FOREST GOVERNANCE
IN MALAWI

“Combating Forestry and Wildlife Crimes through Strengthened Policy and Legal Processes”

28th September, 2015; 8.00-17.00
Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe

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Introduction

1) Core functions of Department of Forestry
- Regulate, monitor and control management and utilisation of forest resources in Malawi.
- Provide overall policy direction on sustainable forest management
- Formulation and review of Forest Policy and Act and other forest related regulation.
- Develop, review and implement forest management agreements.

2) Key instruments to guide implementation
- Forest Policy 1996
- Forest act 1997
- National Forest Program 2001
- Moving Together 2006
- Standards and Guidelines 2005
Policy & Legal Status

• All the tools needed are in place!
Forest policy review

Why review the forest policy

- very old (19 yrs), not in tandem with other policies in the sector
- government priorities changed
- lots of emerging issues (global v/ge)
- adaptive learning (projects, policy imp.
- Functional review and restructuring
- Decentralization policy
Forest issues

- Encroachment of protected forest land for charcoal production and cultivation.
- Increase emissions from Deforestation and forest degradation.
- Low levels of replanting
- Climate change.
- Biodiversity loss.
- Forest fires.
- Low community participation.
- Limited private sector participation.
- Lack of investment in the forest sector.
- Gender and equity
FOREST BASED ENTERPRISES
FOREST GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- Weak land tenure application of property rights
- Poor implementation of Policies and legislation
- Lack of investment in the forest sector
- Poverty – driver of deforestation
- Corruption and graft at all levels
- Forest law enforcement (all actors DoF, Police, Judiciary, Traditional leaders, lack of local bylaws & cost!)
- Political interference at all levels
- Weak institutional arrangements / accountability / oversight
Pressure on forests

- Dzalanyama Forest Reserve
Strategies to deal with illegal activities in FR

- Forest patrol (joint patrols with MDF, Malawi Police and DNPW)
- Roadblocks in strategic positions
- Mobile roadblocks
- Community policing
- Community Forest bylaws
- Awareness campaigns
Eviction of encroachers
Challenges

- Limited budget
- Low fines/ lack of custodial sentences
- Vulnerability of forest officer on duty
- Dependence on police prosecutors
- Political interference
- Limited stakeholder participation
- Land pressure
- Over-dependence of biomass for energy
- Delays in concluding court cases