

# SVTP e-bulletin

Issue 2, April-June, 2019

## Remarks from the Project Coordinator, Mr. Sandram Maweru



This e-bulletin provides an update on progress made by the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP-1) in the months of April and May, 2019.

During the period, the SVTP hosted the World Bank Implementation Support Mission. The World Bank Country Manager for Malawi, Mr. Greg Toulmin and the Transactional Advisor, International Finance Corporation

(IFC) also participated in the Mission. The IFC will be responsible for identifying and developing modus operandi of the infrastructure manager and to negotiate with farmers who will be users of the water. The Programme also hosted Project Technical Committee and Project Steering Committee meetings where the 2019/20 annual work plan and budget for the Programme was reviewed and approved.

Further, the Programme conducted sensitization campaigns in the Programme impact area and resolved eight grievances through the SVTP Grievance Redress Committees. The Programme also developed the Chikwawa District Physical Development Plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MOLHUD). A special taskforce has been set up to formulate Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) component.

I am hopeful that you will find this e-bulletin informative.

We look forward to giving you regular updates through this e-bulletin!

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## SVTP GRCs embarks on grievance resolution

**T**he SVTP Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) in the month of April registered and resolved eight grievances involving some communities in the impact area. Seven of the cases involved ownership of land and identification of the rightful person to receive compensation while one case involved land disputes between two Group Village Heads. The Chikwawa District Council facilitated a grievance redress forum involving the two Group Village Heads which provided an opportunity for the concerned parties to give their side of the story. The case has been resolved.

The SVTP established and trained 15 GRCs at GVH level, five at Traditional Authority level and one at District level (a total of 172 members from all committees of which 61 are females, 111 males). The committees are aimed at responding to, clarifying and resolving any individual grievances, complaints, queries or clarification of complainants/citizens, and other stakeholders in a fair and timely manner.

The Programme through GRCs will continue to engage communities about the project and resolve any grievance as they arise during the project life span.



*Snr. Chief Chapananga making a contribution during a grievance redress forum*



*The DPD facilitating a grievance redress forum*

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**Do you have questions or inquiries about the SVTP? Please contact us on:**

**[Info@svtp.mw](mailto:Info@svtp.mw)**



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## SVTP, Communities discuss grievance resolution and agriculture commercialization

The SVTP conducted five sensitization meetings in GVHs Mkanyoza (132 people), Mandilade (102 people), Mulangeni (74 people), Jailosi (88 people) and a joint meeting between GVH Rodrick and Senior Group Mangulenje which was attended by 58 people. The Meetings were aimed at sensitizing both Project Affect Persons (PAPs) and communities in general about the existence of Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) in the impact areas as these structures are vital for addressing grievances arising from activities related to the construction of the Canal.



*Members of a GRC being introduced to the community*

PMT took the communities through the structure of GRM Committees, how these work and why it is important for the communities to utilize these structures. Community members were also introduced to their respective GRC Committee Members for ease of identification when issues arise. GRCs are some of the structures that have been established as a platform for addressing grievances and concerns raised by communities in areas where the Main Canal is to pass. Communities were also briefed on how the SVTP is going to commercialize agriculture in the Shire Valley.

The Programme uses Theatre for Development (TFD) as a main tool for community awareness and engagement. During these sensitization meetings, the TFD Group adopted and dramatized issues from discussions including use of GRM Committees, agriculture commercialization and development in general. PMT identified and trained Misozi Drama Group of Chauwa Village in TFD. All content for the drama is captured from community meetings and discussions between the TFD Group and Programme staff.



*Snr. Group Mkanyoza explaining to his subjects how to report to the Village Grievance Redress Committee*



*TFD Group during a performance at Mandilade Village*

## SVTP orients stakeholders on formulation of Regulations for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

The Programme through the Natural Resources Management component being supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) held an orientation meeting to sensitize stakeholders on ABS regulation formulation process, explore synergies on permits issuances, modalities for competently analysing applications and issuance of permits and possibilities of establishing a Clear-House mechanism for ABS. The meeting was also aimed at formulating a National Task Team to formulate ABS Regulations. A nine-member Task Team has been formed. The Task Team will be responsible for formulating ABS Regulations.



Participants during ABS Regulations Training Workshop

The SVTP Natural Resources Management component is aimed at strengthening landscape connectivity and management to improve livelihoods and conserve key biodiversity areas in the Lower Shire Landscape including the New Lengwe

National Park, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserves, Majete Wildlife Reserve, Matandwe Forest Reserve and the Elephant Marshes.

Through GEF financial support, the SVTP aims to strengthen the legal capacity to develop effective regulatory and administrative frameworks for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, update the Malawi Red Data List, increase capacity and cooperation amongst law enforcement agencies, Aerial and remote sensing monitoring, develop Nature-Based Tourism marketing strategies, implement three site based management plans at New Lengwe NP, Elephant Marsh, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve and formulate mitigation Measures to reduce Human Wildlife Conflict.

The Programme will also establish the Elephant Marsh Community Conservation Wetland Area and scale up community fisheries management.

Malawi is party to the Nagoya Protocol for Access and Benefit Sharing. The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing is an international treaty that builds on and supports the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in particular one of its three objectives, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

All activities under the GEF component have been funded to the tune of \$5.59 million.

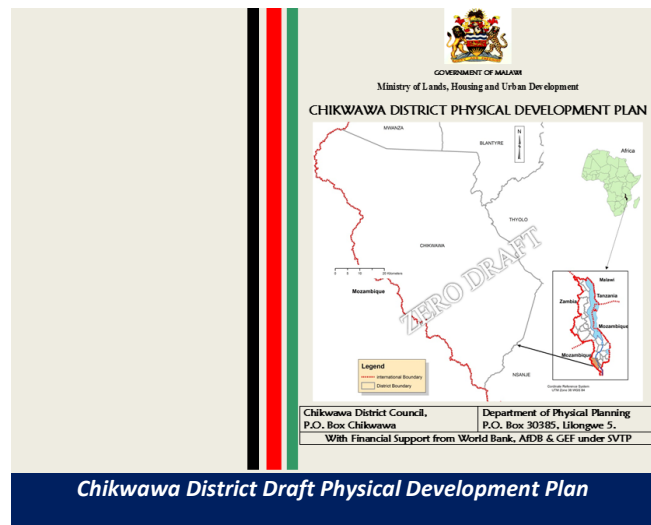
## SVTP hosts PTC, PSC

The SVTP hosted a meeting for the Project Technical Committee (PTC) where the 2019/20 Annual Work plan and Budget (AWP&B) was reviewed. The PTC made a number of comments and suggestions on the AWP&B which the Programme addressed and re-circulated for approval. The PTC approved the budget and recommended that upon addressing the comments, the AWP&B should be presented to the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The AWP&B was presented to the PSC where it was approved for submission to World Bank for approval to allow for implemmentation.

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# Chikwawa District Physical Development Plan Developed

The Programme through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development conducted a number of activities related to the development of the Chikwawa District Physical Development Plan. The process started with the sensitization process of the Full Council, District Executive and Area Development Committees on new land laws and processes for preparing District and Local physical development plans. This was followed by a process of development of the Chikwawa District Development Plan.



The activity has been completed successfully and a zero draft of the Chikwawa District Physical Development Plan has been produced which consists of a background study report, a documentation of spatial and or physical planning issues identified and objectives, strategies and related policies to address issues identified in the background studies.

Further, the draft Physical Planning Regulations was prepared and submitted to the drafting team for finalization. It is expected to be published by end of June 2019 after validation workshop in May and vetting by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Once completed, the District Physical Development Plan will assist the District with maps and plans for present and future land uses and development in accordance with the National Physical Planning Act.

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## PMT Hosts the World Bank Support Mission

The Programme hosted the World Bank Support Mission from 24<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019. The mission involved a number of meetings with different project implementing partners and the transactional advisor, International Finance Corporation (IFC). The mission also conducted field visits to communities in the Project impact area and site visits to some selected flood affected irrigation blocks. The Project Management Team (PMT) presented progress of the different Programme components and other presentations were made by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (Physical Planning and Lands Departments), Department of Parks and Wildlife, and other implementers.

Speaking during the Mission, the World Bank Country Manager, Mr. Greg Toulmin expressed enthusiasm that once the project takes off, it is going to transform people's lives in the Shire Valley. He further urged community members in the project area to use the established grievance redress committees to report grievances to ensure that there are no delays in project implementation. The mission also paid courtesy calls to the Chikwawa District Commissioner and Paramount Chief Dr. Lundu.



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# Pictorial Highlights from the SVTP

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The SVTP continues to gain valuable input from its funders and implementing partners alike. Here are some pictorial highlights from some of the key activities undertaken by the Programme in the months of April and May, 2019:



*World Bank Country Manager addressing community members in Chikwawa*



*The TTL interacting with the community*



*Delegates during a visit to a flood-affected irrigation block*



*Delegates engaged in discussions at Presscane*



*Chairperson of the SVTP Project Steering Committee, Principal Secretary Mr. Gray Nyandule Phiri making a contribution during a PSC Meeting*



*Delegates during the Project Steering Committee meeting*

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## Contact Us

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