

**A REPORT OF STAKEHOLDER'S WORKSHOP ON TEACHING BIODIVERSITY  
CONCEPTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS HELD AT THE VICE PRESIDENT'S  
OFFICE**

**22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2012**

**1.0 OPENING REMARKS**

Assistant Director Ms. Magdalena Mtenga opened the workshop by welcoming the participants to this important workshop for the sustainability of our country. Ms Mtenga expressed her appreciation to the workshop participants for devoting their valuable time to attend and participate to the workshop despite their other important commitments. She said that this workshop is part of phase 4 of SIDA funded International Training Programme (ITP) on Education for Sustainable Development. The programme aims at promoting ESD through tailor made training programmes and institutional change projects.

Ms. Mtenga said that the objective of the workshop is to promote EE/ESD in formal education with a focus on Teaching Biodiversity in secondary schools; she further said that the outcome of this workshop is a learning resource for 'Biodiversity Conservation in secondary schools' which will assist teachers to introduce Biodiversity aspects in various subjects at Secondary Schools.

**2.0 PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 BIODIVERSITY AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

This presentation was made by Ms. Zainabu Shaban on behalf of the Assistant Director Environment Conservation. Ms. Zainab highlighted the importance of teaching biodiversity concepts to secondary school pupils. She said that Biodiversity is the source of Economic and ecological security of our country. Thus the Conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity is not just a technical concern but a political imperative as well because it contribute in the country economy. Ms. Zainabu reminded the participants that The United Republic of Tanzania signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), whose objectives are Conservation of Biological Diversity, Sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources.

She narrated on the recognition of CBD to the Education for Sustainable Development, and its important in Formal Education where the Country has to cooperate, as appropriate, with

other states and international organizations in developing educational and public awareness programmes, with respect to conservation and sustainable use of Biological Diversity.

## **2.2 BRIEF ON INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ESD IN FORMAL EDUCATION**

This was presented by Ms. Martha Ngalowera. She explained on the objectives, methodology, and phases of the ESD Training Programme. Ms. Ngalowera highlighted to participants the objective of the training such as; To exchange knowledge and experience in ESD in Formal Education sector. To build capacity on the development of a change project and to link the learning from the programme to their own context, To developing their project based on the needs task and responsibility in their ordinary work and to promote the understanding of different dimensions of sustainable development. However, she said that training has 5 phases and this workshop was part of phase 4.

## **2.3 TEACHING BIODIVERSITY CONCEPTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS (A learning resource for Secondary schools)**

This was a presentation of the 'Biodiversity Conservation' learning material for secondary schools which was presented by Mr. Daniel Sagata. He explained the structure and content of the learning material and how Biodiversity concepts can be taught in subjects such as Physics, Biology, Geography, Chemistry and History. He highlighted on the numerous examples on how biodiversity conservation can be taught in every subject. He further discussed various methodologies and approaches in teaching aspects of biodiversity.

## **3.0 DISCUSSIONS**

The discussion was centred in the presentations and key messages were given as follows;

- Teachers have no basic knowledge on environmental management and therefore it is important to train teachers to be able to teach issues on environment and biodiversity conservation in particular.
- UNESCO as the custodian institution in Environmental Education (EE) has to prepare a guideline for implementation of EE in the country.
- The role of the Convention on Biological Diversity in ensuring the knowledge of Biodiversity and its conservation can be passed on to the teachers through various programmes.
- There should be policy review to reflect issues of environmental education and education for sustainable development in education.

- There should be reorientation of teachers to apply EE/ESD during the teaching process.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEARNING MATERIAL**

- The resource should be enriched by using the current syllabus so that it will be more relevant to teachers and students.
- Examples should also include practices or projects on biodiversity such as botanical gardens
- More relevant examples and illustrative diagrams should be added to the book to make it more rich and attractive e.g CO<sub>2</sub> cycle, pollution, food chain etc.
- The book should focus on learner centred approach in order to enable learners explore the various areas of biodiversity aspects.
- The book must include an overview of the evolution of EE/ESD and biodiversity.
- The methodology should be explained first before they are applied in the actual examples.
- More subjects and topics should be included in the resources e.g. economics, commerce, agriculture, food & nutrition, civics, commerce.
- There should be a section on the importance of biodiversity in general.
- The book should include real facts/situation analysis of the facts of biodiversity in the area.

##### **Proposed methodologies;**

- Assignments/quizzes, study tours, hands on activities,
- Role plays, Debates, Story telling and Discussions.
- Guest speakers, audio-visual

#### **5.0 WAY FORWARD**

- A task force of experts to work on the resource book to incorporate the recommendations and improvement of the resource book.
- The resource book to be printed and distributed to selected schools for use.

## **6.0 CLOSSING**

The workshop was closed at 4.00 p.m by Ms. Ngalowera who acknowledged all participants for their fruitful contributions to the workshop. However she insisted to the participants on networking and communicating among themselves.