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Photo exhibition on electoral assistance entitled “The Power of Democracy” was successfully launched on 20 February 2018. The event was organized by the European Union and United Nations Development Programme to highlight the long-standing partnership between these two organisations on electoral assistance and to raise awareness about the importance of democracy and its impact on development. The exhibition ran for two weeks in Mont des Arts in the heart of Brussels, and was inaugurated before Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, UNDP Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa and Ms. Carla Montesi, the Director for West and Central Africa of the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission.

The exhibition showcased the electoral assistance provided by the EU and UNDP in many countries around the world including Armenia, Guinea, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia and Zimbabwe, in addition to Zambia. The overall theme of the exhibition was on inclusiveness, with a particular focus on the support provided to women and youth to ensure their participation as voters and candidates.

The display provided by UNDP in Zambia highlighted the successful promotion by the Electoral Cycle Project 2015-2018 of active inclusion of persons with disability in the general elections. In Zambia significant efforts were made to support the participation of persons with disability as voters through voter education materials and sign language interpreters, a braille jacket for the ballot paper and ramps for access to polling facilities. For the 2016 elections, this was taken further with affirmative steps to encourage their inclusion as part of election management processes.

The UNDP-managed electoral support project, funded by the EU, DFID, Irish Aid and USAID, initiated a programme to mobilise persons with disability as active voter educators within their local communities. In partnership with the Electoral Commission of Zambia, the programme benefited 40 persons with disabilities as trainers and 250 as voter education facilitators from nine national-based organisations. The voter education facilitators were provided with audio-visual, braille voter education materials and statutory legal texts, which they used to motivate voters within communities of persons with disabilities as well as the wider public.

Participants in the programme were excited that persons with disabilities were being enabled to contribute fully to the electoral process. One voter education facilitator expressed her gratitude to the electoral commission and the project.

“We are also Zambians and we have a right to contribute to the development of our country. With this training, I will be able to help members of my communities and especially the settlements for persons with disabilities to understand the electoral process and to encourage them to turn out and fully participate in the elections and referendum.”

UNDP and the European Union are two of the world’s largest electoral assistance providers globally. They have partnered in more than 50 countries and supported 185 elections in collaboration with other development agencies.
Zambia, like many other countries in the world continues to witness high levels of gender inequality. In 2016, Zambia ranked 139th out of 188 countries on the UNDP Gender Inequality Index, putting the country in the bottom 21% on the gender equality ladder. Gender inequalities are manifested in many areas of life including social, cultural and economic spheres.

In Zambia, evidence shows that women are taking up less than 25% of total formal employment while access to productive resources such as land and finance data also shows that women are systemically excluded. In the education sector, data on Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at secondary school level shows a higher enrollment for boys at 48.1% compared to that of girls at 43.3%. In addition, Zambia has seen an increase of gender-based violence (GBV). In 2017, there were 21,504 reported cases of GBV compared to 2016 with 18,540 reported cases. The number of women in decision-making positions is equally low, falling below the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) threshold of 50%.

UNDP Zambia is responding to this situation by applying a strategic approach of simultaneously addressing legal and policy frameworks. This is being pursued through national institutions by strengthening national capacities to scale up best practices and support an effective coordination mechanism with other UN agencies and key partners. Additional efforts are being directed towards communities to enhance women’s economic empowerment. Some of the notable gains that have been made through UNDP-supported and partner interventions include:

- **Increasing women’s access to land:** In 2017, a presidential directive was made to increase the allocation of land that was reserved for women from 30% to 50%. Following strong advocacy by the Ministry of Gender and UNDP, the percentage of women with access to land increased to 32% as of 2017.

- **Addressing customary laws & negative cultural practices:** Support was provided for capacity building of traditional leaders to promote gender equality at village level. Emphasis was placed on changing social norms within the communities using traditional leaders, civil society organisations (CSOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs). This support has led to an increase in traditional leader’s involvement in promoting gender equality interventions such as ending child marriage and increasing women’s access to and ownership of land.

- **Increasing women’s political participation:** UNDP’s support focused on putting in place mechanisms for increasing participation of women in politics. A strategy dubbed “Count Her In” was developed and implemented by the Ministry of Gender and Civil Society Organisations. As a result, the 2016 elections witnessed the adoption of 106 women as parliamentary candidates by eleven (11) political parties. This represents 16.3% of the total 651 candidates. The proportion of women in Parliament increased from 12.6% in 2015 to 16% in 2016. There has also been an increase in the proportion of women elected as councilors from 6.5% in 2011 to 8.2% in 2016.

- **Technical support towards the review and amendment of the Constitution:** On 5 January 2016, Zambia signed into law a progressive constitution which promotes and respects human values, dignity, equity, social justice, equality and non-discrimination.

- **Enactment of the gender equity and equality act:** By enacting this law, Zambia has joined other countries in domesticating committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Gender Equity and Equality Commission was also established after domesticating this new law.
Mainstreaming Gender in the Seventh National Development Plan: UNDP provided support that ensured the comprehensive mainstreaming of gender issues and interventions in the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) Volume II developed under the leadership of the Ministry of National Development Planning. As a result, there are stronger interventions and indicators for gender in all the pillars of the 7NDP. UNDP in collaboration with sister UN agencies will continue to provide support for enhanced capacity for reporting on the gender indicators and the performance of implementing the gender interventions of the 7NDP through the annual production of the National Gender Status Report by the Central Statistics Office.

I am a proud member of the Governance and Gender Unit of UNDP Zambia. I have personally led the team’s development of three programme documents that have supported implementation of gender equality and women empowerment initiatives and provided technical advisory services to our other programme interventions in relation to poverty reduction, the environment and climate change, and the UN’s Joint Programme Against GBV.

Dellia Mwale Yerokun is the Gender Specialist at UNDP Zambia and a member of the Governance & Gender Unit. Dellia has participated in the development of three programme documents, through which gender programming has been supported. In addition to her many roles and responsibilities, Dellia provides technical advisory services to other programme interventions in the country office including focusing on poverty reduction, environment and climate change, and the UN’s Joint Programme Against Gender Based Violence. Additionally, Dellia works with other institutions such as the Judiciary, the Zambia Police, the Civil Society Organisations and the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs to champion gender related interventions.

One of my greatest memories and achievements which is from 2012. UNDP supported the Ministry of Gender and the NGOCC to provide input into the constitution making-process. This was done through a conference that brought together over five hundred women from the private sector, political parties, female traditional leaders, women marketers, labour movement, public service, institute of directors, financial sector, academia, institutions of higher learning, farmers, civil society organizations, cooperating partners, and women from countries that have enshrined the rights of women in their constitution like Kenya. The memories that I hold from that conference was the energy of the women and their determination to have a constitution that would stand the test of time to increase not only their rights but the rights of future women in Zambia. Throughout the conference, women chanted "No Women’s Rights – No Constitution".

My main lessons learned from the implementation of this intervention are that:

(i) political leadership is critical for ensuring gender responsive policy and legislative frameworks and that gender issues should be effectively institutionalised in all the development sectors;

(ii) gender issues in Zambia are entrenched in social and cultural practice and therefore, work on changing peoples’ negative traditional and cultural beliefs is a matter of urgency, because if this does not happen, then the strides made in strengthening the statutory legal framework will be negated;

(iii) engaging men and boys as change agents helps to build a generation of gender-sensitive men and enhance GBV prevention activities. When violence is being denounced by men, the typical perpetrators, it can go a long way in facilitating a change in attitude, mindsets and behaviour, both amongst women and men. Happy International Women’s Month.
Zambia at the 3rd Global BIOFIN Conference

As a strong thought leader, UNDP has decades of experience working across the world, extending into areas such as biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation and adaptation and beyond.

Biodiversity conservation is critical not only to sustaining livelihoods particularly in the rural areas, but also for the ecosystem to flourish and continue providing ecosystem services such as clean air, fertile land and water. With the critical services the biodiversity provides, there is still unsustainable utilisation of this resource through illegal hunting, over fishing and forest clearing (for agriculture and charcoal production). The situation is exacerbated by inadequate policies and legal frameworks as well as under financing to ensure effective biodiversity conservation.

In Zambia, financing of biodiversity conservation has been very low, making it difficult for effective management of natural resources. To assist countries in addressing financing challenges for biodiversity conservation, UNDP is supporting the implementation of biodiversity financing initiative (BIOFIN). Zambia is among the 30 countries benefitting from this initiative.

The objectives of the BIOFIN initiative is to assist countries in finding ways of financing biodiversity conservation from both internal and external sources. The initiative has developed a financing methodology that supports participating countries to access resources for biodiversity conservation. The process involves assessing the current biodiversity expenditures, asses financial needs, identifying the most suitable finance solutions and developing a resource mobilization strategy to finance the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The BIOFIN initiative is an innovative way of assisting the implementation of NBSAPs as in most cases the strategies are developed without an accompanying funding strategy. Furthermore, the BIOFIN uses the approach of learning from each other’s experiences. This is done through global conferences where countries exchange and share ideas. As the UNDP Country Director Ms. Mandisa Mashologu noted “this approach is beneficial as it provides hands-on-training and enhances south-south cooperation which is an effective way of capacity transfer and transformation.”

From 6-8 March 2018, Zambia participated in the 3rd Global Conference for the BIOFIN initiative which was held in Chennai, India with a focus on learning and sharing of information on the various forms of financing instruments for BIOFIN projects. Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Jean Kapata, MP, led the Zambian delegation that included the UNDP BIOFIN Zambia Country Team Leader, Bruno Mweemba and the Natural Resources Management Officer under the Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources, Hope Mambwe Banda. In her opening remarks to the Conference, Hon Jean Kapata MP, highlighted some of the key drivers of biodiversity loss in Zambia notably over harvesting of biodiversity (such as fish, forestry and wildlife), weak enforcement of existing biodiversity conservation laws, low staffing levels especially for effective monitoring and inadequacies of financial resources for effective biodiversity conservation.
Based on the exposure to over 150 various financing solutions that were presented at the Conference, the Minister highlighted that some of the financing solutions that Zambia may consider as part of the national biodiversity finance plan. These would include:

- lobbying for an increase in budget release
- devising mechanisms for biodiversity sectors to improve their revenue generation efforts
- reforming or customising fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to encourage investments in biodiversity conservation by the private sector
- introducing corporate social responsibility guidelines for private sector participation in biodiversity conservation.

This includes reducing tax for private sector companies involved in conservation work through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), supporting community natural resource-based management, or establishment of an environmental fund.

It is anticipated that these approaches will be used in natural resource mobilisation strategy for biodiversity conservation.

In addition to the support to BIOFIN, UNDP Zambia is supporting the Government to strengthen the management of protected areas, promoting regeneration of indigenous forest and community-based natural resources management and implementation of reducing deforestation and forest degradation. All these initiatives are contributing to biodiversity conservation and these initiatives be scaled up, costed and will be part of the biodiversity resource mobilisation strategy to be developed as part of the BIOFIN.

The BIOFIN Zambia delegation showcased a video on biodiversity finance landscape in Zambia, an infographic on existing finance solutions in the country. In addition, Zambia shared three policy briefs that present the policy and institutional review for biodiversity conservation, an inventory of existing biodiversity solutions as well as key drivers of biodiversity loss in Zambia. The conference presented an opportunity for Zambia to learn new methods of financing biodiversity conservation such as green bonds and introducing incentives that support conservation.
Installation of Incinerators at ZAMRA

Since 2003, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has partnered with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Zambia. UNDP assumed the role of interim Principal Recipient (PR) of Global Fund grants in 2010, with the aim of strengthening national capacity in key functional areas. This resulted in the Zambian Ministry of Health reassuming the PR role in 2015. After this milestone, UNDP continued to support and build capacity at Ministry of Health, Medical Stores Limited (MSL), Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) and other sub-recipients under the Global Fund grants.

The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) is the statutory national medicines regulatory body for Zambia established under an Act of Parliament, the Medicines and Allied Substances Act No. 3 of 2013 of the Laws of Zambia, to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, storage distribution, supply, sale and use of medicines and allied substances. The main objective of the Authority is to ensure that all medicines and allied substances being made available to the Zambian people consistently meet the set standards of quality, safety and efficacy. Through this partnership, UNDP supported the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) with the construction and installation of two incinerators at the ZAMRA premises. These were officially handed over to the Honorable Minister of Health Dr. Chitalu Chilufya on 9 February 2018.

Additionally, UNDP constructed an incineration compound that houses an incineration shed, offices, waste sorting areas, waste pit and other conveniences for a total cost of approximately USD 400,000. Each incinerator has a capacity of about 1.3 cubic meters and therefore, able to incinerate a pallet and a half at a go. With the increased capacity, it is expected that ZAMRA can accommodate the disposal of all pharmaceutical waste from various locations in Zambia.

During the handover of the facilities UNDP Country Director highlighted UNDPs commitment to realising SDG3 and that ZAMRA will be more equipped to achieve safe and friendly disposal of medical waste.

UNDP is proud to have supported the construction of the compound and incinerators to ensure that ZAMRA is better equipped for the safe management and disposal of medical products. All the work and support we provide is to support national efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNDP Country Director - Mandisa Mashologu

Medical waste incinerators are designed to provide efficient waste destruction

Lusaka Province Minister – Hon. Japhen Mwakalombe giving vote of thanks during the handover of incinerators at ZAMRA.
Strengthening Wildlife Management to Transform the Tourism Sector

The Zambian wildlife policy provides for a comprehensive tourism plan to regulate tourism development and recognizes the role of the private sector and local communities in tourism operations in protected areas. Globally, tourism is moving towards nature-based. The sector has huge potential to support the diversification of the economy and attainment of the SDG1, SDG2, SDG5, SDG8, SDG13, SDG15, SDG17 and the Seventh National development Plan (7NDP) targets. If properly harnessed, Zambia’s tourism industry could be the engine for growth, new jobs and improved livelihoods for the country.

Zambia has a good asset base with which to attract more tourists. Considering the enormous opportunities offered by the global tourism market and the growing demand for nature-based and African tourism products, there is an opportunity to expand Zambia’s tourism industry. Growth of the industry could have a significant pro-poor impact, raising prosperity and providing more jobs and better livelihoods for many Zambians, especially in rural areas.

Although the economic impact of tourism appears higher than reported in official statistics, tourism in Zambia remains an emerging industry. Its growth, which is around 10% per year, is not competitive compared to other countries in the region such as Kenya, Namibia, South Africa which have achieved growth of more than 20% per annum. The under-performance of the tourism sector compared with its potential and the rest of the region may be interpreted as a consequence among other things, of the performance of the wildlife sector.

Flourishing wildlife sector is threatened by poaching, deforestation and forest degradation, unsustainable land use, extensive fire, and loss of a large, intact ecosystem that provided multiple benefits including maintenance of habitat and water. The impact of climate change has made the situation worse as the frequency and the intensity of floods and droughts also destroys the habitat and sometimes makes water scarce. Zambia needs to invest in halting the current levels of damage and destruction if it has to realise the economic potential of the sector. Zambia has the potential to demonstrate that the dual goals of rapid growth and sustainable development are not incompatible by showcasing that wise management and conservation of natural resources is integral to sustainable development for the country. In partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP is supporting a project on “Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Generating Multiple Environmental Benefits within and around the Greater Kafue National Park (GKNP) and West Lunga National Park (WLNP) in Zambia.

The project supports devolved models for effective governance, management and financing of Protected Areas (PAs) and community forest and wildlife management. The project addresses unsustainable forest use through Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and Sustainable Forest Management/Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (SFM/REDD+) pilots. Further, the project is strengthening systems and teaching participants in skills that include:

- sustainable natural resource economic and institutional management
- Private Public Partnerships and Payment for Ecosystems (PES) for sustainable pro-poor growth, decentralised governance and management
- adaptive management through evidence-based stakeholder processes.

Through the intervention of the project, 77 Village Action Groups have been established and are pursuing community-based natural resources management on the ground. This has resulted in the increase in sightings of animals in West Lunga National Park. The interventions will lead national parks from dependence to ascendancy

Through this project, 1,200 community members in Mumbwa are practicing conservation farming and have reduced shifting agriculture, which was detrimental to the environment. The yields for those practicing conservation farming has increased from less than 1 to 3 tonnes per hectare. 600 hectares have been brought under sustainable forest management. On the other hand, Kafue National Park has increased fee collection since 2016. In the coming years the project will intensify the CBNRM and conservation farming to cover all surrounding areas of Kafue National Park and West Lunga National Park.
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