



Malawi Leads with Budget Tagging: Making Biodiversity Visible in Malawi's National Budget



"Budget tagging gave us the evidence we needed. We can now show policymakers and donors where the money is going, where the gaps are, and why biodiversity deserves more attention."

Mphatso Martha Kalemba,

Chief Environmental Officer, Environmental Affairs Department

For years, Malawi's biodiversity spending was hidden within broad budget lines across ministries. Policymakers struggled to answer a simple question: How much does Malawi invest in biodiversity? Without clear data, mobilizing new resources or justifying conservation investments was nearly impossible. With support from the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), Malawi introduced budget tagging into its public finance system. This reform allows the government to classify and track biodiversity-related expenditures across ministries, departments, and agencies.

This has resulted into more transparency in biodiversity spending, mainstreaming conservation priorities into national development planning as well as ensuring evidence-based decision making where policymakers are able to easily identify gaps and mobilize new resources for conservation.

Looking Ahead, Malawi hopes to expand budget tagging to include donor contributions and private sector investments, creating a full picture of biodiversity finance and ensuring long-term sustainability.