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# The UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative in **Malawi**

Poverty and Environment Partnership Meeting  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Lilongwe, Malawi



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## Outline

- I. Institutional framework
- II. Progress and achievements
- III. Issues and challenges
- IV. Responses
- V. Next steps



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## I – Institutional Framework for P-E Mainstreaming

1. Existing national policy, planning and budgeting frameworks –
  - Vision 2020
  - Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (2006-2011)
  - Malawi Development Assistance Strategy



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## I – Institutional Framework for P-E Mainstreaming

### 2. Key national institutions and coordination frameworks

- Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC)
- Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation (MDPC)
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment
- Ministry of Lands and Urban Development
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development



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## I – Institutional Framework for P-E Mainstreaming

### 3. Existing projects or partners apart from PEI

- NGOs-OXFAM, ActionAid, Coordination for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE)
- Private sector- UN Global Compact, AICC, Tobacco industry
- Academia- Universities and colleges (LEAD-SEA)
- Media- newspapers, radio and TV stations



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## II – PEI Country Program

### The UNDP-UNEP PEI supports Government to:

- Include environmental sustainability as a core objective in national development planning (e.g. Malawi Growth and Development Strategy) & implementation so that poverty reduction and other economic development objectives are not undermined by the unsustainable use of natural resources.
- Build capacity so that decision-makers know:
  - How environmental sustainability contributes to development; and
  - How to include environmental sustainability in development planning & implementation.



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## II – PEI Country Program

### 2. PEI expected/anticipated results

1. Robust evidence base to inform decision makers on the impacts of current unsustainable natural resource management and the benefits of more sustainable management approaches.
2. Improved environment and natural resources management (ENRM) policy harmonisation at national, sectoral and district levels.
3. Sustainable land, water and energy management.



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## II – PEI Country Program

### 2. PEI expected/anticipated results

4. Incorporation of environmental sustainability in national budgeting and financing processes
5. Strengthened M&E systems by integration of sustainable poverty and environment indicators into M&E frameworks for the MGDS, the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp) and other sectoral plans and programmes.



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### III – PEI Activities

#### PEI planned/ongoing activities

- Economic Analysis on the Unsustainable Use of Natural Resources.
- Integration of poverty and environment issues into the *Draft Guide to Executive Decision-Making Processes*.
- Integration of poverty and environment into *National Budget Guideline*.
- Production of the Environmental Outlook Report (EOR).



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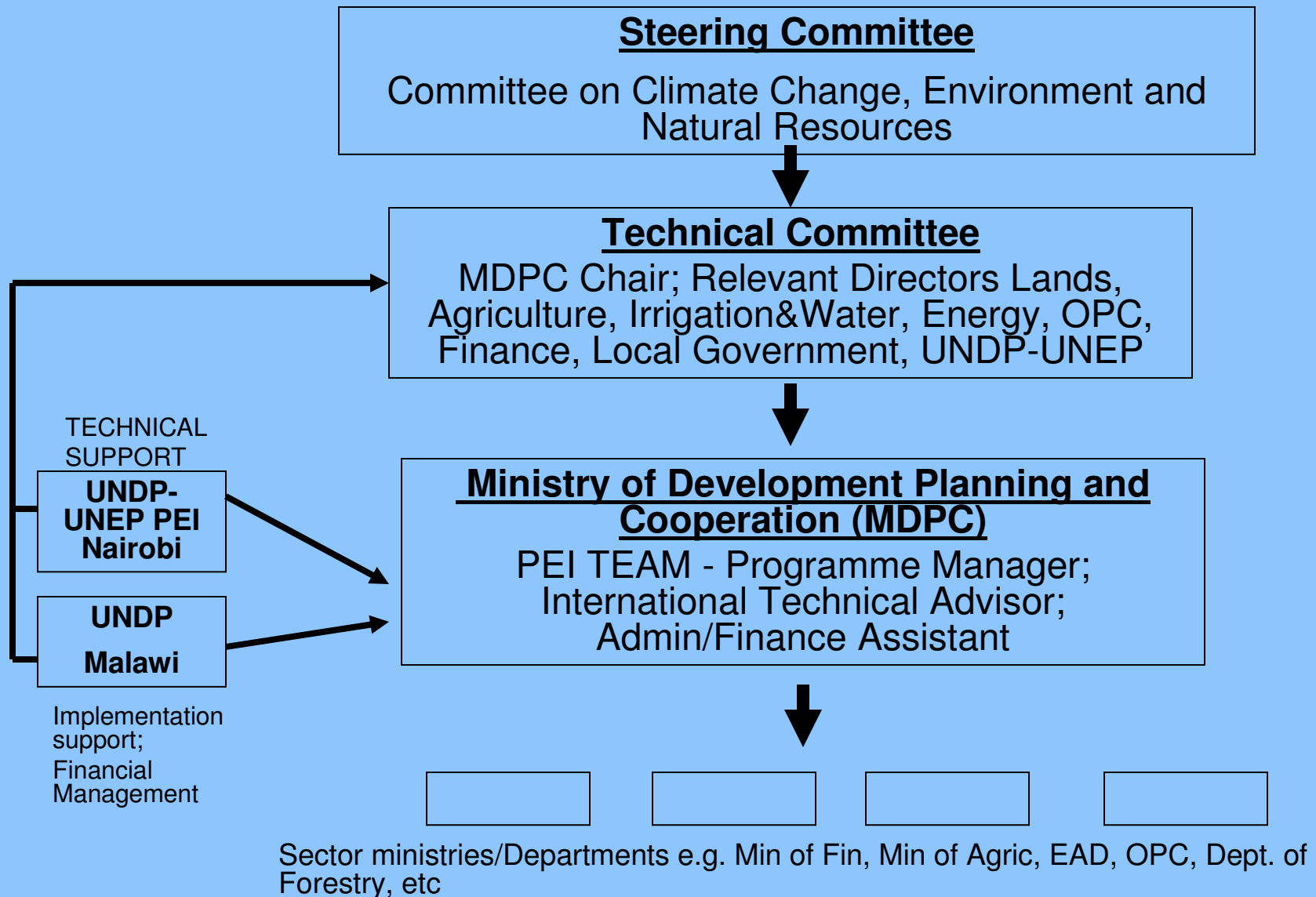


### III – PEI Activities

#### PEI planned/ongoing activities

- Supporting Government to produce a Communication Strategy on poverty and environment
- Integration of poverty and environment indicators into the ASWAp.
- Develop poverty and environment indicators as part of M&E of MGDS.
- Public Sector Investment Programme – poverty and environment integration.

# Institutional implementation modality: Programme Management Structure





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## IV - Implementation modalities

### Role of the PSC and TC

1. **Steering Committee** on Climate Change, Environment, and Natural Resources for overall and strategic guidance during project implementation.
2. **Technical Committee** -representatives of government institutions, CSOs and donors to provide technical guidance and ensure adequate co-ordination between PEI and other relevant activities in the country.



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## **V - Donor involvement/coordination**

### **PEI involvement with in-country donor groups**

- Donor Committee on Agriculture and Food Security
- Informal meetings on with donor representatives
- Support for the ASWAp.

### **PEI contribution to donor coordination for environment**

- Participate in Government-Donor meetings on ENRM
- Convene Government-Donor meetings



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## II – Progress and Achievements

### PEI's achievements to date in Malawi

- ✓ Environmental addendum to the MGDS
- ✓ Poverty and environment issues into the MGDS
- ✓ Incorporation of poverty and environment issues into the National Budget Guidelines.
- ✓ Strengthening national monitoring system like ASWAp M&E Framework.
- ✓ Bringing together ENRM, Finance, Planning, Policy sectors, CSOs-Technical Committee, retreats



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## II – Progress and Achievements

### PEI's achievements to date in Malawi

- ✓ Contributed to CC, ENRM being named as one of the priorities for the MGDS
- ✓ Contributed to the development of the CC programme – Govt/UN RC used PEI approach and treated CC as a devt issue
- ✓ Contributed to MDPC capacity to handle issues of CC and environmental mainstreaming



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### **III – Issues and Challenges**

1. Dependency on consultancies- completion of studies
2. Multi-sectoral project
  - Work dependent on other sectors
  - Coordination of activities
3. Lack of enough coordination at different levels
  - Government
  - Donors
4. Staff turn-over in institutions that PEI is working with



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### **III – Issues and Challenges**

5. Takes a lot of time e.g. preparation of the project document took more than a year
6. Requires a lot of resources –  
Consultations/coordination is expensive



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## IV – Responses

1. Rigorous selection process for consultants
2. Adequate backstopping for consultants
3. Frequent consultations, follow-up, consistent Technical Committee meetings
4. Government-Donor Working Group on ENRM



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## IV – Responses

5. Proper inception and orientation for staff working on PEI activities, good handovers
6. Patience
7. Involve the private sector, local donor resources mobilization



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## IX – Lessons learned

1. Crucial to focus on development impacts of environment
2. Evidence, making the case is key i.e. econ study.
3. Regular engagement with key stakeholders i.e. communication, information sharing and monitoring, key to ensure project success.
4. Involvement of senior officials from all key players important.



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## IX – Lessons learned

5. Consultancy contracts require further scrutiny to ensure compliance to outputs and deadlines are met.
6. Sequencing of key studies to inform the project vital before implementation begins, e.g. Economic Analysis, institutional analysis.
7. Seize opportunities when they arise – e.g. supported ADP before PRODOC was signed. Developed an environmental addendum even though it is not in the work plan
8. Provision of incentives within reasonable limits



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## IX – Lessons learned

9. Timing is important – Know key government processes and calendar
10. Mix of technical support both from national and international consultants incl. UNDP-UNEP staff key to making progress
11. EM is ‘new’ – need to help with the ‘HOW?’  
e.g. PEI Malawi’s support to Ministry of Finance on budgeting



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## V – Next steps

### PEI Project Activities

1. Operationalising the environment guidelines in the national budget
2. Monitoring of the implementation of poverty and environment indicators
3. Develop communication strategy for the poverty and environment issues
4. Public sensitisation



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## V– Next steps

5. Document progress achieved with the project catalytic effect
6. Donor coordination meetings



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ZIKOMO (Thank you)

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