Zambia Land Tenure and Climate Change
Media and Political Summary
15 December 2014 – 03 January 2015

OBJECTIVE
To review and summarize main Zambian newspaper articles and political movements on land tenure and climate change adaptation and mitigation (particularly climate-smart agriculture, including agroforestry). The Zambia Daily Mail, The Post, and Times of Zambia were reviewed on a daily basis, with any relevant articles identified and reported on below. The summary informs the work of the USAID-funded Tenure and Global Climate Change (TGCC) program, which is undertaking activities to strengthen customary land tenure in the Chipata District of Zambia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 February 2015: Zambian Governance Foundation – Learning and Sharing Event: Identifying synergies and opportunities for enhanced collaboration among organizations working on land issues.

2-3 March 2015: Cracking the Nut: Expanding Rural and Agricultural Markets Amid Climate Change.

10-11 March 2015 (tentative): Workshop, Africa RISING sustainable agricultural intensification systems dynamics modeling study, MSU and USAID.

KEY ARTICLES

Land Tenure Related Articles

The Post, 17 December – “Land only resource women can get from govt - NGOCC”

NGOCC Central and Eastern province coordinator Pascal Kambafwile says “land is the only permanent resource women can receive from their government through the local authorities across the nation.” He further stated “women had slowly taken over the responsibility of providing for their families from men and must be supported by empowering them with land which secures their concerns of shelter.” Kambafwile praised the Kabwe Municipal Council for allocating over 40% of new plots to women.

Zambia Daily Mail, 17 December – “State probes land fraud”

Government has instituted an investigation into the origin of a fake letter claiming that the MLNREP is issuing land to women for K1,000. MLNREP Minister Mwansa Kapeya “has warned women to be wary of unscrupulous people who are trying to trick women in an effort to make money.”

Zambia Daily Mail, 17 December – “NGO cites increased investment in agro infrastructure”

The Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) has issued a report on the analysis of land access and agricultural infrastructure development among smallholder farmers. The report states “most of the outcomes point to land being an increasingly constraining factor to production in smallholder agriculture in Zambia and in most of sub-Saharan African countries” and “investment in physical infrastructure will enhance economic returns to cropland expansion.” It further notes that “the current land policies undermine the long-term potential of smallholder farmers in agriculture to help reduce
poverty and increase income generation.” IAPRI further states that public investment in agricultural research focusing on new technologies and practices that reduce the need for more farming land is appropriate for rural areas. It also stresses that some of the investments aimed at improving increasing land access to smallholder farmers have not necessarily benefited the target beneficiaries.

**Zambia Daily Mail, 18 December – “Land dispute leads to death”**

Police in Kalomo have arrested two men of Siamanyuma village for allegedly murdering their relative over a land dispute.

**Times of Zambia (also reported in Zambia Daily Mail), 19 December – “Malawi villagers lose land to sugar growers”**

This feature article by the BBC examines recent accusations in Dwangwa town of land grabbing allegedly related to the Cane Growers Trust and the Government’s Smallholder Outgrower Scheme that encourages diversification away from cotton. Villagers contend that the injection of outside money has incentivized wealthy intermediaries to influence local chiefs and the police, who legitimize wide-scale evictions. They claim to have been evicted from customary land that has been worked by generations of their families. While the Cane Growers Trust and the company involved deny any involvement, the Anglican priest representing some of the farmers claims that court documents dating back to 2008, which demand the land be restored to its original owners, have been ignored. The priest further claims that he has received death threats from attempting to get the land back. Two local farmers have died resisting recent land seizures in the town. A Government official notes that Malawi is currently reviewing its land laws so that land rights are honored, but the process is being held up by individuals who themselves benefit from land-seizures.

**Zambia Daily Mail, 20 December – “History of land acquisition in colonial Zambia”**

Austin Kaluba in his ‘Down Memory Lane’ opinion article looks at “land acquisition in colonial Zambia since white settlers came in contact with natives.” The article discusses how Western colonization involved Europeans grabbing land away from original inhabitants for their settlement and use. It also discusses the negative ramifications on populations of the Northern Rhodesia Trust Lands. The article also indicates that when the BSA Company arrived at the end of the 19th century and built the railway, there were approximately 300,000 people living in present day Zambia. At the advent of Imperial rule in 1924, land commissions established 38,866 square miles of reserves with about 100 acres per head in which European colonists were barred.

**Times of Zambia, 27 December – “Green Party to tackle land issues”**

The opposition Green Party of Zambia claimed that if elected in the upcoming Presidential elections that his government would ensure that citizens evicted from areas because of mining activities would be compensated. These would include citizens who lacked titles or who had their properties damaged. The Green Party candidate, Peter Sinkamba said if the party is put in government it would make changes to the Land Act where whoever has stayed on land for more than two years would be granted title to the land.
Agroforestry/Forestry Related Articles

The Post, 19 December – “Court fines 3 over mukula tree trading”

Two Chinese and a Tanzanian citizen have been convicted and fined K8,000, in default nine months imprisonment with hard labour, each for trading and possessing 230 mukula logs.

Times of Zambia, 20 December – “Govt calls for reforestation”

Speaking at the launch of a tree-planting programme implemented by Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) in Chingola, District Commissioner Roy Nang’alelwa called for all stakeholders to embrace reforestation because it contributes to the economy of the country. He further stated “tree planting was beneficial because it supported people’s livelihood and protected the environment against degradation.” The KCM programme was in line with the government national tree planting initiative that aims to plant 10,000 hectares of plantations at provincial, community and institutional level annually. Mr. Nang’alelwa also mentioned that MLNREP is planning to undertake a forest livelihood and economic survey with the central statistics office.

The Post, 29 December – “Sawmillers write govt for K136,000 refund by DBZ”

The Zambia National Association of Sawmillers (ZNAS) has written to Finance Minister Alexander Chikwanda demanding that the Development Bank of Zambia refund the fee of K136,000 for a due diligence study for an application of a loan from the sawmillers to plant trees in Lufwanyama. ZNAS secretary general William Bwalya alleges that the due diligence study, funded by the government of Finland, has not “provided a positive result for the past nine months.” Mr. Bwalya further claims “the challenge has been that Development Bank of Zambia is tying the granting of the loan to the Zambia Forestry and Forest Industries Corporation (ZAFFICO) and they are saying ZAFFICO should guarantee us the availability of trees that through the lifespan of the loan, trees would be made available but ZAFFICO has refused to be part and parcel of this whole process.”

The Post, 30 December – “Zambia’s forests at risk - Mwali”

Dr. Mutaba Mwali, deputy minister of MLNREP, has warned “Zambia risks not having any forest reserves in the near future if the levels of deforestation are not controlled.” He attributed the problem to activities including charcoal burning, mining in forest reserves and illegal settlements. He further stated that “now because of deforestation, our environment has become something else, we cannot even have proper rains.”
The Post, 29 December – “Restrict maize export, Luena MP urges govt”

Getrude Imenda, Member of Parliament from Luena, has stated that even though maize production rose in 2013/2014 to 3.3 million tonnes (an increase over the previous years harvest of 2.5 million tonnes), that government should restrict maize export due to erratic rainfall. Agriculture Minister Wilbur Simuza told Parliament that it would assess the impact of the rains on food security, and “would be cautious not to export everything and compromise food security.” The article further highlighted that Zambia with a population of 15.2 million people requires 1,532,194 tonnes of maize for human consumption and 355,630 for industrial use – specifically stock feed and breweries.
Climate Change Related Articles

Zambia Daily Mail, 15 December – “Deal reached at UN climate talks”

Delegates at the UN COP 20 in Lima, Peru approved a framework for setting national pledges to be submitted to next year’s COP 21. Environmental groups have criticized the deal as “a weak and ineffectual compromise, saying it weakens international climate rules.”

Zambia Daily Mail, 16 December – “Kyoto Protocol hangs in limbo”

The African Group and other least developed country negotiators at the conclusion of the COP 20 in Lima, Peru have expressed concern about the slow progress towards “giving a legal force to the international emission reductions treaty.” Nagmeldin El Hassan, the lead negotiator for the African Group, highlighted this point by stating “in our view, the developed countries are reneging, abandoning and weakening the Kyoto Protocol.”

The Post, 17 December – “Morales calls for summit on climate change”

Bolivian President Evo Morales has called for a world summit of social movements to raise awareness on challenges posed by climate change. He further stated that the failure of COP 20 in Lima, Peru to reach a concrete agreement “suggested most developed countries did not seem to understand how urgent the world needed a climate change accord.”

Zambia Daily Mail, 18 December – “Path to sustainable development uphill battle”

Speaking during the launch of the JCTR Economic Social and Cultural Rights Report for Kabwe district, the Kabwe District Commissioner Patrick Chishala said that climate change and its adverse effects on agricultural sector, agricultural productivity and rising food prices are some of the challenges that will most likely have an impact on strides being made towards integrated human development. He further said that the living status of many Zambians has not changed much since independence despite implementation of development programmes, but that despite a gloomy picture on poverty in the country, the Government is working towards enhancing people’s economic, social and cultural rights.

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