

# The University of Arizona and Clark University

*Third Workplan for the Cooperative Agreement No. 690-02335-A-00-6060-00*

**For the Period Covering July - September 1998**

## **Summary**

### **Environmental Information to Monitor the Impact of Policy Reform: Market Liberalization**

Mr. Aloyisus Kamperewera arrived back in Malawi from Washington State University to conduct his PhD field work in the Kamundi catchment. Mr. Kamperewera's input is part of the linkage between MAFE and MEMP as he will be conducting quantitative assessments of water quality and quantity from the runoff plots and streams that were monitored by Dr. Mohamoud during the 1997/98 growing season. This growing season the field plots will be increased in number to include soil and water conservation treatments relating to the interventions that MAFE have recommended through their extension program.

The information from the Kamundi runoff plots and streams will be used to help answer the question in the *Initial Environmental Examination* as to whether there is contamination of groundwater and surface water due to increased use of fertilizers and agro-chemicals. The quantitative assessments from Kamundi will complement the qualitative assessments from Nsipe EPA.

**Indicator of achievement:** *Input into a summary report showing summary analysis from the runoff plots and streams.*

With the arrival of Mr. Kamperewera, only initial preparations for the growing season monitoring were completed during the quarter.

### **Environmental Information to Inform Policy Making: Shire River Assessment**

After nearly a year delay in recruitment, Mr. Mesheck Kapila reported to the Information and Documentation Division for a ten month input as the EIS Team Leader. As will be reported below, he was immediately requested to assist in decision support with the Environmental Micro-projects. Much of the work accomplished focused on administrative issues of finalizing the costed workplans with the agencies that are participating in the EIS and developing a training component for the EIS under the Environmental Management Project. A proposal for a tender from the Department of Surveys was developed to have all the 1:50K

topographic map sheets scanned. The terms of reference for this tender were developed in conjunction with the Department's Procurement Specialist.

More emphasis is envisioned for the EIS on developing linkages to assist in data analysis and the use of environmental information during the remainder of the input from UA/CU. To identify long term approaches to link data analysis and interpretation, meetings were held with USAID to discuss the inclusion of the environmental sector in the Agriculture, Environment Policy Research Institute (AEPRI). Unfortunately, this proposal ran into administrative constraints and has been shelved, with an alternative arrangement focusing on contracting policy research through a new office to be established outside of the Ministry of Agriculture by the Agriculture Policy Advisor.

Additional discussions were held with the University of Malawi Research Coordinator to clarify the difference between their proposal for developing an Environmental Research Center in Zomba at Chancellor College and that of AEPRI. Of particular interest, is how best to continue with the small grants research initiative. The concept behind AEPRI was to support policy analysis, while the center in Zomba is more of an effort to develop the capacity for applied research. There is most likely a need to have both. The interest from the point of development of the EIS, was where could an information system best be placed to serve decision support. This point is still not resolved.

It was envisioned that the EIS would be supported by a national monitoring program to supply environmental data on a routine basis. Technical assistance proposed the use of an area sample frame to provide data for the EIS. A workshop was sponsored by FAO in July to present recommendations from a consultant who was to have developed a data user needs assessment. It does not appear from reviewing the documents produced that this goal was achieved.

Meetings were held later during the quarter with the Ministry of Agriculture, World Bank, MAFE, FEWS and MEMP to discuss options for the Ministry of Agriculture to build an area sample frame and implement annual surveys based on the reports produced from the workshop. Due to a number of different interpretations of what exactly was going to be achieved through a contracting mechanism with the World Bank and the Ministry of Agriculture, it was decided to hold off once again on proceeding with the contractor that had been identified and request an independent review of the current status of sampling and options available.

**Indicator of achievement:** No specific action during the quarter on this indicator.

## **Development of the Institutional Capacity to Respond to Environmental Issues and Assess Policy Impact**

### *Improve donor and implementing partner coordination*

The donors coordination group in E/NRM held a regular meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, and a subgroup met again on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to ensure preparedness for an ESP

Round-table scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. The ESP document was finally published late in September and the Round-table was well attended by Government, NGOs, the private sector and all major donors, including representatives from overseas HQs.

**Indicator of achievement:**

*Improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in the forestry, fisheries and wildlife sectors*

No action during this quarter. In any revision of the tranche two conditionality it is strongly recommended that this condition remain unaltered.

**Indicator of achievement:** No action.

*Introduce performance based management procedures*

The intention here was to study and report on the effectiveness of the Government's Medium Term Expenditure Framework as a performance-based budget system (PBBS) in compliance with condition (h) of the second tranche of NATURE. Current thinking in USAID Malawi is that the existence of the MTEF renders this condition redundant, and it is understood that permission will be sought to delete it. Action on this workplan item is therefore suspended pending a final decision.

**Indicator of achievement:** No action.

*Support the creation of an Endowment Trust for E/NRM programs and functions*

Each of the three sub-committees of the Endowment Trust Working Group (Community Participation, Legal and Financial Structure) met during September and agreed on Terms of Reference for activities to the end of the year. The EPA chairs the Financial Structure Sub-Committee, which met on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. A full meeting of the Working Group was held in Blantyre on September 4<sup>th</sup>, at which plans were made for (a) a two-day seminar on Trust Funds to be organized by the Blantyre legal firm Bernhard and Harris, (b) a study tour for six members of the Group to visit the Tany Meva Foundation in Madagascar during October and (c) a national workshop to be held mid-November. Following the Working Group meeting both legal (Lilley Wills & Co.) and financial (Deloitte & Touche) advisors were appointed.

**Indicators of achievement:** (1) The Working Group has met regularly, has identified the need for technical assistance and has initiated the preparation of a Trust Deed. (2) The Working Group has defined the practicality of establishing the endowment and has prepared an action plan to the point of Trust registration. (3) and (4) A working paper on financial management issues and a proposal for Fund support and activity prior to endowment are both in preparation.

*Support the role of traditional leadership in E/NRM*

During the quarter some progress was made towards operationalizing the proposal by Inkosi Ya Makosi M'mbelwa IV that a national forum for traditional leaders be

convened in order to develop and articulate new roles for chiefs in land and natural resources management. Specifically, the content and logistical arrangement for four meetings (three regional and one national) were discussed with Chief M'mbelwa on July 8<sup>th</sup> and with the USAID mission (SOs 2 and 5) on three occasions during July and August. A perceived problem concerned the support capacity to manage four large meetings of this kind, and the complications associated with procuring such capacity. The Centre for Social Research (UNIMA - Zomba) agreed not only to provide the services of Dr. Stanley Khaila, the Director, as a lead facilitator for the meetings, but also to take responsibility for management and logistics. On September 15<sup>th</sup> CSR were formally invited to submit a proposal along these lines.

**Indicator of achievement:** All progress to date has been at the planning/preparatory level and has not yet started to register against the stated indicator for this item (Traditional Leadership is made fully aware of the new policy framework for NRM, etc).

*Identify institutional support structures for effective decision-making*

As outlined in the workplan, one task in the development of the EIS is to make information generated more accessible to decision-makers. During the first week that the EIS Team Leader was working a request was made to assist the Environmental Micro-projects in explaining how sites were selected for inclusion for support. Although ideally this should have been done prior to selection instead of after the fact, a decision tree was developed using sources of information from the *Land Resources Evaluation Project*, the *FEWS Vulnerability Assessment* and for the Shire River Districts, input from the *Situation Analysis for the Middle Shire*. A small steering group was organized which expressed interest in identifying the 'worst case' areas as 'hot spots' for targeting support through the micro-projects. The evaluation was field verified with visits to the Mwanza and Ntcheu District Offices with the Micro-projects Co-ordinator. A short report was prepared and presented to the steering committee for the micro-projects prior to presentation to the National Council for the Environment (NCE) as a briefing.

**Indicator of achievement:** Paper recommending a sustainable strategy for the continued development to coordinate environmental monitoring and analysis, policy research, and information exchange in support of the development of a NEIS.

The decision tree prepared by the EIS Team Leader will be part of a case study in the paper recommending a strategy for EIS development.

*Identify effective information exchange mechanisms*

The *Environment and Natural Resource Management* database was completed through two contracts to program the application in Microsoft Access and to update the information from 1994 with new information from a survey of approximately sixty two organization working in the fields of environment and natural resources management.

As one of the objectives of the database is to assist with coordination between

government, NGOs and the donors, the database was shown to CURE who are updating their *Directory of NGOs*. Discussions included how to use the E/NRM database to produce a report which could automate the production of the directory. Draft output from the E/NRM database in the form of a report of organizations and the projects they implement was taken to Mwanza District and reviewed with the District Commissioner and Development Officer. Both expressed interest in the output and indicated that the database could be used at the district level to support information exchange and decision making.

A similar presentation was made at the Malawi Institute of Management to the Environmental Focal Points workshop which included some of the new Environmental District Officers (EDOs). Once again, interest was expressed in the potential of the database to assist coordination and share information on projects at the district level.

**Indicator of achievement:** Relational E/NRM database used to produce directories of environmental projects, focal points, NGO activity as well as build linkages between explanations of environmental change and subsequent response to address change.

## **Establishment of a Comprehensive Policy and Legislative Framework for Management of the Environment and Natural Resources**

*Establish a comprehensive policy, legislative and institutional framework*

The EPA continued to track the progress of the sectoral policy and legal reform process as detailed in the following item.

**Indicators of achievement:** Technical guidance on (1) the implications of sectoral policies, laws and institutional roles and (2) cross-sectoral co-ordination issues is required at key points in the reform process. No such points arose in this reporting period, during which activity was dominated by consultants' research.

*Support agencies in the revision of sectoral policies, legislation and institutional roles*

Progress in the following fields was achieved during the reporting period:

### **Land and land use policy and legislation**

A consultancy study into the legal framework for land use and management, supported jointly by UNEP/UNDP and the UoA and undertaken by G.Z. Banda, continued throughout the quarter, with fieldwork completed by the end of July. Pressure was put on the consultant to deliver a draft report during October.

The EPA maintained close liaison with a study financed by the World Bank into the estate agriculture crisis. A second phase of the study was completed in July.

## Fisheries legislation

Parliamentary draftsman Kenyatta Nyirenda was contracted in July by UNEP/UNDP to draft subsidiary legislation under the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing the (conventional) management of the “commercial” fisheries and the co-management of artisanal fisheries were available as first drafts at the end of September.

## Wildlife

Kenyatta Nyirenda was also contracted by UNEP/UNDP to draft a National Parks and Wildlife (Amendments) Bill as a follow-up to the initial work completed by Tracy Dobson in June. The Amendments Bill is expected to be available for comment during October.

## Irrigation policy and legislation

The draft irrigation policy was finalized at the end of August and now awaits approval by Cabinet. By the end of September a much reworked Irrigation Bill was accepted by the Irrigation sector policy and legal task force and passed on to the Ministry of Justice for technical scrutiny and submission to Parliament.

## Water resources policy and legislation

The review of water resources policy and legislation was substantially completed by consultants Mvalo & Co. during the quarter. At the end of September a first draft report had been submitted: it is planned to follow the circulation of this report with a series of regional consultation meetings and a final national workshop.

**Indicators of achievement:** (1) Technical progress in the reform program has been monitored closely although not yet reported in detail. (2) The review of sectoral policies and legislation has been completed in all sectors apart from land. (3) The review of institutional roles and responsibilities has been completed in the wildlife, irrigation and waste management sectors, and may have been satisfactorily covered in other sectors by the GoM's Functional Review process: this is currently being investigated. (4) and (5) The status of revised sectoral policies and laws is summarized in the table below: it should be noted that although the forestry policy has been approved by Cabinet a (minor) amendment is also in draft.

Sector	Policies				Legislation			
	incomplete	draft	final draft	approved	incomplete	draft	final draft	approved
Land	✓				✓			
Forestry		✓		✓				✓

Wildlife			✓			✓		
Fisheries		✓						✓
Water		✓				✓		
Irrigation			✓				✓	
Land Resources		✓				✓		
Sanitation, waste mgmnt.		✓				✓		

*Identify opportunities for policy implementation*

During September the EPA designed a field study in collaboration with the Land Resources Conservation Department aimed at clarifying the range and relative importance of factors which promote - or may be necessary preconditions to - better soil and water management. The study will focus on “good practice” in the field and may enable a more realistic and effective soil conservation strategy to be designed. External donor funding will be sought for the implementation of this study.

The Kasungu Flue Cured Tobacco Association (KFCTA) is a 56,000 ha. Government settlement scheme in the Central Region which is scheduled for privatization. Given the marginal profitability of flue tobacco under current conditions and the poor suitability of the prevailing soils for other crops, privatization is not expected to be easy. Part of the Lunyangwa block of KFCTA remains as *dambo* and indigenous woodland adjoining the Kasungu National Park buffer zone and supporting a considerable population of elephant, buffalo and other wildlife. It might be feasible to operate part of Lunyangwa, plus part of the buffer zone, as a Game Management Area in which safari hunting revenues benefit resident communities. The EPA held preliminary discussions on this issue with DNPW, the MoAI and the Ministry of Justice in July, with a view to developing a feasibility study later in the year.

**Indicator of achievement:** (1) Preparation is now under way to generate information which will form the basis of a report recommending E/NRM interventions with maximum expected impact.

**General Information**

The EPA was out of country on R & R leave from August 7<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.