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## **DIRECTORY OF INSTITUTIONS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN MALAWI**

A Report prepared by the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), Ministry of Lands  
and Natural Resources, for the Government of Malawi / Development Partner  
Working Group on Climate Change

*with consultancy support from*

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## **Preface**

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The Government of the Republic of Malawi signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in June 1992 at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). This demonstrated Malawi's solidarity with the international community against the threat of global warming and climate change. Further, Malawi ratified the UNFCCC on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1994.

Article 2 of the Convention states that

*“The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”*

This language reflects the prevailing view at the time that if prompt action were taken to reduce emissions, global warming could be prevented and climate change averted, or at least slowed. The need for adaptation was foreseen, but it was anticipated that this would come about naturally, and would not require policy or programmatic intervention.

With growing certainty that some impacts of climate change cannot be avoided under any global warming scenario, and increased appreciation of the seriousness of the risks, attitudes toward adaptation have gradually shifted. Today, the UNFCCC secretariat explains the objective of the Convention in the following way:

*The Convention on Climate Change sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The Convention enjoys near universal membership, with 192 countries having ratified.*

*Under the Convention, governments:*

- *gather and share information on greenhouse gas emissions, national policies and best practices*
- *launch national strategies for addressing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to expected impacts, including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries*
- *cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change*

There are various stakeholders (government ministries and departments, parastatals, local authorities and assemblies, academic institutions, donors and development partners, private sector firms and non-governmental organizations) in Malawi implementing various climate change-related activities on mitigation, adaptation, capacity building, policy advocacy, research and awareness. However, it has been noted that the

implementation of these activities is not properly coordinated and guided to the extent that a good number of activities are not documented. This approach makes the implementation to be in most times in isolation.

It is pleasing to note that the Development Partners recognize the importance of collaborating and documenting institutions implementing activities related to climate change in order for the country, as a Party to both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, to contribute to the objectives of the Convention and the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change (2005-2010).

Environmental Affairs Department wishes to acknowledge the financial and technical assistance received from Government and Development Partners for the preparation of this report.

The Directory reproduced in this report is the first of its kind in the country. It includes profiles for 56 institutions with climate change-related activities in Malawi (Annex II) records on-going and planned climate change related activities in Malawi (Annex III), documents institutional capabilities and capacity building and infrastructure requirements (Annex IV) and synthesizes challenges, constraints and opportunities available (Annex V). It is our hope and intention to put up this Directory online and maintain it as a current and up-to-date source of information for all stakeholders with a concern for climate issues in Malawi.

A. .M. Kamperewera (Ph D)

**Acting Director, Environmental Affairs Department**

**December 2008**

## Foreword

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Malawi, especially some marginal rainfall areas along the lakeshore plain and Shire Valley, is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Such being the case, Malawi needs to develop measures and strategies for coping with, adapting to and mitigating climate change. However, Malawi has limited capacity to adequately address these issues, hence climate change continues to impact negatively on rural communities that are food insecure on a year-round-basis and are poor. Fortunately, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes that “...*economic and social development and poverty eradication are first and overriding priorities of developing countries...*”. This has permitted the Government to take a comprehensive approach to formulating its response to climate change, which will be situated within the framework of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS), as well as the body of environmental policy and law which governs Malawi’s approach to tackling all issues that threaten the sustainability of the country’s natural resource base and the livelihoods that Malawians derive from it.

We hope that this report shall interest partners and stakeholders in climate change to carry out their activities in a coordinated manner to enable Malawi to reduce the release of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming into the atmosphere, to adopt agricultural and land management practices that sequester carbon, and also develop interventions that will assist vulnerable communities and the country as a whole to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

We thank all those who provided technical and financial support in the preparation of this report.

*Fletcher E. Y. Zenengeya*  
Secretary for Lands and Natural Resources

December 2008

## Acknowledgements

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The Environmental Affairs Department, Focal Point for the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Clean Development Mechanism in Malawi, would like to thank the Task Team members that administered the data collection questionnaire to the stakeholders. We do recognize that it was not easy for the officers to excuse themselves from their routine work to do this Inventory exercise. We also are indebted to the team that analyzed the data and compiled the report. In this regard, we wish to recognize the respective offices that allowed the officers in the Task Team to be out of their work places in the course of carrying out this exercise.

We also thank UNDP for guidance and the provision of financial resources that facilitated this exercise. We are aware that several other Development partners contributed to the Fund that supported the work, a word of gratitude also goes to them.

This work should not have materialized without the logistical support from all the administrative staff that supported this work, during data collection, data analysis and report write-up. We sincerely thank them all.

Finally, but not least, I wish to thank all those institutions and individuals that responded to the questionnaires. I hope the audience will find the directory and profiles useful, and we do welcome any suggestions on how subsequent editions of the directory can be improved.

A. M. Kamperewera (Ph D)

**Acting Director, Environmental Affairs Department**

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Dr. Aloysius M. Kamperewere	Environmental Affairs Department (Acting Director)
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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

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ADB	African Development Bank
BSc	Bachelor of Science degree
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CURE	Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment
EAD	Environmental Affairs Department
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Association of Malawi
EIA	Environmental Information for Africa Network
EMA	Environmental Management Act
EP&D	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HDR	Human Development Report
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IT	Information Technology
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MSc	Master of Science degree
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NCE	National Council for the Environment
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
ODS	Ozone-depleting Substances
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PIC	Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands of Significant Importance
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TCE	Technical Committee on the Environment
TORs	Terms of Reference
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WESM	Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)

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## **Executive Summary**

The Malawi Government signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) that was held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. Malawi ratified the UNFCCC on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1994.

Recognizing the threats caused by climate change, especially the adverse impacts of droughts and floods on the economy, Malawi developed the National Environmental Action Plan in 1994 as an operational tool for Agenda 21. Climate change was one of the nine environmental issues to be addressed in the country to achieve sustainable development.

Malawi has not been spared from the adverse impacts of weather and climate as evidenced by recent floods and drought. These extreme climatic events cause loss of life, damage property and infrastructure, affect food security and hinder efforts in poverty eradication. The intensity, magnitude and frequency of these extreme events have increased since the 1980s. Studies have established that Malawi is vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change such as riverine and flush floods, hailstorms, and droughts and dry spells. Moreover, projections suggest that climate variability will increase and start and end dates for the rainy season will become more erratic as a consequence of climate change.

To respond to the challenges posed by climate change, the GoM developed its National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) in March 2006. The NAPA identified five priority areas to address urgent and immediate adaptation needs caused by climate change and extreme weather events.

Recognizing that a broader range of climate change-related activities in Malawi would be required in the medium to long term, and that local capacity would need to be strengthened to conduct climate risk assessment and related policy research, and to coordinate and implement adaptation and mitigation programmes and interventions, government and development partners reactivated a Government / Development Partner Working Group to oversee implementation of climate change-related activities in the country.

The Group agreed on three activities to be carried out as a follow up to the launch of the NAPA by his Excellency the State President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr Bingu wa Mutharika, in February 2008. They were: a) To draw up an Inventory of on-going and planned climate change related activities in Malawi; (b) To undertake a capacity assessment for climate change risk assessment in Malawi; (c) To undertake an institutional analysis for climate change risk. A Task Team was put in place to execute the above activities with funding from development partners coordinated by the UNDP. This report contains the results of the inventory of on-going and planned climate change-related activities in Malawi and a contextual analysis and database for carrying out the capacity assessment.

## **Chapter 1. The nexus between environment and climate change**

Traditional cultures have always been aware of the environment around them, and have devised various means to live in harmony with it. With the advent of modern science and technology around 300 years ago, and the accompanying phenomena of urbanization and globalization, the direct link between man and nature was broken. This has had adverse consequences for the environment which have emerged as an issue of worldwide concern during the past half century.

At the most fundamental level, the environment consists of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land we use to obtain food, clothing and shelter. If the quality of any of these elements is degraded, risks to health, sources of livelihood and even survival increase. Air and water pollution that threatened wildlife and human health were the earliest environmental concerns to capture public attention. Subsequently, issues relating to degradation of agricultural land and loss of forest cover due to population explosion, urbanization, increasing demand for food, and shift in dietary patterns toward greater consumption of livestock products came to occupy centre stage. More recently, depletion of marine fish stocks, loss of biodiversity and looming water scarcities in some populated parts of the planet have attracted increasing attention.

During the 1990s, the impact of global warming on climatic conditions and the earth system was viewed as just another, albeit potentially very serious, environmental threat that had arisen as a consequence of the industrial revolution. In fact, negotiations for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were timed so that the treaty would be ready for signing at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro – the first truly global Earth Summit at which heads of state from around the world engaged themselves to tackle emerging environmental threats head on.

Besides the Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNCED also produced Agenda 21 – a blueprint for achieving sustainable agricultural and rural development (SARD) in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Statement of Forest Principles, and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. A few environmental conventions and treaties had previously come into force, but the main body of international law on the environment has emerged since UNCED (see Box 1).

This body of emerging international environmental law has established the formal context for international debate about how to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Hence, when the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties decided that least developed countries should be assisted to formulate National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA), it turned to the Global Environment Fund (GEF) for funding and to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for coordination of technical support. From a technical perspective as well, there is a strong correspondence between behaving in ways that are environmentally-friendly and behaving in ways that are adaptive to climate change. Climate change is a feature of the environment, and its impacts will be felt in the form of changes in environmental conditions. These changes will, in turn, force humans

to change certain aspects of the ways in which they obtain their livelihoods and live their lives.

This correspondence explains why it is proving so difficult to identify “new” actions that respond to the “new” threat of climate change. In fact, most actions that reduce emissions, sequester carbon or enable people to adapt to new climatic conditions can already be found within the framework of Agenda 21. What has been lacking is not so much the knowledge of what needs to be done, but rather the sense of urgency and political commitment to act on that knowledge. The growing awareness that climate change poses a profound environmental threat may provide the impetus needed to begin to manage the natural resource base on which our survival depends in a truly sustainable way.

**Box 1. International treaties, conventions and protocols on the environment**

Environmental conventions and treaties that pre-date the 1992 Rio Summit:

- Convention on the Hostile Use of Environmental Modification
- Convention on Protection of World Cultural and National Heritage Sites
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer

Environmental conventions and undertakings adopted at UNCED in 1992:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
- Statement of Forest Principles

Environmentally significant protocols, conventions and treaties came out in the aftermath of the 1992 summit:

- Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change
- Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity
- Convention to Combat Desertification
- Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Convention on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks
- Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC) for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of Significant Importance
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
- Convention on International Plant Protection
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources

## **Chapter 2. Current policy environment and institutional arrangements for addressing climate change issues in Malawi**

### Policy context

Malawi has not been spared from the adverse impacts of weather and climate, as evidenced by recent floods and drought. These extreme climatic events cause loss of life, damage property and infrastructure, affect food security and hinder efforts in poverty eradication. The intensity, magnitude and frequency of extreme events have increased since the 1980s. Studies have established that Malawi is vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change such as riverine and flush floods, hailstorms, and droughts and dry spells. Moreover, projections suggest that climate variability will increase and start and end dates for the rainy season will become more erratic as a consequence of climate change.

Malawi has adhered to all of the environmental treaties, conventions and protocols shown in Box 1, and these serve as a guide for national policies and programmes. The Government signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change at UNCED and ratified it on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1994. Recognizing the threats caused by climate change, especially the adverse impacts of droughts and floods on the economy, Malawi also identified climate change as one of nine environmental issues to be addressed in the country to achieve the sustainable development objectives of Agenda 21, and developed the National Environmental Action Plan in 1994 as an operational tool for SARD.

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) was established following UNCED as a coordinating unit for all environmental issues at national level. It should also ensure that all actions needed to fulfil Malawi's obligations under international conventions relating to the environment are taken.

Through the facilitation of EAD, government produced a National Environmental Policy and an Environmental Management Act (EMA) in 1996. In addition, a number of sector policies and legislative instruments have been enacted that pertain to the management of Malawi's environment and natural resource base (see Box 2).

National Environmental Policy. The policy was developed to guide all stakeholders in integrating environmental considerations into national socio-economic development policies, plans and programmes to ensure sustainable development.

Key objectives of the policy include:

- Promotion of efficient utilization and management of natural resources,
- Facilitation of rehabilitation and management of essential ecosystems and ecological processes,
- Enhancement of public awareness on the importance of sound environmental management,
- Promotion of cooperation between government, local communities, NGOs and private sector in the management and sustainable utilization of natural resources and the environment.

The policy also calls for the institution responsible for environmental affairs, that is, the Environmental Affairs Department, to play a facilitating, coordinating and advisory role on all environmental issues.

Environmental Management Act. The Act provides a legal framework for the protection and management of the environment and the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources. The Act is supposed to be the overall legislation guiding environmental protection and conservation in the country. It cuts across different sectors and as such, it is supposed to be higher than sector policies and legislation (see Box 2). The sector policies and legislative instruments are meant to contain specific details for the sector, while remaining in conformity with the EMA. The EMA has been reviewed recently to take into consideration changing situations and provisions of other sector policies and legislation. The revised act is currently awaiting approval and passage by parliament.

### **Box 2. National Environmental and Climate Change-related Policies and Legislation**

- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1992
- National Environmental Policy 1996
- Environmental Management Act 1996
- National Forestry Policy 1996
- Forestry Act 1997
- Fisheries Conservation and Management Act 1997
- Local Government Policy 1998
- Local Government Act 1998
- National Land Resources Management Policy and Strategy 1998
- National Irrigation Policy and Development Strategy 1998
- Irrigation Act 1998
- National Wildlife Policy
- National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2001
- National Land Policy 2002
- National Energy Policy 2003
- National Parks and Wildlife Act (amended) 2004
- National Water Policy 2005

To promote cross-sector policy debate and facilitate stakeholder consensus on environmental issues, the EMA established the National Council for the Environment (NCE) and the Technical Committee on the Environment (TCE). These bodies are comprised of different stakeholders from the natural resources sector, academic institutions and the private sector. The key roles of the council include:

1. Advising the government on all issues affecting protection and management of the environment and the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources;
2. Recommending to government measures necessary for the integration of environmental considerations in all aspects of economic planning and development;

3. Recommending to government measures for harmonisation of activities, plans and policies of lead agencies and non-governmental organisations concerned with the protection and management of the environment and the conservation and sustainable utilisation of the environment.

The Technical Committee on the Environment is comprised of 10 to 20 technical experts who are supposed to undertake scientific studies, develop environmental guidelines and standards and provide technical advice to the NCE. The members of the TCE are appointed as individual experts in various fields related to the environment and natural resources. Although the council has a wide mandate, in practice it has mostly been involved in reviewing and approving Environmental Impact Assessment reports for projects at a technical level.

The Act also calls for specific measures to deal with environmental issues such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all development projects and district environmental action plans, and establishes an environmental fund to finance qualifying projects. Finally, each district is also mandated to produce state of environment reports every two years. The district environmental officer is responsible for coordinating the preparation process, drawing on inputs and participation from other sectors. These district reports are integrated into a national state of environment report which gives a snapshot of the condition of the environment and natural resources in the country. These reports are used to monitor changes in environmental conditions throughout the country. The first national *State of the Environment* report was produced in 1998 and the second one was produced in 2002. The production of these reports has not been regular due to financial and staffing constraints at both district and national levels.

#### Functions of EAD

The functions of the Environmental Affairs Department are based on the provisions of the EMA, and are of three kinds:

##### REGULATORY

- Coordinating environmental impact assessments for both private and public sector investments, using sector specific guidelines;
- Promoting biodiversity conservation;
- Establishing pollution control guidelines and monitoring pollution;

##### INFORMATION AND OUTREACH

- Producing bi-annual State of the Environment reports (district and national reports);
- Meeting Malawi's reporting obligations for international conventions and treaties on the environment;

##### POLICY AND PLANNING

- Environmental protection, Biodiversity conservation, Response to climate change.

EAD has set up national committees for a number of international conventions and initiatives for which it serves as national focal point. These include: Convention on Biological Diversity, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol on Ozone-depleting Substances (ODS), the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) created by the

Kyoto Protocol. EAD relies on the Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE) as a coordinating body for all NGOs working on the environment. EAD has also been working with Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) on a number of initiatives especially on environmental education, and with two associations which encompass the private sector, namely, the Environmental Impact Association (EIA) of Malawi and the Refrigeration Association of Malawi.

Nevertheless, because EAD has been a department within a number of ministries over the years, it has proved difficult for it to play its cross-sector coordinating role in the manner envisioned, despite having a legal mandate. With support from UNEP, a draft revised EMA has been prepared. Among other things, this draft calls for establishment of an Environmental Protection Agency – a semi-autonomous organization which will have more independent convening, regulating and enforcing powers on environmental and natural resource management issues. The draft Act is currently with the Ministry of Justice for review, prior to submission for cabinet and parliamentary approval.

EAD receives a small budgetary allocation each year to cover its recurrent costs. However, most of its activities are supported with donor funds. The Environmental Management Fund finances some activities of the department, especially environmental impact assessments. A number of projects coordinated by EAD also generate administrative overheads (see Box 3)

### **Box 3. Projects coordinated by EAD**

EAD is coordinating or participating in a number of mainly donor-funded projects which involve multiple sectors. These include:

#### **INFORMATION AND OUTREACH**

- Environmental Information for Africa (EIA) network – UNEP
- Second national communication for UNFCCC – GEF funded project for 2 years (US\$450000)

#### **REGULATORY**

- Partnership for development of environmental law in Africa – UNEP
- Institutional strengthening on ozone depleting substances – Multilateral Fund
- Pollutants project – UNIDO
- SADC Biodiversity project
- Methyl bromide phase out project

#### **DEVELOPMENTAL**

- Sustainable land management for Shire river basin – UNDP (\$3 million for 3 years) (NAPA Priority 3)
- Tree planting for carbon sequestration project – government funded; jointly implemented with Forestry Department
- Promotion of alternative sources of energy – GEF and other donors – jointly implemented with department of energy
- Climate change adaptation for rural livelihoods and agriculture – new project to be funded by ADB/GEF (\$27million for 5 years) (NAPA Priority 1)

### **Chapter 3. Mandate to EAD to prepare this report**

Recognizing that least-developed countries were among the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, with the least capacity to cope and adapt, the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties decided in 2001 to support these countries in the preparation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) to address immediate and urgent adaptation needs. Malawi obtained financial and technical assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the UNFCCC secretariat, with the UNDP as the GEF Implementing Agency.

Malawi's NAPA was formulated through a multi-stakeholder process and completed in March 2006. When the 2007 Human Development Report (HDR) on "Fighting Climate Change" was released, Government and development partners decided to press for a high level public launch of the NAPA together with the HDR. His Excellency Dr Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of the Republic, launched the NAPA on 11 February 2008, with a call on donors, development partners, academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations as well as the community to join hands in the reduction of global warming that is caused by activities such as deforestation and bush fires, among others. He called upon all these players to assist government in supporting vulnerable communities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change.

Following the launch of the NAPA, the Government / Development Partner Working Group mandated EAD to undertake a stakeholder survey that would provide reliable, up-to-date information about who was doing what in Malawi in the rapidly expanding field of climate change. The Working Group agreed on TORs for carrying out three initial activities (see Annex I). The activities were:

1. To draw up an inventory of on-going and planned climate change related activities in Malawi;
2. To conduct an institutional analysis on the status of integration of climate change risk into planning processes;
3. To develop a proposal on climate risk assessment capacity development for Malawi.

In the detailed TORs for each of these activities, the tasks to be undertaken with respect to Activity 2 were broadened to include identification of constraints, challenges and opportunities experienced by institutions in the coordination and implementation of all climate change-related activities in the country, both on mitigation and adaptation, and to identify the required capacity building needs for institutions to effectively coordinate and implement these activities.

A Task Team led by EAD was put in place to execute the above activities, with funding from development partners coordinated by the UNDP. This Report contains the initial results relating to Activity 1 and to Activity 2 in its broadened formulation.

## Chapter 4. Survey results

### Data Collection

The data collection checklist shown in Annex I was administered in the form of a questionnaire sent out through fax, email and hand delivery to 103 stakeholder institutions in the country. Respondents were asked to provide information for five categories of questions.

- Ongoing and planned climate change-related activities
- Human resource capacity and climate change-related training requirements
- Institutional capacity
- Existing physical infrastructure and plant and equipment requirements
- Situation analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, constraints, challenges)

Fifty-six responses were received from 23 government ministries and departments, parastatal bodies and local assemblies, 11 academic, research and training institutions, and 22 development partners, private sector firms and NGOs, as shown below. This represented a 54.37 percent response rate, and was considered to be a good cross-section of the respondent pool, sufficient for drawing some useful lessons, even though more work is needed to develop a comprehensive and complete inventory.

Government ministries and departments	13
Parastatals	4
Local authorities	6
Research & training institutions	...11
Development partners	8
Civil society & NGOs	11
<u>Private sector</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	56

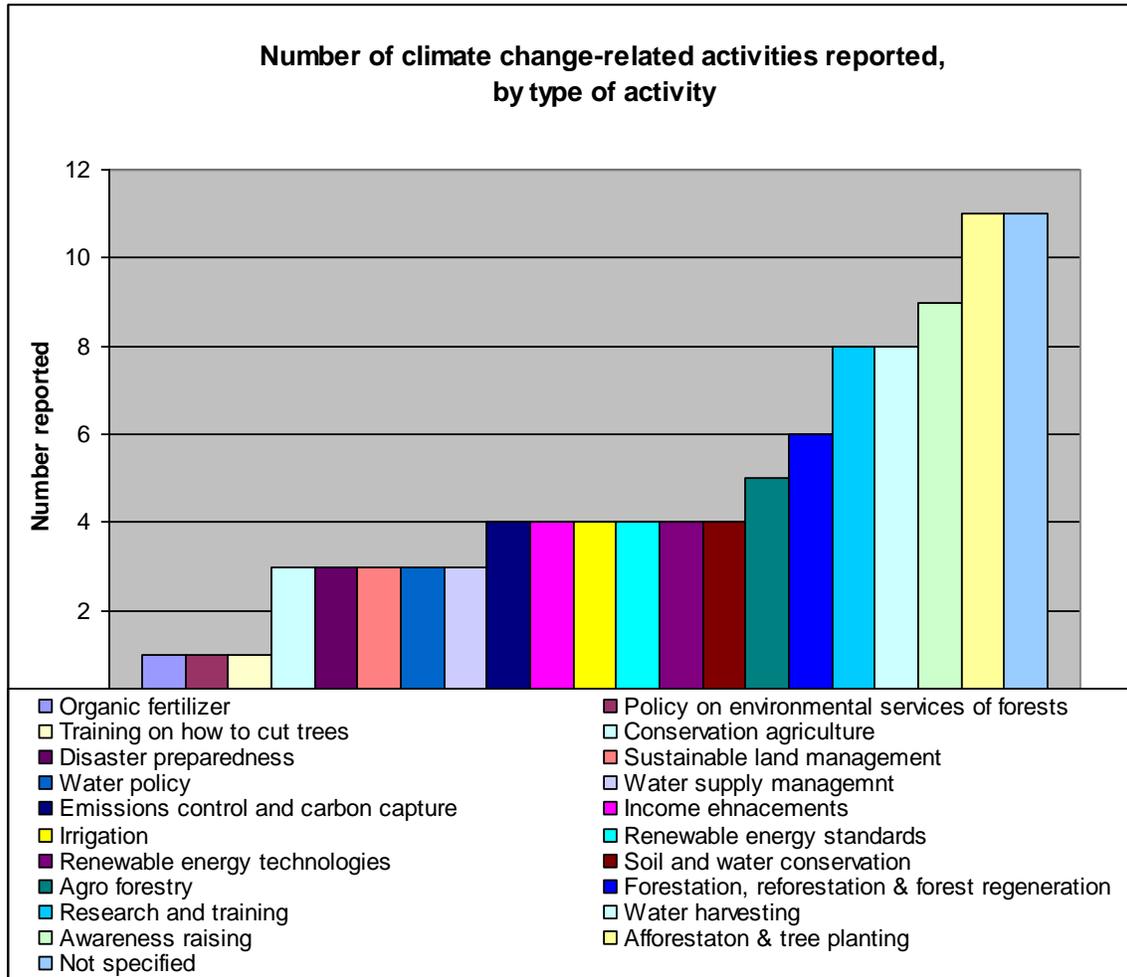
An institutional profile was created for each institution that responded. The profiles were compiled in the form of the Directory shown in Annex II, and will soon be available as an online access database.

### Findings

#### Climate change-related activities

Although the terms of reference called for an evaluation of institutional capacity to assess risk, the structure of the questionnaire and the replies given focused more broadly on the climate change-related activities that each institution was implementing. Respondents were asked to demonstrate the relevance of reported activities to climate change by indicating whether the activity contributed to adaptation, mitigation, policy advocacy, capacity building or clean development. In many instances, respondents reported an activity as contributing to more than one of these climate change-related action areas. Altogether, 44 activities were reported as contributing to adaptation, 50 to mitigation, 24 to policy advocacy, 29 to capacity building and 5 to clean development mechanism.

There was some inconsistency among respondents in the way different types of activities were classified. For example, afforestation has been classified variously as adaptation, mitigation, or both. Also, in several instances capacity-building aspects of activities classified as adaptation or mitigation have not been reported. Removal of such inconsistencies will be undertaken as part of the follow-up.



The table above shows the number of climate change-related activities reported, by type of activity. The total number of activities reported came to 98. Eleven respondents indicated that they were implementing climate change-related activities, but did not specify what these were. Of the remainder, the largest number (24) related to forestry, including afforestation and tree planting (11), forestation, reforestation and forest regeneration (6), agro-forestry (5) and policy on environmental services of forests and training on how to cut a tree (1 each).

Water was the next largest category, with 18 activities reported, including water harvesting (8), irrigation (4), and water supply management and water policy (3 each). Another large category was that of land. Eleven activities were reported, including soil and water conservation (4), sustainable land management (3), conservation agriculture

(3), and organic fertilizer (1). Other categories include: information, awareness raising, training and research (15), energy, emissions control and carbon sequestration (12), and disaster preparedness and sustainable livelihoods (7).

Of the 56 reporting institutions, 27 are operating in only a few districts. Three reported on localized activities in the Northern region, while the remaining 24 were operating in districts in the Central or Southern regions or a combination of both. No activities were reported for 3 of 6 districts in the northern region or for 3 of 9 districts in the central region, whereas location-specific activities were reported for all 13 districts in the southern region.

Though not explicitly stated, this almost certainly reflects the more acute awareness of the risks posed by climate change in the southern part of the country, as this is where increased frequency and intensity of droughts and floods is already being felt most acutely. More thorough analysis of the regional distribution of climate change-related activities in Malawi will be another important feature of the follow-up work programme. Detail on responses provided by reporting institutions on their climate change-related activities is shown in Annex III.

#### Capacity Assessment Summary

Respondents provided quite detailed information about their personnel establishments, with the number and names of trained personnel in post with BSc, MSc or PhD having been mentioned by many respondents. The completeness of these records varies and more information is needed to assess the actual appropriateness and adequacy of the human resource pool in relation to need.

Additional training requirements were identified with varying degrees of specificity. In general, the requests made appeared appropriate. In some instances the requests were simply for training on climate change, but in a number of other instances they were for more specialised training on some aspect of relevance to the institutional mandates and professional responsibilities of the respondent.

Many respondents provided quite specific information about their equipment needs, with estimated costs. In general, the requests seemed reasonable in relation to institutional mandates, but were not necessarily specific to the climate change-related activities that had been reported. Information was provided about institutional structures and procedures, but no real evaluation was undertaken of what works well and what not so well.

Respondents did evaluate what they thought were the main strengths, weaknesses, challenges, constraints and opportunities affecting their capacity to implement climate change-related activities in the country. The results are shown in the table below. The list is quite suggestive as to what will be needed to create an enabling environment for Malawi to manage its response to climate change, but cannot be considered a systematic assessment.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Challenges	Constraints	Opportunities
<b>A. Government ministries and departments, parastatal bodies, local authorities</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained personnel</li> <li>• Policy available</li> <li>• Introducing/ promoting clean energy technologies</li> <li>• Climate change recognized as a national and global issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of transport</li> <li>• Limited resources</li> <li>• Lack of resources for training</li> <li>• Conflicting policies</li> <li>• Lack of policy enforcement equipment</li> <li>• Land scarcity</li> <li>• Low skills in weather and climate forecasting</li> <li>• Problem of resource ownership in community projects</li> <li>• Multiple land ownership</li> <li>• Weak penalties for offenders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate funding</li> <li>• Inadequate staffing levels</li> <li>• Lack of financial and human resources</li> <li>• Not enough personnel to conduct awareness on climate change issues or to broadcast on television and radio</li> <li>• Lack of high quality skilled staff</li> <li>• Low resource base</li> <li>• Limited resources</li> <li>• Growing urban poverty</li> <li>• Conflicting policies between Assemblies and Forestry</li> <li>• Unplanned developments in towns and cities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large target groups in some cases</li> <li>• Politicization of programmes</li> <li>• Limited financial capacity</li> <li>• Human capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political will towards water transportation</li> <li>• Increased demand for services in some cases</li> <li>• Officers &amp; communities willing to take part</li> </ul>
<b>B. Academia, research &amp; training institutions</b>				
None mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of adequate skills for training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty levels in target communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited human, financial and infrastructure capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government &amp; Donors supportive</li> </ul>
<b>C. Development partners, private sector, civil society</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer interest in and willingness to adopt new technologies and approaches</li> <li>• Agricultural Development Programme in place</li> <li>• Good political will</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate funds to support big projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased demand for funding</li> <li>• Insufficient attention to need for immediate short term mitigation measures as bridging step while adaptation efforts take shape</li> <li>• Land degradation, deforestation, food insecurity</li> <li>• Frequent disasters in Malawi</li> <li>• High illiteracy levels</li> <li>• Growing urbanization</li> <li>• Forest fires, theft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donor fatigue</li> <li>• Low interest rates</li> <li>• Few investment opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness of government &amp; donors to beef up endowment funds</li> <li>• Growing interest of development partners to support climate change issues holistically</li> <li>• Growing global interest in sustainable land and water management vis' a vis' climate change</li> </ul>

## **Chapter 5. Recommendations and way forward**

### Directory of Malawian Institutions with Climate Change-related Activities

The Task Team recommended that a re-run of the questionnaire be done to solicit data that would fill missing information, as specified below:

- Specific qualifications and areas of specialty of professional staff
- Number of years in climate change-related activities
- Designation of institutions
- Specific sources of funding
- Training needs for professional staff
- Collect strategic plans, policies, master plans, legislation, etc as appropriate

The consultants concur with this recommendation. In their view, the Task Team has done an excellent job of coming up with a workable approach for the development and online maintenance of a comprehensive directory of Malawian institutions with mandates and activities relevant to climate change. Moreover, they wish to stress that this work was done entirely by the Task Team members themselves, without consultancy support.

They recommend that the comprehensiveness of the list of institutions to be included in the Directory be reviewed in light of lessons learned from this initial effort, and that a team of paid interviewers be recruited to visit representatives of all institutions to be included in the Directory and obtain missing information. IT support is also needed to create a climate change website for Malawi and a user-friendly and accessible online institutional database that can be easily updated and maintained.

The consultants believe that sensitization and training activities to be implemented under the UNDP-supported capacity-building programme on climate change will provide additional opportunities for engaging stakeholder interest in the Directory and obtaining missing information, and that explicit provision should be made for this when planning such activities.

### Capacity-building needs assessments

The institutions survey produced useful information about the current human resource pool available and interested to work on climate change issues. Although helpful indications were given as to areas where professionals in various institutions would like to receive additional training, the lack of a strategic framework and agreed set of objectives for their work on climate change made it impossible to assess the relevance of the requested training for the tasks they would need to carry out.

This problem was compounded by ambiguity in the TORs for the assessment. At the time these were being prepared, the main concern was the likelihood that climate change would increase climate risk. It was generally felt that not enough was known about the nature of the climate change risks which Malawi faced, and that this knowledge gap needed to be filled before modifying investment plans to manage and adapt to these new

risks. Donors in particular were primarily interested in having a study done that would identify needs for building capacity for risk assessment that could be addressed with their funds. Nevertheless, as the work progressed, it became increasingly clear that, whereas risk assessment need not be the mandate of every institution that is implementing climate change-related activities, many institutions are already engaged in implementation of adaptive practices for which other types of capacity-building and skills development are more urgently needed. A more formal training needs assessment is recommended as a next step.

As regards other forms of support for strengthening institutional capacity to manage response to climate change, the situation analysis produced by the Task Team is a useful first step. This should now be supplemented with a series of more formal SWOT analyses conducted with stakeholder groups.

It is hoped that recent decisions taken by government on formalisation of oversight structures on climate change and anticipated funding of the formulation phase of a *Strategic Framework and National Action Program for Managing Response to Climate Change in Malawi* will make it possible to move forward expeditiously with implementation of these recommendations.