

Swaziland Presentation at a Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Inter- linkages Between Health and Biodiversity in Africa

Presented by : Edmund Dlamini
(Chief Environmental Health Officer-
Ministry of Health)

Country Position on the SANA-

- Swaziland has not yet undertaken the situational analysis and needs assessment (SANA) for the preparation of plans of joint action, however a multidisciplinary team has been identified and it includes the Ministry of health, the Swaziland Environment Authority, Meteorology department, the City Councils, University of Swaziland, the World Health Organization and Non- governmental Organization.
- A budget has been provided by WHO to finalize the National Adaptation Plan.
- On completion of the NAP the SANA process will resume

Available opportunities for the Implementation of the Libreville Declaration and joint actions for health and biodiversity sectors

- There is close collaboration between the ministry of health the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA) and other sectors concerned with health and biodiversity
- There is a National Environmental Health Policy (2002) that need to be reviewed and biodiversity issue will be included during the review
- There is a need to include issues of biodiversity in the National Health Policy
- Within the Ministry of Health there is the Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) and this will facilitate the implementation of the SANA

Research Capacity and Information Dissemination Needs, at national and regional level

- There is a need to strengthen research institutions within the country for joint health and biodiversity sector actions such as the Malkens research station of the ministry of agriculture, the university of Swaziland
- The Health Promotion Unit of the ministry of health need to be strengthened to in cooperate health and biodiversity issues in their agenda and activities
- To build capacity at all levels eg frm community to promote biodiversity while maximising health benefits

In-country best Practices

- There is collaboration between the ministry of Health, Environment, the Swaziland Environment Authority (SEA), Agriculture, the University, and other sectors e.g. on environmental issues such as the POPs convention , climate change, etc.
- There is the WASH forum dealing with water, sanitation and hygiene issues.
- There are enabling legislation in the environment and the health sectors – e.g. The Environment Management Act and regulations, The Public Health Act and its regulations etc.,

Required Actions for human health and biodiversity

- There is a need of strengthening existing structures at community and national levels in terms of skills development