MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

ZAMBIA
MOVING TOWARDS INTEGRATION

- National dialogue on *the future we want* in January 2013
- Platform for all sections of society, across all ten provinces and 29 districts
- Active engagement of civil society organizations and private sector
- Focus on what has worked with the MDGs and development priorities beyond 2015
- Outcome of the process are 17 future priorities
Zambian economy largely mining
Persistent poverty levels
economic diversification
National Agriculture Policy (2004-2015) being revised to incorporate emerging issues including climate change
Stronger requirements for mining operations to submit environmental management plans
Establishment of an environmental protection fund
Mines required to submit social sustainability plans
POLICY FRAMEWORKS THAT INTEGRATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Vision 2030 outlines a goal for gender responsive sustainable development
- Decentralization policy recognizes the critical role of grass-root level governance in sustainable development
- Universal access to primary education recognizes the importance of an educated population in achieving sustainable development
- The revised 6th National Development Plan (2011-2015) renews commitment to MDGs
SECTORAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS ALIGNED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Revision of the Environmental Management Act (2011) to incorporate strategic environmental assessment in formulation of policies, plans and programme and strengthening the EIA;

- Revision of the Forestry Policy and Forests Act (1973, 1999) to include stronger local community participation and placing community forests under formal protection;

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- The role of development partners in bridging collaboration between central government and civil society groups.
- Laws governing freedoms and access to information have created an enabling environment for civil society to raise issues of public concern.
- Illiteracy levels and inadequate infrastructure for information sharing reduces the capacity for stakeholders to actively engage in national issues in a timely manner.
LOOKING AHEAD

Challenges to integrating SD

- Fragmented institutional arrangements and inadequate human resources
- Uncoordinated Integration of sustainable development aspects in sectoral plans and budget processes
- Absence of a platform for engaging all stakeholders in national planning processes;
- Weak local level capacities to engage in dialogue and planning
- Centralized approach to planning and decision making
Opportunities for integrating SD

- Existence of pro active civil society organizations that can facilitate information dissemination and dialogue;
- Established institutions for coordinating planning at all levels of governance (National, Provincial, District and Area Development Coordinating Committees);
- Conducive political environment that is supportive of domestication of international obligations;
- Supportive development partner community to provide capacity building to national institutions and planning processes.