

Sunday, Lusaka (27th April 2025)



GOVERNMENT PAYS TRIBUTE TO UNDEF, CEJ FOR PROMOTING ZAMBIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment has saluted the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) for advancing environmental sustainability projects in Zambia.

Ministry's Director of Environment Godwin Gondwe noted with pride that Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) is implementing the "Strengthening Civil Society Voices for Climate Advocacy in Zambia" project, supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

The Senior Government Official is happy that the project being implemented in Lusaka, Chirundu, Luangwa, Chongwe and Rufunsa aims at empowering civil society organizations to advocate for climate action and environmental sustainability.

Mr Gondwe said this in Lusaka when he opened a National Level Dialogue convened by the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) through the 'Strengthening Civil Society Voices for Climate Advocacy in Zambia' project supported by United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)

He observed that the project also aims at strengthening CSO's capacity in areas like the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) implementation.

Mr Gondwe noted that the project has contributed to building capacity within communities by engaging local organisations, traditional leaders, and civil society representatives.

He praised CEJ's transformational approach that empowered participants not only to acquire knowledge but to become active leaders in driving solutions aligned with the nation's environmental priorities.

Mr Gondwe emphasised how these efforts have been instrumental in producing a National Climate Action Plan, which incorporates community-driven solutions and aims to address pressing environmental issues.

The Director further underscored the need for continued collaboration and commitment to environmental sustainability.

He expressed optimism that the partnership between the government and stakeholders such as UNDEF will lead to stronger community resilience and impactful environmental policies that stand the test of time.

Mr Gondwe commended UNDEF for its exceptional role and urged all parties to strengthen collective efforts in tackling environmental challenges.

Meanwhile, Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) Head of Research and Studies stressed the importance of coordinated efforts in tackling climate-related challenges.

Mr. Mubanga underscored the need for inclusivity in Zambia's climate response.

He highlighted issues of insufficient coordination and gaps in local engagement, which hinder effective climate change adaptation efforts at sub-national levels.

"We are here today for a dialogue that speaks directly to the response in Zambia," Mr. Mubanga stated. "This initiative aims to bring together stakeholders to refine and strengthen the National Climate Action framework, ensuring voices from the ground—traditional authorities, youth, women, and community leaders—are reflected in national policies."

He expressed gratitude to the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) for its financial support, which enabled CEJ to implement the ambitious "Strengthening Civil Society Voices for Climate Advocacy in Zambia" project.

Mr. Mubanga acknowledged the critical role of partnerships in addressing climate crises, emphasizing that solutions must emerge not only from policy but also from the lived experiences of communities.

"This platform allows us to confront persistent gaps, such as the lack of clarity in how climate adaptation is coordinated and monitored at the sub-national level," Mr. Mubanga said. "We aim to leave this workshop with renewed partnerships between civil society and government actors, ensuring collective impact and alignment of strategies."

Mr. Mubanga urged stakeholders to renew their dedication to sustainable climate resilience and ensure that voices from the ground shape the future of climate action in Zambia.

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