingency planning and implementation as well as information management and sharing.
- Continuous learning by project staff and communities in critical areas like scenario planning to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions. Such should be scaled up for incorporation into the National Action Plan as Scenario Planning has the potential to provide significant and useful support even at national level.
- Critical monitoring of the rate of adopting the climate smart technologies and relevant mitigation measures which is still very low.

- While women participation is generally good in many projects, including income generating activities, women need to be empowered to make decisions on how proceeds from such activities are used.
- The media has to be mainstreamed into climate change interventions right from the beginning. A robust media monitoring mechanism also needs to be devised to ensure that outcomes are effectively registered.
- The sustainability of the various interventions will hinge largely on government ownership of the initiatives as donor presence is only temporary.

Background

Malawi experiences a number of adverse impacts from climate change. These include unpredictable rainfall, increased water scarcity, increasing temperatures and extreme weather (e.g. droughts and floods). Natural resources are under stress from increasing population pressure, poverty, capacity and governance problems. Unsustainable natural resource use costs Malawi in the region of US\$191 million annually, equivalent to 5.3% of GDP. Forest cover has decreased from 41% in 1990 to 35% in 2008 (UN, 2010). With increasing population growth rates, diminishing food security and propensity to climate change impacts, the reality for the country's most vulnerable is stark (AFIDEP, 2010).

Amongst these vulnerabilities is the right to water, critical for domestic use, agriculture and fishing. Whilst access has been increasing for both urban and rural areas this is threatened by unsustainable use and climate change. Addressing climate change impacts and ultimately to protect the right to water is imperative. Acknowledging the importance of doing so in a coordinated manner, the multi-sectoral Malawi Water Partnership developed the Malawi Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Plan in 2004. The Government of Malawi (GoM) underscored the importance of mitigating and adapting to climate change and water resource management through the National Environmental Action Plan, 1994, 1996 (revised in 2004), in its Vision 2020, the MGDS 2011-2016 and the REDD+ strategy. Most recently, the GoM's Climate Change Policy (2012), specifically articulated water resource management as a priority for achieving sustainable development goals. Some of the other key priorities include increasing education, capacity building, and awareness, climate change mitigation and the involvement of vulnerable groups in planning.

Recognising these priority areas, and the importance of climate change mitigation / adaptation for vulnerable groups, VSO has developed the MAJI Project focusing on three district councils in vulnerable districts prioritised in Malawi's NAPA – Salima, Karonga, and Dowa - to develop inclusive and participatory IWRM plans with government, civil society and communities, to reduce their vulnerability. This will be monitored by participation of beneficiaries in the project steering committee, by encouraging inclusive and participatory planning, and through ongoing dialogue between project stakeholders.

This International Knowledge Exchange Workshop for the MAJI project brought together participants from Malawi, Scotland, Zambia, Tanzania and Rwanda with the aim of sharing knowledge and experiences in climate change mitigation and adaptation best practices.

Methodology Used

In order to serve the workshop purpose and achieve its objectives in the best possible way, the facilitators employed a number of models and methodologies which included the following:-

- **Appreciative:** Understanding that dwelling on the negative is highly unproductive, this approach appreciates and builds on what is already great, and looks at possibilities and opportunities for further improvement.
- **Experiential:** People learn best when they can actually go through a concrete learning experience (instead of just 'being told'), can reflect upon it, can deduce principles from their experience, and can then experiment with them to verify their validity and apply them in their work.
- **Team building games and experiential learning activities:** These enhanced team spirit among the participants thus creating an atmosphere where information exchange was managed in a non-static manner.
- **Other facilitation methodologies:** Small group breakout sessions, work in pairs and individual reflection
- **Live inspirational music (singing, drums), storytelling, dancing.**

Field visit to the communities of Chithandala, Mlambe and Magumbwa VNRMCS was employed in order to enhance the information exchange process as well as illustrate some of the best practices that the MAJI project is projecting.

Workshop Discussions

Welcome Remarks

Dario Gentili, VSO Country Director



VSO Malawi Country Director, Dario Gentili presenting his opening remarks

Dario Gentili welcomed the participants on behalf of VSO Malawi. He acknowledged the presence of all the participants saying it was strategic to the successful implementation of the MAJI project. He noted that mitigating the adverse effects of climate change that the world is subjected to, called for concerted efforts of all stakeholders. He therefore appealed to participants to take the workshop seriously. He observed that Malawi is experiencing harsh effects of climate change pushing social-economic development of the country backwards and that there was need to empower communities with climate smart interventions that would help mitigate the impact of climate change if adopted.

He thanked the Scottish government for supporting the project.

Introductions

Being a Knowledge Exchange Workshop, the facilitators encouraged participants to share experiences right from the word go. Participants were thus asked to be in pairs and know their colleague before making brief introductions of the colleague's name organization, country, role as well as their unique cheer and move in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation issues.

Participants Expectations

Facilitated by Patrick Semphere and Masankho Banda.

For effective contributions and successful output from the workshop, participants outlined the following workshop expectations and agreements:

- Making new friendships.
- Observing deep listening.
- Achieve cross fertilization of ideas.
- Full participation of everybody.
- Getting practical.
- Lots of drumming; time management.
- Cell phones on silence and minimize answering phones.
- Clear idea of where MAJI is going and what it is doing.
- Sharing of good practices form other projects.
- A good field experience.
- Networking.
- Make some commitments from organizations for future collaborations.
- Appreciating climate change adaptation and how it is linked with the MGDs.

Some motivational insights included the following:

- “Action without vision is only passing time. Vision without action is merely day dreaming but vision with action can change the world” Nelson *Madiba* Mandela
- ASK: Always Seek Knowledge
- Open up and share knowledge (sing from the same songbook).

Knowledge Exchange Workshop Objectives and Guiding Theme

Luciano Msunga – VSO Malawi



Luciano Msunga - VSO Malawi

Malawi is increasingly experiencing a number of adverse climatic hazards. The most serious ones being flooding/flash floods, dry spell, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall

Recognizing the importance of climate change mitigation/adaptation for vulnerable groups, VSO developed the MAJI Project focusing on three district councils in three vulnerable districts; Salima, Karonga, and Dowa.

The Scottish government funds the project. It empowers the communities to be resilient to the effects of climate change and builds on the experience gained in the Waters project.

MAJI Project has been running for 20 months. Its objective is to enhance capacity of communities through the Village Natural Resource Management Committees and the District Planners in Malawi to work in partnership to identify, plan for and address the impact of climate change.

Its approach adopts an **ecosystems services approach** and **scenario planning** techniques that the local committees are able to emulate and implement.

The most notable impact of the project is that it has empowered the rural poor in Malawi to proactively and collaboratively plan adaptation activities, so as to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts and increase their resilience to future changes.



The project has five **outputs** that include:

- Three District Councils capacitated to undertake plans for holistic and pro-poor water management,
- Three District Civil Society Networks capacitated to do Scenario Planning,
- 30 VNRMC capacitated to plan,
- National and local Climate Justice awareness campaigns,
- Knowledge sharing.

Project outcome – communities and district planners within three districts are interacting to create and implement sustainable plans for holistic and pro-poor water management (including plans for climate resilient activities) through inclusive and participatory scenario-planning processes, thus enabling 30 villages to improve resilience to climate change.

With the foregoing it was therefore important for various stakeholders involved in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities to come together to share the best practices and lessons on mitigation and adaptation for climate change, the sharing that would shape up the current projects and inform the designs of future projects of the same nature.

Overview of Scenario Planning; Approach and Benefits

Kerry Waylen - JHI



Kerry Waylen - JHI

James Hutton Institute (JHI) was responsible for proposing a scenario-planning framework, a model that was adopted by VSO partners and volunteers adopted for use in the three project districts. The workshop was taken through the concept of Scenario Planning being a phenomenon that could help communities create images of where they want to be in future.

“A scenario was defined as a coherent, internally consistent, and plausible description of a possible future state”

“It is not a forecast or a prediction. Instead, each scenario is an image of how the future could unfold.”

“It should be plausible if not necessarily probable.”

Scenario Planning is a strategic method or tool that can help groups of people make flexible long-term plans. It differs from normal planning in that it considers long-term timeframes. It typically looks at anything (10 to 50 years ahead) and focuses on considering how future solutions may differ from now. By creating scenarios, it takes into account the effect of multiple drivers of change and so exposes important possibilities, risks and opportunities inherent in current ideas and actions. The outcomes of scenario planning processes are useful in stimulating discussions on how to respond to future challenges.

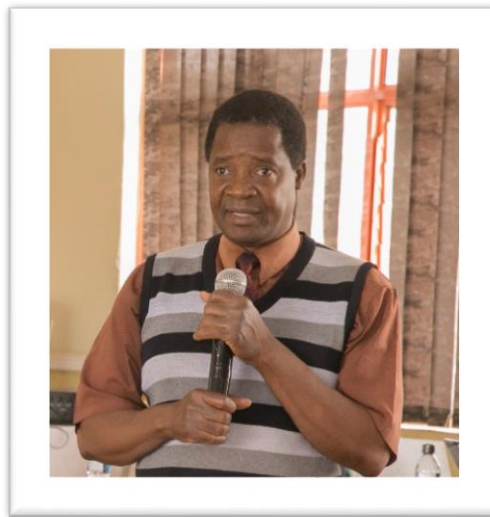
The framework is designed to be flexible in its adaptation for use at different levels and contexts, to reflect the differing needs and challenges.

Recommendations:

It was observed that communities in the three project districts in Malawi were using scenario planning to implement climate change mitigation interventions. However, there is need for continued capacity building to project staff and scaling up the concept to be incorporated into the National Action Plan as Scenario Planning has the potential to provide significant and useful support even at national level

Sharing Experiences and Best Practices

The 2015 Flood Situation in Malawi – Response Overview *Department of Disaster Management*



Chief Risk Reduction Officer, Mr Dyce Nkhoma

The Department of Disaster Management presented an overview of the January 2015 flood disaster being the worst that Malawi has experienced in history.

The floods affected 1.1 million people, displaced 230,000 people and caused 106 deaths. At least 176 people were still missing. A total of 230,000 people were displaced;

- 57% females and 43% males
- 295 displacement sites

Some 64,000 hectares of crop fields were destroyed.

The State President declared state of disaster in 15 most affected districts on 13th January 2015. These are: Nsanje, Chikhwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Mulanje, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Ntcheu, Salima, Rumphi & Karonga

Cholera outbreak was reported in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts with 423 confirmed cholera cases and 6 deaths.

Response Operations

National Emergency Operations Centre

- A national emergency operations Centre (NEOC) was established at the DoDMA
- Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC)
- District Emergency Operations Centre (DEOC).

The MDF deployed officers in Nsanje, Chikwawa and Zomba to assist in logistics. National level clusters also sent representatives to facilitate cluster response operations. UNDAC played a pivotal role in facilitating coordination in these districts.

Flood Recovery Framework

- The department is facilitating development of national flood emergency recovery framework:
 - Framework is mainly based on the PDNA
 - National and district level stakeholders are involved in the development process
 - So far only 6 (out of 16) districts have submitted their recovery frameworks to DoDMA.

Slow response of government machinery to emergencies due to lack of seriousness, lack of capacity and/or low funding e.g. 6 out of 16 districts submitting their recovery frameworks to DoDMA.

Way Forward

- Need for building community resilience
- Need to timely provide adequate resources for response at national and district levels
- Need for a budget line for DRM at district level to facilitate preparedness and effective response, amongst others;
- Need to institutionalize the cluster system at district level
- Need for establishing well equipped emergency operation centers;
- Need for capacity building at both national and district level in:
 - Emergency response, coordination and camp coordination and camp management;
 - People-centered early warning systems
 - Contingency planning and implementation of the same at district level
 - Information management and sharing

Scenario Planning Experiences from Elsewhere

Samuel Peter Poskitt, PhD Student - JHI



Samuel Peter Poskitt - JHI

Samuel Peter Poskitt, a PhD student presented his analytical view of Scenario Planning titled “**Investigating how scenario planning may influence the management of wicked problems**”. He argues that unsustainable relationships between humans and the environment have led to ‘wicked’ problems in social ecological systems. His research paper suggests that scenario planning as an approach can help manage such wicked problems. His presentation focused on how it might help and where it might remain unclear. He observes that complex wicked problems are impossible for one individual to comprehend in their entirety. He identifies gaps in the approach such as lack of evidence for impact on management of wicked problems in practice.

His research thus aims to address these knowledge gaps through further literature review, practitioner interviews and case studies.

Experiences from Malawi Partners

The three MAJI project districts in Malawi (Dowa, Salima and Karonga) have somehow similar implementation experiences. Each is implementing climate change mitigation interventions in communities through VNRMCs. The interventions include Conservation Agriculture (CA) goat keeping, forestation and Bee keeping, use of energy efficient stoves, intercropping and Village Savings and Loans (VSLs). Other farmers are replicating the interventions as secondary beneficiaries upon seeing how successful project beneficiaries have become. All the three districts adopted scenario planning in their project implementation.

Deforestation came out as the most critical uncertainty with Dowa being the worst affected of the three because of its proximity to Lilongwe city.

Sharing Experiences and Best practices

Harrid Nkhoma – MAJI Project, Dowa



Harrid Nkhoma - MAJI Project, Dowa

High population growth, demand for charcoal from Lilongwe city dwellers and lack of alternative sources of income compound the situation in Dowa. Extensive charcoal production, land clearing for agricultural activities and flu-cured tobacco farming has resulted in soil erosion and siltation causing reduced agricultural productivity and loss of habitat.

Unlike Salima and Karonga, Dowa was not a beneficiary of the Waters Project whose task included promotion of climate change adaptation interventions among the local communities. The district delayed the implementation of the MAJI project because there was need to prepare the communities before the project could begin.

As a result of adopting scenario planning, council and communities are able to think flexibly and creatively about managing forest resources. Communities have come up with byelaws to strengthen the implementation of existing policies. These include use of the chief to convene environmental and natural resources management meetings, barring individuals who fail to patronize meetings from attending funeral ceremonies in the village and fines ranging from £5 for cutting down trees from protected areas.

“The byelaws otherwise seen as extreme measures are lesser evil than the greater evil of cutting down trees” Francis Sidila, Dowa

Sharing Experiences and Best Practices

Johauck Mkandawire, MAJI Project, Karonga



Johauck Mkandawire, MAJI-Karonga

Alongside scenario planning, Karonga uses Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS), a periodic data recording system. The system was adopted in 2013.

The importance of the system includes: ownership of project and availability of relevant data particularly in connection with climate change issues

VNRMCs are actively involved in natural resource based enterprises. The project links the committees to markets.

In the current DDP (District Development Plan) there are gaps that will be reviewed at district level and incorporated for 2018

Farmers were also trained in value chain and the need to add value. Some training on IGA was not done. The workshop observed that there was need fine-tune approaches to suite the local conditions

Sharing Experiences and Best Practices

Esther Bakiza, MAJI Salima



Esther Bakiza - VSO Malawi

In some communities river flooding was causing damage to crops and homes. Communities are conserving the river bank catchment by planting trees, reeds and elephant grass as well as reinforcing hotspots with sand bags, for example in Mlambe Village. The VNRMC under the MAJI project intends to employ more advanced riverbank protection mechanism with assistance from VSO

Experiences and best practices using scenario planning as a tool include

- a. Community involvement
- b. Community empowerment
- c. Networking and collaboration
- d. River bank protection land use management
- e. Income Generating Activities

The district is able to do IWRM

Observation: Although the farmer is able to see the change with the interventions being implemented, the rate of adopting the climate smart technologies and relevant mitigation measures is still very low.



Information exchange during group discussion

Experiences Civil Society Organizations

LEAD SEA: *Sophie Mahonya*



Sophie Mahonya - LEAD SEA

Leadership for Environment and Development Southern and Eastern Africa (LEAD SEA) is an environmental and developmental think-tank that goes beyond training and research to find practical ways to move human society to live in ways that protect the earth's environment and its capacity to provide the needs and aspirations of current and future generations.

LEAD SEA worked with VSO and other partners in implementation of the CJF I WATERS project (2012-2013). It showcased the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme as a study site for community members from Nsanje, Chikhwawa, Karonga and Salima (WATERS Project) as part of their knowledge exchange visits.

The WATERS Project adopted the Ecosystems Approach (ESAp) – Used in the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme (LCBCCAP).

The MAJI Project is piloting the Management Oriented Monitoring System (A Community Based Monitoring Framework).

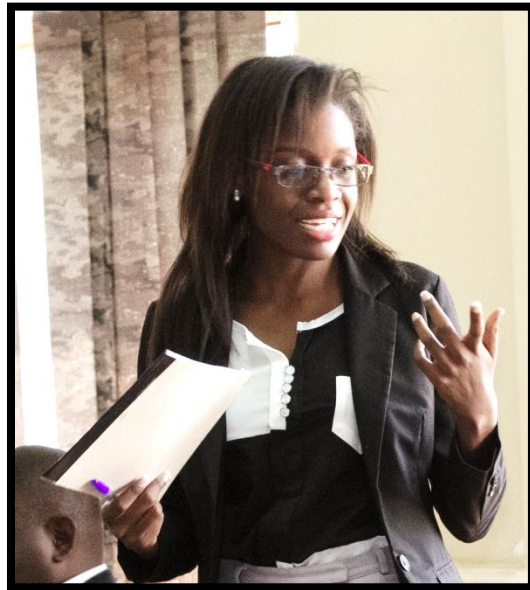
LEAD SEA is advocating for Systems Thinking; a holistic mode of addressing solutions. The Solution to one problem may cause another problem – unintended results e.g., up and down stream projects that do not link up

Lessons learnt:

- ▶ Demand-driven IGAs gives positive results since beneficiaries are motivated to implement them.
- ▶ Use of feasibility studies to confirm feasibility of undertaking Income Generating Activities (IGAs) has proved to be a worthwhile process before communities embark on IGAs to avoid implantation failure.

- Women participation is generally good in most projects though it is not clear if women also make decisions on how proceeds are used.
- MAJI can lead from a training manual on IGA developed by LEAD SEA.

CISONECC – Creating Popular Awareness: Heather Maseko



Heather Maseko - CISONECC

The network is guided by a Strategic plan with the following strategic objectives:

- Policy research and advocacy
- Capacity building and information management
- Networking, coordination and collaboration

Priority areas: Pro-poor adaptation policy framework (Including adaptation planning), finance and budgetary allocations, and international processes (UNFCCC)

In MAJI project CISONECC has the mandate to raise popular awareness of climate justice issues is through multimedia platforms. This is done through:

- “Information hub”- Online and offline
- CSO Knowledge Exchange workshops – A platform for CSOs to share experiences, best practices and discuss advocacy issues. Workshops focus on selected thematic areas e.g. adaptation, policy processes e.t.c
- Website and social media
- Radio and TV programmes
- Consultations with stakeholders

Best practices include the following:

- ▶ Radio programmes conducted in the communities promotes wider community participation
- ▶ Village debates are an effective way to assess people's understanding and to identify advocacy issues. E.g. issues of population growth, migration and environmental degradation have been highlighted frequently and there is still a difference in understanding on what climate change is among the population

Lessons:

- ▶ Need for better assessments of media work and related social impacts or changes - beyond having a simple feedback loop
- ▶ National and community Advocacy has been realized as a need
- ▶ Media has to be engaged right from the beginning as a strategic partner not as an outlet
- ▶ Engage a more robust and adequate media monitoring in order to harness awareness

Experiences East Africa

Tanzania – Best Practices in Climate Change

Leonard Kachebonaho – KPD Coffee & Rose Tesha – VSO Tanzania



Leonard Kachebonaho - KPD Coffee - TZ



Rose Tesha – VSO Tanzania

In Tanzania, the VSO program targets Health, Education and Livelihoods. Delivery of Climate smart technologies falls under livelihoods programs. The interventions are implemented using a number of approaches. One of them is Lead Farmer Extension Service System. A total of 320 groups were formed with 64 extension officers and 320 Lead farmers. Farmers are trained to dig trenches or terraces to control soil erosion. High drought resistance seeds are also supplied to farmers. A total of 4,800 farmers from Pemba and Unguja were reached out.

The project attempts to address Tanzanian government's goal of impacting as many youth as possible. Of the 45 million, 52% of Tanzanians are young with the average age of 18. VSO projects thus provide a platform where the youth can unleash their potentials because the current absorption rate on the job market is 30 – 40 %.

With 95% of businesses started dying within 5 years of establishment, another viable approach supports small and medium scale enterprises. This is the improved loans and savings system of farmers in the SACCOs under KPD.

Smallholder farmers are supported to follow warehouse seed system. Farmers own shares and deposit an amount as collateral through SACCOs. Their produce is value added and marketed through a developed market network. This works well with commodity prices in the sub-region.

The project also advocates for the use of solar energy

Side lesson: Never chase away little children who want to take part in climate smart initiatives like tree planting as long as this doesn't interfere with their schooling system

Rwanda – Experiences and Best Practices

Silas Udahemuka, VSO, Rwanda Office



Silas Udahemuka, VSO, Rwanda Office

Climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in Rwanda are a success largely due to strong political will. This is imperative because the country has the highest population density in Africa and high land use pressures, a country which is characterized by;

- Hilly landscape, prone to erosion and soil degradation (a country of thousand hills).
- Reliant on rain-fed agriculture, both for rural livelihoods and also exports of tea and coffee, etc.
- Reliance on biomass energy

Recognizant of this, Rwanda has adopted principles of **sustainable growth**, along with **climate change adaptation and mitigation**, as **national priorities**. Steps taken to address climate risks and low carbon development opportunities include **national policy measures**, **awareness raising activities**, **institutional capacity building**, and **project based activities**.

Lessons from Rwanda – political will

- ▶ **Umuganda:** community work done once a month; every adult goes out to work on some communal projects.
- ▶ **Imihigo:** performance programs; something you agree to achieve within your means (president signs with mayor, mayor with sector leaders, sector leaders with individual households).
- ▶ **Ubudehe:** categorizing the citizenry according to social status in order to know who to target.

Experiences from the Academia

WATERS Project Evaluation – Research for Evidence Based Advocacy

Dr Steve Makungwa, LUANAR



Dr. Steve Makungwa, LUANAR

LUANAR was doing the final report for WATERS project. There were critical areas that could be of help to the MAJI project. For example, communities in Salima and Karonga did not have difficulties to roll out MAJI project unlike in Dowa where WATERS project was not done. WATERS project was a capacity building project to help communities plan properly – the project was used as a building block to MAJI project. Districts that did not benefit from this project have lagged behind. Chikwawa and Nsanje benefited but were left out in MAJI project.

LUANAR also conducted a baseline survey for the MAJI project. The institution is currently working with CISON ECC on research for evidence-based advocacy by exploring the relationships between water resources and forests, whose findings will lead to development and dissemination of evidence-based communication messages to influence policy implementation at both local and national levels.

Observation: Deliberate actions need to be put in place to bring Dowa to same capacity level with other project districts.

Current studies still research around:

1. Effectiveness e.g. community diffusion or follower farmers
2. Impact: for example, should farmers really plant trees in the catchments? If yes, are all trees necessary or others could better be cut down or left unplanted? Recent studies are showing different revelations.
 - There is need to review recent studies between trees and water.
 - There is need for specific messages as we go out with formation.
 - There is need to engage new knowledge and indigenous knowledge in this study.
 - There is need to get experts views
 - There is need to translate information into consumable messages in local languages

Joint Presentation by the Scottish Team

David Somervell, Transition Edinburgh, **Philip Revell**, Sustaining Dunbar, **Gary White**, Peebles Community Action Network, **Harriet Cross**, Himalayan Centre for Arts & Culture, **Fiona Ross**, Case of Gowrie Sustainability Group



David Somervell - SCCAN

Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) is a network of over 100 organizations advocating climate justice in Scotland. The network provides a channel of communication both from the government and to the government relevant to climate change issues.

While the two communities in Scotland and Malawi are miles apart, there is hope that there is a lot that can be shared between Scotland and community actions in S E Africa.

Scotland, just as well as the advanced economies, is experiencing adverse effects of climate change. These include storms, floods and siltation. The western media is awash with reports of climate change and global warming. Fuel scarcity and energy insecurity are the tipping points in earth's systems.

With the changing climate, there is need for heavy investment in climate justice and mitigation measures such as stabilizing carbon dioxide emissions. Early action is essential to avoid socio-economic disruptions arising from climate change. At the rate of emission, it is evident that the next decade will be crucial hence the need to act now.

SCCAN is advocating social responsibility and sustainability. For example Transition Edinburgh, connects and supports community groups and initiates practical projects that strive for a greener, fairer, healthier and more resilient Edinburgh. Communities are being prepared to identify a sustainable future beyond oil such as use of low carbon transport like cycling as well as use of renewable energy sources.

Sustaining Dunbar is addressing effects of climate change by dealing with the extraordinary role of oil – a barrel of which provides concentrated energy equivalent to 8-year human energy. It developed a cross axis model whose coordinates are people, links, economy and culture

Over recent years Dunbar has faced some dramatic weather such as storms and floods that cause soil erosion consequently affecting crop production.

SCCAN used mapping to identify key aspects and the drivers – including that nearly everything is brought into the town to meet daily needs and most of the human and financial resources flow out of the town

Himalayan Centre for Arts & Culture is a member of SCCAN. The Nepal Scotland Association in order for different communities to come together set up the Centre. It received funding from the Scottish Government to create a hub within the Centre, to place climate change at the heart of its activities. They increase awareness of climate change, using creative approaches to stimulate conversations and make connections based on compassion and support for one another and an appreciation of our global belonging. The group also come up with creative ways of getting people talk about climate change are helpful – leading to action

Another member is Peebles Community Action Network promoting climate resilience in three horizons namely dominant usual pattern, transformation zone and new effective pattern.

Carse of Gowrie Sustainability Group is geared at embracing the positives and tackling the negatives of environmental change. Effects of climate change are compounded by some of the following problems:

- ▶ Modern Agricultural Techniques, especially heavy farming vehicles compacting the heavy clay soil.
- ▶ Losing woodland to new housing development
- ▶ Lack of livestock on the land which had traditionally fertilized and aerated the heavy soil
- ▶ Owners poorly maintain some of the traditional, man-made drainage systems of 'POWs'.

Nesting swifts (birds) decreased by 60% in the UK since 2005 but are on the increase – with support courtesy of Carse of Gowrie Swift Conservation Project.

Experiences from Field Trip



A community member at Chithandala in Salima dances with joy during the interaction between the workshop participants and the community.

On Wednesday, 23rd March 2016 Workshop participants toured three MAJI sites in Salima to appreciate the scale of interventions carried out by farmers in their respective communities. Communities visited were Chithandala, Mlambe and Magumbwa VNRMC. Participants were deeply inspired by the interventions made by the communities and the solidarity demonstrated by the community members to fight the ravages of climate change. On the following day, participants engaged in a review of the field visit, citing the strengths and weaknesses observed in order to strengthen the MAJI project in the areas visited:-

Strengths from the Field Trip

- Enthusiasm among the communities as they embrace the interventions brought to them.
- Maximum (Whole) community involvement
- Team work was evident among the members of the communities.
- Leadership influence resulted into positive program outcomes
- Strong relationship with Esther (VSO Volunteer).
- The communities' desire for continued support
- Passion for improved community practices
- Celebration – recognition of achievement
- Realities of what is happening on the ground
- Understanding of further potential wherein the communities saw future possibilities.
- Self-initiatives demonstrating ability to kick-start and sustain initiatives (e.g. woodlots)
- Providing short term and long term packages
- Local focus and potential to collaborate with other communities
- Diversity of interventions that were cross pollinating with each other
- Participation of children ensure longevity and sustainability of programs

Weaknesses

- Currently very small scale interventions making them vulnerable to disasters
- Lack of coordination between different entities. Different communities could cross-pollinate ideas if well-coordinated.
- Lack of expertise in terms of how to deal with river flooding. VSO to help out with more viable and sustainable expertise
- Potential for income generation not fully utilized. For instance, the bee-keeping project can yield great profits if properly harnessed.
- No bees yet – continued droughts may threaten bee production
- Lack of clarity on Scenario Planning in terms of whole community involvement in planning skills
- Limited advocacy and skills among the communities which constrains their ability to agitate for change.



A community volunteer demonstrates how bee-keeping is managed during the field visit in Salima.

Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

- Malawi should upscale the technology standard e.g. going for bee hives with extractors
 - Good selection of beneficiaries who have embraced the project philosophy.
 - Government to be actively involved to ensure sustainability of the project
 - The need to establish networking modalities and consultative platforms.
 - Three stages of learning to be adopted i.e. hearing, doing and teaching. The committees to turn into champions of pass on learning
 - Importance of a process of reflection that creates learning opportunities.
 - The need for support networks and collaborations to enhance linkages and cooperation.
 - Effective local facilitators with local resources
 - Importance of understanding the whole system to better address problems e.g. Need to engage a consultant to study how best to manage the river flooding upstream
 - Need for mechanization to enhance productivity.
 - The reality of the impact of climate change is being appreciated and thus impacting programming.
 - Need to consider local solutions for local problems
- Micro industry

For further consideration

- How is the country responding at the macro level in terms of issues of climate change? More details can be supplied by government
- Why is Malawi still hungry when best practices are there to learn from? Research and proactive awareness campaigns on climate change mitigation interventions
- There is a need for VSO and the districts to come up with a simpler version of SP that can be adopted at national level. It appears the districts are delivering but little or none is happening at national/ central level.

Creative facilitation...one of the energizers during the workshop



Patrick Semphere



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List of Annexure

1. Participants List

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2. Workshop Program

MAJI PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WORKSHOP AGENDA
THEME: Knowledge Exchange for Improved Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

VENUE: CROSS ROADS HOTEL, LILONGWE, MALAWI
 DATE: 21ST TO 25TH MARCH 2016

TIME	ACTIVITY	PROCESS AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS	Responsible Person
DAY 0 – Sunday, 20th March 2016			
From 12:00 hrs	Arrival and Checking in of delegates at CRESTA Hotel	All invited participants booked at the hotel are checked in	Doris
DAY 1: 21st March 2016			
08:45 – 09:30	Delegates Registration	All Participants fill registration forms for the workshop and Name Tags provided.	Workshop Facilitator/ Doris
09:30 – 09:45	Welcoming Remarks and Official Workshop Opening	Opening Remarks Provided and Workshop officially opened	VSO Malawi Country Director
09:45 – 10:15	Getting into our bodies Interactive Introductions	Participants make self-introductions	Workshop Facilitator
10:15 – 10:30	Participants Expectations and Workshop agreements	Presentation	Workshop Facilitator
10:30 – 10:45	Knowledge Exchange Workshop Objectives and ghkThemes	Presentation	Luciano
10:45 – 11:00	Scottish Government Aims and Objectives Closing energizer	Presentation	Scot Gov. Strand Lead on Climate Change

11:00 – 11:15	TEA BREAK		
11:00 – 11:15	5 minute opening energizer Overview of the state of local level policies and implications on implementation.	Presentation	MoLGRD
11:30 – 11:45	Overview of the state of the environment, practices and policies governing the environment and natural resources management and how the project fits in.	Presentation & Discussion	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
11:45 – 12:15	Overview of Scenario Planning Approach and it's benefits.	Presentation made and feedback provided through open discussions	Kerry
12:15 – 12:30	Scenario Planning Experiences from Elsewhere Closing comments & Energizer	Presentation made and feedback provided through open discussions	Samuel
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH BREAK		
13:30 – 14:15	Innovation is strategy MSB Patrick handles Overview of MAJI Project: Its Goals and Objectives; Progress So far.....		Josephine
14:15 – 15:00	– Sharing of experiences and ideas/best practices for: (1) Promoting Community Participation, (2) Influencing Policy and (3) Considering the future (including via scenario Planning) ○ <i>Malawi Partner – Salima District Council</i>	Presentation made and feedback provided through open discussions	Workshop Facilitator/ Presenter
15:00 – 15:30	TEA BREAK		
15:30 – 16:00	○ <i>Malawi Partner – Dowa District Council</i>		Workshop Facilitator/ Presenter
16:00 – 16:30	Day 1 closing energizer and finalizing all logistics		
DAY 2: 22nd March 2016			
9:00 – 12:30 Tea Break Included	Opening Energizer Sharing of experiences and ideas/best practices for: (1) Promoting Community Participation, (2) Influencing Policy and (3) Considering the future (including via scenario Planning)_ ○ <i>Malawi Partner - Karonga District Council</i> ○ <i>Tanzania CSO member – Best Practices in Climate Change adaptation and mitigation</i>	Presentation made and feedback provided through open discussions	Workshop facilitator/ Presenter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SCCAN - Experiences in using scenario planning and best practices for mitigation and adaptation ● Group work to respond to presentations and closing energizer 		
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30-16:30 <i>Tea Break Included</i>	<p>Sharing of experiences and ideas/best practices for: (1) Promoting Community Participation, (2) Influencing Policy and (3) Considering the future (including via scenario Planning)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VSO Tanzania (experiences and best practices in climate change mitigation and adaptation) ○ VSO Rwanda (experiences and best practices in climate change mitigation and adaptation) ○ Department of Disaster Management (DoDMA) - Experiences and best practices for managing disasters (Pre and Post) ○ LUANAR - WATERS Evaluation/ MAJI baseline findings/ Areas of research for evidence based advocacy. <p>Group work to respond to presentations and closing energizer</p>	Presentations made and feedback provided through open discussions	Workshop Facilitator/ Presenters
DAY 3: 23rd March 2016			
8:00 – 12:00	Field Visits (Chithandala and Mlambe VNRMCs – Community Woodlots, Borehole and Cook Stoves)	Teams to be guided by sub-themes- Community CC initiatives appreciated	Workshop Facilitator/Josephine and Doris
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 15:30	Field Visit (Magumbwa VNRMC – Conservation Agriculture and River Bank Rehabilitation)		
DAY 4: 24th March 2016			
8:30 – 09:30	Field Visit Recap and Reflections		Workshop Facilitator
09:30 – 12:30 <i>Tea Break included</i>	<p>Reflection from Day 3 and opening energizer</p> <p>Sharing of experiences and Best Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LEAD SEA – Income Generating Activities ○ CISON ECC – Creating Popular Awareness and Networking ○ ChristianAid – Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Approaches/ Strategies <p>Group work to respond to presentations and closing energizer</p>	Presentations made and feedback provided through open discussions	Workshop Facilitator
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
13:00 – 14:30	Meeting between SCCAN members and CISON ECC: How CISON ECC got established?	Open discussion between SCCAN and CISON ECC	Workshop Facilitator/Philip /SCCAN to take notes

	Networking time for the rest of the participants	Contacts shared and way of working together agreed	Workshop Facilitator
14:30 – 16:00 Tea break included	<i>Group work to decide on:</i> <i>What are we taking from the Workshop?</i> Workshop recommendations in going forward for the project i.e. Communities, Implementing Partners.	Recommendations at different levels made to help shape the project in going forward.	Workshop Facilitator/ Kerry
16:00 – 16:30	Workshop Review and Closure Commitment, Evaluations and Power Circle	Closing remarks made	Scot Gov. CC Strand Lead
DAY 5: 25th March 2016 – Good Friday – Free Time			
9:00 – 16:00	Lake Malawi Retreat for Visiting Partners (Tentative)		Doris