

**RESOLUTIONS
OF THE
SECOND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIALOGUE**

**Lusaka - Zambia
October 2021**

With Selected Dialogue Statements and Comments



Theme:

"Better Policy Decisions for Ecosystem Restoration, Sustainable Energy and Climate change"

Centre for Environment Justice
Plot 269, Off Twinpalm Road, Ibex Hill
Lusaka – Zambia

October 2021

The **Second Environmental Protection Dialogue (EPD)** was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 14th to 15th October, 2021 with both physical and virtual delegates in attendance. (The **First Environmental Protection Dialogue** was held in Lusaka, Zambia in October 2020.) The following were the multi-stakeholder delegates who participated in the 2nd EPD; Government Heads of Department, Traditional Leaders, Civil Society Organisations, Youth and Women Groups, Community leaders & members, Cooperating Partners, Embassies, Mining companies, Academia and the Media;

Gathered at the **2nd Environmental Protection Dialogue** from the **14th to 15th of October 2021** in Lusaka, Zambia convened by the Centre for Environment Justice a local environmental justice organisation with support from Bread for the World, WWF Zambia, UNDP Zambia, ActionAid Zambia, First Quantum Minerals, Southern Africa Youth Forum and Imperial Parts Limited;

Guided by the 2007 National Policy on Environment supported by the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011; the 7NDP, Sustainable Development Goals No. 7, 13, 15 & 17; the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Agenda 2030;

Mindful of the joint commitments of the 2020 Environmental Protection Dialogue, objectives and goals of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework on climate change which seeks to strengthen countries ability to deal with the impacts of climate change and encourages stakeholder involvement in climate action;

Convinced that the Environmental Protection Dialogue is an action oriented platform for; **(1)** create an action oriented platform for engagement of government, traditional leaders, communities, cooperating partners, civil society organisations, academia, youth and women to inform development of initiatives to protect nature and people; **(2)** deliberate upon issues surrounding environmental policy, plans, mechanisms and frameworks, as well as capacity to attain set national objectives and implement actions on environmental protection in the extractives sector and its impact on communities living around and within their vicinity; and **(3)** focus on finding win-win solutions that can address both environmental degradation and wellbeing of our communities and sustained exchange of experiences and information on how we can safeguard the environment while enhancing people's livelihood;

We call for government to spotlight this space and include it as a recognized space for joint accountability and policy think tank for Environmental protection.

Acknowledging the increased pressure on ecosystems arising from a growing population and economic growth, leading to over harnessing and mismanagement of environmental resources, the threat of climate impacts and growing impacts of anthropogenic activities in ecosystems leading to loss of nature (biodiversity).

Appreciating the partnerships and generous support of various organisations keen in participating and supporting the hosting of the Environmental Protection Dialogue and its Outcomes;

Taking into considerations the discussions, reactions, comments and recommendations by multi-stakeholders during the 2nd Environmental Protection Dialogue, where young people, women, civil society representatives, traditional leaders, academia, Cooperating partners, academia, community leaders and the media gathered virtually and physically to deliberate on matters of concern;

Realising the importance of **Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action** to sustainable development and inclusion;

Reaffirming the endorsement of the Environmental Protection Dialogue at the inaugural event and resolution of the October 2020 as an annual event, its recognition that environment is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions - economic, social and environmental aspects;

THE 2021 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIALOGUE RESOLUTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Ecosystem Restoration

▪ *Biodiversity*

Acknowledging the critical role that Biodiversity plays in the sustainable development and to avoid the loss of biodiversity, efforts must be made in implementing already existing policies that are consistent with relevant international commitments regarding the conservation of biological diversity, the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. Also ensure that efforts are made for recognizing and valuing the importance of traditional knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

Affirming that biodiversity is fundamental for human health and critical for sustainable development;

We call for:

- Promoting integrated approaches to land use that mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the land-use planning and land management process.
- Facilitating the adoption of strategies, and integrated policies, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in the country.
- Improving the quality of life of the poorest rural community, in coordination with other organizations, and promote dialogue to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods.
- Efforts to halt biodiversity loss and combat desertification, drought and land degradation, including through the implementation of existing environmental agreements, and to ensure that ecosystem are resilient and continue to provide their services.

We further recognize that indigenous peoples and local communities are often the most directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems and thus are often the most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

▪ **Forest**

Acknowledging the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and nature, efforts must be made to support cross-sectoral and cross-institutional policies promoting sustainable forest management, particularly at the community level and ensure that the wide range of products and services that forests provide creates opportunities to address many of the most pressing sustainable development challenges.

Affirming that forests and forestry constitute one of the main pillars of sustainable rural development and recognising the complementarity between forestry and other sectors for sustainable development;

We call for:

- Capacity building for national forest assessments in providing information related to carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of rural livelihoods and promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national, sub-national, regional and sub-regional levels.
- Enhanced efforts to achieve the sustainable management of forests, reforestation, restoration and afforestation by restoring areas that have been degraded through charcoal production and timber harvesting, starting with environmentally sensitive areas such as riverbanks
- Reforms on timber harvesting and monitoring of licenses to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.
- Improving the livelihoods of people and communities by empowering them with including through strengthening cooperation arrangements in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and governance, as well as by promoting secure land tenure, particularly decision-making and benefit-sharing, in accordance with national legislation and priorities.
- Integrating sustainable forest management objectives and practices into the mainstream of economic policy and decision making.
- Harnessing forestry research and increasing fund towards the research unit in the forest department, and utilizing modern day technologies to support plant breeding and propagation methods e.g., tissue culture. Furthermore, enhance coordination among research institutions i.e., Universities, private sector and government institutions.

We further recognize the severity of the national forest loss and the degradation of ecosystems and emphasize that these undermine national development, affecting food security and nutrition, the provision of and access to water and the health of the rural poor and of people worldwide, including present and future generations.

Sustainable Energy

Acknowledging that energy is a key driver to sustainable development and that the lack of universal access to affordable, reliable, clean energy poses serious development challenges in the country. Currently, only 8.1% rural population has access to electricity, we must ensure that we promote multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote renewable energy and grassroots initiatives for climate action agenda, noting that such partnerships can contribute to reaching the objectives of ensuring access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

Affirming that sustainable energy directly impacts on people and communities in terms of economic growth and development goals - employment, health, security and education;

We call for:

- Adequate financing for small enterprises, social enterprises and end-users of renewable technologies, especially for people living in poverty, also prioritization of smart grids, district energy systems and community energy plans to improve synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Identifying and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency project opportunities and sharing information on renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and delivering technical assistance and training on matters related to sustainable energy development.
- The need to make all efforts in removing barriers to invest in the energy sector by stakeholders with financial and technical capabilities with a view to contributing to the achievement of energy security and the implementation of the sustainable development goals.
- Improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and promoting cleaner and energy-efficient technologies are for sustainable development and also the importance of promoting energy conservation, developing energy –saving technologies and products and establishing effective mechanisms to improve the efficient use of energy –related resources.
- Funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organisations, to continue ongoing efforts and take further actions to provide financial resources, as appropriate to support efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector.

We further recognise the importance of expanding the use of renewable energy beyond the power sector and encourage more efforts to promote renewable energy use in industry, construction and infrastructure to reduce negative environmental impacts.

Climate Change

Acknowledging that the earth's climate is experiencing destabilisation, and our planet's ability to sustain life as we know it is in crisis. Climate change impacts everyone; already vulnerable populations will be disproportionately affected, exacerbating unemployment, displacements, homelessness, water scarcity, food insecurity.

Affirming that climate change is a global emergency that requires coordinated solutions at all levels to take urgent action;

We call for:

- Support towards community climate action interventions that promote climate resilience such as sustainable alternative livelihoods.
- Support towards scientific and indigenous knowledge on the vulnerability of biodiversity to climate change.

- Interventions that improve resilience among vulnerable communities and the use of adaptive agricultural technologies and techniques and provide incentives for the development of green agri-business.
- Access to clean and affordable water is necessary and important and that the rights of the indigenous people are protected.
- Support to create awareness that makes society recognize the value of available eco-systems and importance of conservation.

We further recognise the need for local and international collaboration with the view of adopting effective measures in addressing climate change effects and impacts and identify development priorities.

Acknowledging further the increasing demand, call and enthusiasm of children, youth and women, civil society organisations, traditional leaders, community members, environmental scholars and experts to actively participate in the Environmental Protection Dialogue and contribute to sustainable development at large;

We Call Upon the Zambian government, Cooperating partners, UN Agencies, Embassies Accredited to Zambia; Local, Regional and International Institutions, Civil society organisations, Mining companies, Financial Institutions, Agriculture Corporations, Transport Institutions(Road & Air), Construction companies, Mobile network providers, Beverage companies and all nature caring individuals to supporting the Environmental Protection Dialogue for it is an important event calendar of the year and further provide both technical and financial support towards the resolutions for the betterment of our environment and improved community livelihoods.

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