

# GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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**UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024**  
Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

## 1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

### 1.1 Project Details

<b>GEF ID:</b> 9539	<b>Umoja WBS:</b> GFL-11207-14C0003-SB-010123
<b>SMA IPMR ID:</b> 37252	<b>Grant ID:</b> S1-32GFL-000618/ PP1-33GFL-001477
<b>Project Short Title:</b> Malawi Invasive Alien Species Management Project	
<b>Project Title:</b> Enhancing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems and Stabilizing Agro-production in Adjoining Areas through Improved IAS Management	
<b>Duration months planned:</b>	60
<b>Duration months age:</b>	84
<b>Project Type:</b>	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
<b>Parent Programme if child project:</b>	
<b>Project Scope:</b>	National
<b>Region:</b>	Africa
<b>Countries:</b>	Malawi
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Biodiversity
<b>GEF financing amount:</b>	\$ 1,502,511.00
<b>Co-financing amount:</b>	\$ 5,164,147.00
<b>Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:</b>	2018-03-14
<b>UNEP Project Approval Date:</b>	2018-04-11
<b>Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):</b>	2018-07-10
<b>Date of Inception Workshop, if available:</b>	2018-08-05
<b>Date of First Disbursement:</b>	2018-07-10
<b>Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:</b>	\$ 1,317,269.00
<b>Total expenditure as of 30 June:</b>	\$ 1,283,195.00

<b>Midterm undertaken?:</b>	Yes
<b>Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:</b>	2023-01-30
<b>Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:</b>	2022-06-30
<b>Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:</b>	2023-05-31
<b>Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:</b>	2024-05-31
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:</b>	2025-05-30
<b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>	2026-12-31

## 1.2 Project Description

The Enhancing sustainability of Protected Area systems in Malawi, and stabilizing agro-production in adjoining areas through improved IAS management Project in short known as the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Management Project aims to enhance the capacity of Malawi to manage Invasive Alien Species, especially in protected areas and surrounding agro-ecosystems by strengthening existing national and protected area specific frameworks for the prevention and management of IAS.

The objective of this project is to: prevent new invasions and reduce the current impacts of IAS in protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems in Malawi. The project will seek

- (i) to establish a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems
- (ii) strengthen on the ground IAS management in existing protected areas through invasive species control and habitat restoration, as well as in adjoining agro-ecosystems through sustainable farming for improved welfare, and to
- (iii) improve knowledge management and broader adoption of developed strategies in Malawi protected areas.

The executing agency is Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) Malawi while UNEP is its implementing agency.

Other support executing agencies include:

- i. CABI which is providing technical support,
- ii. Department of National Parks and Wildlife,
- iii. Department of Forestry,
- iv. Department of Museums and Monuments
- v. National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens
- vi. Forest Research Institute
- vii. Department of Agriculture Research Services

- viii. Peace Parks Foundation
- ix. Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust
- x. Lilongwe Wildlife Trust
- xi. Total Land Care and Wildlife Environment Society of Malawi
- xii. Blantyre Water Board

### 1.3 Project Contacts

<b>Division(s) Implementing the project</b>	Ecosystems Division
<b>Name of co-implementing Agency</b>	
<b>Executing Agency (ies)</b>	Environmental Affairs Department
<b>names of Other Project Partners</b>	Department of Forestry, Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife, Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT)
<b>UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)</b>	Johan Robinson
<b>UNEP Task Manager(s)</b>	Jane Nimpamya
<b>UNEP Budget/Finance Officer</b>	George Saddimbah
<b>UNEP Support Assistants</b>	Ruth Igamba & Evelyn Machasio
<b>Manager/Representative</b>	Tawonga Mbale-Luka
<b>Project Manager</b>	Mphatso Martha Kalemba
<b>Finance Manager</b>	Patse Banda Chibweya
<b>Communications Lead, if relevant</b>	N/A

## 2 Overview of Project Status

### 2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

<b>UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):</b>	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
<b>UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):</b>	Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
<b>PoW Indicator(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas</li> </ul>
<b>UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages</b>	The project actively contributes to 2 of the pillars identified in Malawi UNDAF; pillar 1 and 3. (6.5.1 and 6.6.1)
<b>Link to relevant SDG Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</li> <li>Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</li> </ul>
<b>Link to relevant SDG Targets:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</li> <li>6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes</li> </ul>

### 2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
1.2- Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	50,000 ha	320,000 ha	370,000	370,000 ha
3.1- Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration	50 ha	50 ha	100 ha	115.7
3.2- Area of forest and forest land under restoration	50 ha	50 ha	100 ha	1,641.21 ha
3.3- Area of natural grass and woodlands restored	50	50	100	569.60
11.2- Female	40	40	80	80

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
11.1- Male	100	100	200	200

Implementation Status 2024: 5th PIR

### 2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2024	5th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2023	4th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2022	3rd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2021	2nd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2020	1st PIR	MS	MS	L
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

#### Summary of status

Rating towards outcomes is satisfactory:

Rating towards outputs is also satisfactory:

The rating for the 2024 year is satisfactory because the project has managed to finalise most of the project outputs.

Output 1: National framework for the cross-sectoral management of IAS operational and supporting long-term development planning, the project has managed to set up the National IAS coordination mechanism and Coordination Unit has been outlined in Malawi's National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) and early Detection and rapid response (EDRR) Procedures. The Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) has a structure that responds to the provisions of the Environmental Management Act on IAS and has incorporated issues in the NISSAP in its draft strategic plan. Further, MEPA has established positions in the Biodiversity Unit

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and has started recruitment to those positions that will be in charge of National Coordination for IAS in the country. Most of the Procedures for IAS that were under development have been finalized. The Early Detection and Rapid Response procedures have been finalized, Pathway Risk Analysis studies have been concluded, and IAS Risk Analysis procedures are almost finalized.

Output 2: Evidence base established and communicated for IAS prevention and management in and around PA's, the production of a national inventory on presence and distribution of priority invasive plants in National Parks and four Wildlife Reserves was successfully conducted. The cost benefit analysis studies that were commissioned under the project have been concluded.

Output 3: Two revised Protected Area Management Plans including strategies and budgets for IAS prevention and Control has also being partially achieved. Mulanje mountain Forest Reserve was able to integrate IAS in its Integrated Management Plan when it was being developed, whilst Nyika National Park has produced a second draft of its IAS management Plan expected to be completed by December 2024.

Output 4. Tested management plans for four IAS, including IAS control and habitat restoration in two PA's, By June 2020 species targeted for management trials and methodologies for testing the best management methods for IAS including the sites for trials had been agreed. IAS trials were concluded by December 2023 in most sites apart from bracken fern which was repeated and concluded by April 2023. Activities to clear and manage IAS have directly been undertaken in a total of 1641.21 ha in forest areas of Nyika and Mulanje and 569.60 of grassland area in the two PAs. At Mid-term Mulanje had METT scores of 70 and Nyika had METT scores of 72.

Output 5: Capacity of 80 PA staff improved and applied in the identification and management of IAS, although trainings were conducted at Malawi college of forestry for the targeted 80 staff under the project in 2023, trainings offered by the project team have continued based on demand from other protected areas. Since IAS training manual was developed and integrated in the syllabus of Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife , an additional 61 protected areas staff comprising of 49 males and 12 females have also been trained. In July 2023, the project team conducted IAS training at Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, a privately managed protected area, targeting over 50 PA staff and is working on conducting another training under the Shire Valley Transformation project. In depth training targeting over 30 PA staff who are directly involved in project activities continuously underway in all on the ground activities.

Output 6: Biocontrol Working Group established and operational leading to the introduction of three host specific and damaging biocontrol agents; Target species proposed and potential targets and agents were identified for the control of *Mimosa diplotricha*, *Opuntia stricta*, and *Pistia stratiotes* and import permits have been issued. Risk assessments were done and approved. Two of the three agents were successfully shipped into Malawi in April 2023 and have been released in the Northern, Central and Southern Regions. One of the agents for *Mimosa diplotricha* was unfortunately not able to arrive from Australia due to logistical challenges. The project intends to bring two additional biocontrol agents for *Opuntia Stricta* and *Mimosa diplotricha* for mass rearing at Department of Agriculture Research services in August 2024 which will be used for subsequent biological control activities including when the project phases out.

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Output 7: The project engaged two local NGO's (CARD and Total Land Care) to coordinate activities under Output 7 on Invaded rangeland (100 ha total) in buffer zones/agro-ecosystems of two adjoining PA's cleared and restored (native trees) through enhanced partnerships between PA staff and farmer communities, including the training of 100 farmers on IAS identification and management and

Output 8 is on Sustainable farming practices.

Under this output, 100 farmers had been targeted but by 2020 June, 110 Farmers had been trained and over 115.7 hectares of farmlands in farming communities around Mulanje mountain and Nyika National Park, is under sustainable farming practices. In total 50 households (42 male headed and 8 female headed) are involved in Rumphu district where Nyika NP is located and 72 households (27M and 45F) are involved in Mulanje.

On Output 9: Communication strategy and outreach campaigns including use of media, workshops and meetings targeting government officials, PA staff and affected communities. The project engaged two local NGO's (Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi) to champion implementation of the communication strategy which was developed in 2020 and enhance awareness activities in the Pilot sites and National Wide. Over the course. In the last reporting period 14 posters, 2 jingles and 2 songs developed 800 posters distributed, 2 jingles advertised on 8 radio stations on IAS. A further 18 IAS messages were developed and a 7 awareness campaigns were held reaching over 3000 people in the areas where the campaigns were held.

Under this outcome, the following were achieved in this reporting period:

#### 5.1. Sponsorship of Mulanje Mountain Porter's Race

The Porters race was organized to disseminate information that will assist in recovery from the devastating effects of cyclone Freddy that has affected the local communities around the mountain. Furthermore, to sensitize the general public on Invasive alien species that are threatening the mountains biodiversity and how they can prevent and manage IAS that are surrounding Mulanje Mountain. Communities were given general information on IAS and also which departments to contact for further information. The Media covered the event in publishing about IAS in print, radio, TV and online platforms. The porter's race was a success after managed to reach the IAS message to almost 6,000 people of Mulanje that surround Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve. In this reporting period a total of 600 posters were distributed to Nyika National Park, Rumphu district team and Total Land Care during LWT's other field trips. A training of journalists was also conducted in all the three regions of Malawi to capacitate reporters and journalists on how to cover IAS stories. In the process, a documentary was produced that focuses on the impacts of IAS on wildlife and the documentary have been aired on MBC TV during the Good Morning Malawi program along with other coverage during the MBC TV news segments.

During this reporting period during the commemoration event for International Day of Biological Diversity and World Environment Day in Neno District, the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP), Communications Strategy, and Field Guide project documents were launched. During the commemorations the project displayed communications and awareness materials, aired IAS jingles, songs, documentaries, and posters.

Risk rating is Low

## 2.4 Co Finance

<b>Planned Co-finance:</b>	\$ 5,164,147
<b>Actual to date:</b>	7,106,529
<b>Progress</b>	<p><b>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</b></p> <p>In-Kind co-financing continues to be provided by many of the institutions that are taking a leading role in implementation of the project activities. Institutions like Blantyre Water Board has continued to support indigenous forest restoration activities on Mulanje Mountain. In Nyika National Park, Peace Parks Foundation and an NGO called Wells of Zoe have been paying the wages of labourers involved in clearing of the IAS including procurement of clearing equipment and personal protective wear. In addition, Malawi Environment Protection Authority has supported activities on Risk Analysis and supervision of project activities as this is included in its annual budget as part of NISSAP implementation. Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and Wildlife Environment Society of Malawi has supported through staff salaries on awareness and communication activities. Several executing institutions like Environmental Affairs Department, Forestry Department, Department of Agriculture Research Services, Department of National Parks, National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens and CABI have supported through salaries of their staff and provision of personnel at different levels of expertise, provided office space including maintenance costs, vehicle hire and meeting facilities, utilities, stationery and printing and communication and internet costs for the support of project activities also continue to add on to the co-financing which is higher than expected. There has been additional co-financing from communication channels who have provided co-financing for airing of IAS messages produced under the project, IAS riding on existing programs to build capacity programs and raise awareness but also minor some of its activities like biological control agents performance. With all of this support as at June 2023 the total co-financing received has increased to US\$7,106,529 from 5,164,147 which has exceeded what was planned for at inception.</p>

## 2.5. Stakeholder

<b>Date of project steering committee meeting</b>	2023-12-07
<b>Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</b>	<p>The project has been very successful in bringing on board several stakeholders including the Private Sector, NGO'S, Community organisations, academia, research institutions and government institutions to implement and co-finance several of the project outputs. Since the project also have coordination structures at National and site level, it helps to bring several stakeholders to one place and make decisions in a coordinated way. The project has also conducted a number of workshops, meetings, trainings and awareness activities which have brought on board several stakeholders together. The major stakeholders including the following:</p> <p><b>GOVERNMENT</b></p> <p>Malawi Environment Protection Authority: Co-financing implementation of NISSAP          Department of Forestry: Responsible for Site Coordination of activities at Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve          Department of National Parks and Wildlife: Responsible for Site Coordination activities at Nyika National Park          Department of Agriculture Research Services: Responsible for biological control activities and RA processes</p> <p><b>ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH</b></p> <p>National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens: Supporting work on IAS inventories and IAS field Guide          Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife: Capacity building of PA staff and development of training module, support in monitoring and evaluation of the project</p> <p><b>NGO's and Private sector</b></p> <p>Wells of Zoe: Supporting payment of wages and IAS clearing activities on Mulanje Mountain</p> <p>Partners like MMCT, WESM and CARD were involved in implementing some of the activities under the project.          CABI: Technical support and Capacity building          Lilongwe Wildlife Trust: Coordinating awareness activities at National Level and in Rumphi          WESM: Coordinating awareness activities in Mulanje and Phalombe</p>

	<p>CARD: Coordinating Community activities in Mulanje and Phalombe</p> <p>Total Land Care: Coordinating community activities in Rumphi</p> <p>Blantyre Water Board: Supporting restoration efforts of the project</p> <p>Peace Parks Foundation: Supporting clearing of IAS</p> <p>Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust: Technical and financial support and information and platform to share project results and outputs</p> <p>Surrounding communities</p> <p>Partners involved were communities; concerned citizens were engaged in the following activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Clearing of the invasive pines</li> <li>ii. Transporting seedlings up the mountain</li> <li>iii. Tree planting and management</li> </ul> <p>Local authorities:</p> <p>Village headmen (Lula, Ntchenatchena and those surrounding Mulanje mountain), Phalombe ward councilor, lula councilor and Mulanje ward councilor.</p> <p>Schools:</p> <p>Phalombe catholic school, Lura community school and Pasani Primary school in Mulanje, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mzuzu University (Provided Students who undertook costs benefit analysis studies under the project)</p> <p>Local government stakeholders:</p> <p>Mulanje department of Information, Mulanje district council, Phalombe department of information, Phalombe department of agriculture, pahlombe department of sports, Rumphi Department of Agriculture, Rumphi Department of Forestry, Rumphi Department of Information,</p> <p>Miscellaneous:</p> <p>Nyika Vwaza Association, Malawi News Agency, Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust, Zodiac Broadcasting Station and Churches Action in Relief and Development, Association of Environmental Journalists in communication and awareness raising</p>
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## 2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	<p>The project has made commendable efforts to incorporate gender perspectives and address gender concerns in its activities, despite not having formal gender action plan. These efforts include data collection practices, encouraging female participation in training, promoting women’s involvement in the community activities, achieving gender balance in awareness-raising activities, and ensuring women’s representation in leadership roles. Challenges related to the recruitment of the Protected Area staff are being addressed, and partner organizations are actively working to implement inclusivity policies. While there have been both positive and negative aspects, the project demonstrates a commitment to advancing gender equality and inclusiveness in its mission to enhance sustainability in agro-ecosystems adjoining protected areas through the following</p> <p><b>DATA COLLECTION AND DISAGGREGATED DATA</b></p> <p>One positive aspect of the project is its commitment to collecting sex-disaggregated data. This practice ensures that information regarding the participation of men and women in project activities is recorded, facilitating the tracking of gender-based disparities and the promotion of equal participation. This approach is commendable as it provides a basis for informed decision- making and targeted interventions.</p> <p><b>LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE</b></p> <p>The presence of women in leadership roles within the project is a noteworthy positive aspect. The Project Director, Project Coordinator, and the Chair of the Project Steering Committee are all women. Additionally, the project has enlisted the expertise of an Environmental, Social, and Gender mainstreaming expert within its technical team. These women provide crucial guidance and insight into integrating gender considerations effectively.</p> <p><b>INCLUSIVENESS IN PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p>While most staff in protected areas are men, several project executing partners are actively implementing their institutional policies to promote inclusiveness. For example, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife has actively recruited women for clearing Invasive Alien Species (IAS), with 37% of recruits being women in one location. In Mulanje, 10% of the women involved in IAS clearing were</p>

	<p>women. This commitment from partner organizations helps to address gender disparities within their respective spheres.</p> <p><b>AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p>The project has demonstrated a commitment to gender inclusivity in awareness-raising activities, with a minimum of 40% women participating. This effort ensures that gender perspectives are integrated into community engagement efforts, leading to a more balanced and holistic approach.</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</b></p> <p>In community activities, the project has witnessed higher participation of women, surpassing that of men. In the agro-ecosystems adjoining protected areas in Rumphu, women’s participation exceeded men’s participation and the overall participation by gender was 23 men and 27 women, even though some women participants came from male-headed household. Similarly, in Mulanje, out of the 70 participants, 45 were women.</p> <p><b>FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN PROTECTED AREA(PA) STAFF</b></p> <p>One challenge faced by the project relates to the recruitment of female staff at the Protected Area level. The nature of the job has resulted in lower female representation among Protected Area staff compared to males, which limits the number of women that could benefit from capacity building activities in the project. Further, during the capacity needs assessment of protected area staff, it was discovered that only 11% of the staff are women in the two protected areas. Nevertheless, the project has taken a positive step by encouraging the few available women to participate in Protected Area (PA) trainings. This initiative helps to address gender imbalances in PA staffing and promotes skill development among women.</p>
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## 2.7. ESSM

<p><b>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</b></p>	<p><b>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
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<p><b>New social and/or environmental risks</b></p>	<p><b>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</b></p> <p>Yes</p> <p><b>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</b></p> <p>During the mid-term review of the project, the labourers involved raised environmental and social safeguard issues. In making efforts to rectify the issues that were pin pointed, which included grievances that were to do with working conditions, the project team in collaboration with the site coordination unit organized a monitoring exercise on 11th December, 2013 to Nyika National Park to engage the workers in a meaningful conversation to get more information with the aim of rectifying the issues.</p>
<p><b>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts</b></p>	<p><b>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</b></p> <p><b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</b></p> <p>Following the Environmental and Social Safeguard results from the mid term review, an environmental compliance monitoring visit was conducted by representatives from the Project team, Nyika National Park and Rumphu district council. Present also were labourers recruited by the project. The team conducted Inspection of the available documents e.g. records of wage payment, codes of conduct and contracts, Observations during a tour to the sites and Interviews; and discussions.</p> <p>Upon employing the methodology above, the visit established that the coordinating unit has implemented the following measures in compliance with ESS requirements.</p> <p>4.1 Areas of Compliance</p> <p>The project employed 20 community members of which 8 are females and 12 are males.</p> <p>Workers are paid their wages on time following the government recommended wage rates. This was evidenced by records of wage payment available on site.</p> <p>There was no child labor spotted on the site.</p> <p>Workers are given accommodation for free by the park.</p>

	<p>Workers are given free firewood, free water and kitchen where they cook their food.</p> <p>Workers are paid slightly above government wage.</p> <p>Availability of toilets for female and male workers on site.</p> <p>Areas of Non-compliance:</p> <p>The monitoring team observed with concern the following non-compliance that require immediate corrective actions:</p> <p>Safety toolbox talks are not conducted on site.</p> <p>The available toilets are not labelled and they are very close to each other.</p> <p>There was no first aid kits to provide first aid in case of any injuries.</p> <p>Workers are working without full PPE, only gumboots are provided.</p> <p>There is no provision of HIV/AIDS preventative measures e.g. distribution of condoms.</p> <p>A number of recommendations were made to address identified issues</p>
<p><b>Environmental and social safeguards management</b></p>	<p>Following the Environmental and Social Safeguard results from the mid term review, an environmental compliance monitoring visit was conducted by representatives from the Project team, Nyika National Park and Rumpfi district council. Present also were labourers recruited by the project. The team conducted inspection of the available documents e.g. records of wage payment, codes of conduct and contracts, Observations during a tour to the sites and interviews; and discussions. Upon employing the methodology above, the visit established that the coordinating unit has implemented the following measures in compliance with ESS requirements. The project employed 20 community members of which 8 are females and 12 are males. Workers are paid their wages on time following the government recommended wage rates. This was evidenced by records of wage payment available on site. There was no child labor spotted on the site. Workers are given accommodation for free by the park. Workers are given free firewood, free water and kitchen where they cook their food. Workers are paid slightly above government wage. Availability of toilets for female and male workers on</p>

	<p>site. Safety toolbox talks are not conducted on site and it was recommended that the workers get trained on the use of safety toolbox. The available toilets are not labelled and they are very close to each other and it was recommended that they get labeled. There was no first aid kits to provide first aid in case of any injuries and the project has since procured some kits. There is no provision of HIV/AIDS preventative measures e.g. distribution of condoms and the district council indicated that they will take up this role.</p>
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## 2.8. KM/Learning

<p><b>Knowledge activities and products</b></p>	<p>The project has produced the following Knowledge products so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Invasive alien Species field guide: <a href="https://lnkd.in/dHtu8yAr">https://lnkd.in/dHtu8yAr</a></li> <li>ii. National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan</li> <li>iii. IAS Early detection and Rapid Response Procedures</li> <li>iv. Several IAS Posters, calendars, t-shirts, car stickers</li> <li>v. Several IAS documentaries</li>   <li>vi. Invasive alien Species communication strategy</li> <li>vi. Several IAS radio Programs</li> <li>vii. IAS messages</li> <li>vii Several IAS Newspaper articles</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.capitalradiomalawi.com/2024/07/07/malawi-launches-guidelines-to-fight-invasive-alien-species/">https://www.capitalradiomalawi.com/2024/07/07/malawi-launches-guidelines-to-fight-invasive-alien-species/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nyasatimes.com/ministry-of-natural-resources-launches-publications-to-sensitize-people-on-effects-of-alien-species/">https://www.nyasatimes.com/ministry-of-natural-resources-launches-publications-to-sensitize-people-on-effects-of-alien-species/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/6464-lwt-tips-communities-on-invasive-alien-species">https://www.zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/6464-lwt-tips-communities-on-invasive-alien-species</a></p> <p><a href="https://blog.invasive-species.org/2024/05/13/cabi-publishes-guide-to-the-naturalized-and-invasive-plants-of-malawi/">https://blog.invasive-species.org/2024/05/13/cabi-publishes-guide-to-the-naturalized-and-invasive-plants-of-malawi/</a></p> <p><a href="https://times.mw/malawis-wildlife-under-alien-threat/">https://times.mw/malawis-wildlife-under-alien-threat/</a></p> <p><a href="https://mw.chm-cbd.net/projects/invasive-alien-species-management-project-malawi">https://mw.chm-cbd.net/projects/invasive-alien-species-management-project-malawi</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nyasatimes.com/public-urged-to-support-fight-against-invasive-alien-species/">https://www.nyasatimes.com/public-urged-to-support-fight-against-invasive-alien-species/</a></p>
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	<a href="http://www.aejmalawi.org/news/?invasive-threaten-species-diversity-in-ecosystem-hotspots-482ff0cfe41a3ff2c2c95e2b2a5b6300">http://www.aejmalawi.org/news/?invasive-threaten-species-diversity-in-ecosystem-hotspots-482ff0cfe41a3ff2c2c95e2b2a5b6300</a> <a href="https://zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/3900-frim-to-eradicate-invasive-alien-species-on-mulanje-forest-reserve">https://zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/3900-frim-to-eradicate-invasive-alien-species-on-mulanje-forest-reserve</a> <a href="https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species">https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species</a> <a href="https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species">https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ACTn6jAnYu4MUk9PVA">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ACTn6jAnYu4MUk9PVA</a>
<b>Main learning during the period</b>	<p>The main lessons from the reporting period are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communications and awareness raising are key to ensure sustainability of project outcomes</li> <li>2. Stakeholder engagement and mobilisation of co-financing is important to ensure buy in and take up of project activities by other stakeholders</li> <li>3. Integration of project activities, outputs into existing strategies and management plans is helpful to ensure on-going sustainability</li> <li>4. Environmental and Social safeguard activities should always be budget for to ensure their implementation</li> <li>5. Restoration and IAS projects may take years to realise the outcomes</li> <li>6. Engaging and training the media will allow for ensuring good outcomes and proper reporting and awareness raising '</li> <li>7. Intergration of IAS in the syllabus is the way to go.</li> </ol>

## 2.9. Stories

<b>Stories to be shared</b>	<p>Here is the list of some of the stories published on IAS in Malawi</p> <p><a href="https://www.capitalradiomalawi.com/2024/07/07/malawi-launches-guidelines-to-fight-invasive-alien-species/">https://www.capitalradiomalawi.com/2024/07/07/malawi-launches-guidelines-to-fight-invasive-alien-species/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nyasatimes.com/ministry-of-natural-resources-launches-publications-to-sensitize-people-on-effects-of-alien-species/">https://www.nyasatimes.com/ministry-of-natural-resources-launches-publications-to-sensitize-people-on-effects-of-alien-species/</a></p>
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<p><a href="https://www.zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/6464-lwt-tips-communities-on-invasive-alien-species">https://www.zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/6464-lwt-tips-communities-on-invasive-alien-species</a></p> <p><a href="https://blog.invasive-species.org/2024/05/13/cabi-publishes-guide-to-the-naturalized-and-invasive-plants-of-malawi/">https://blog.invasive-species.org/2024/05/13/cabi-publishes-guide-to-the-naturalized-and-invasive-plants-of-malawi/</a></p> <p><a href="https://times.mw/malawis-wildlife-under-alien-threat/">https://times.mw/malawis-wildlife-under-alien-threat/</a></p> <p><a href="https://mw.chm-cbd.net/projects/invasive-alien-species-management-project-malawi">https://mw.chm-cbd.net/projects/invasive-alien-species-management-project-malawi</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nyasatimes.com/public-urged-to-support-fight-against-invasive-alien-species/">https://www.nyasatimes.com/public-urged-to-support-fight-against-invasive-alien-species/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.aejmalawi.org/news/?invasive-threaten-species-diversity-in-ecosystem-hotspots-482ff0cfe41a3ff2c2c95e2b2a5b6300">http://www.aejmalawi.org/news/?invasive-threaten-species-diversity-in-ecosystem-hotspots-482ff0cfe41a3ff2c2c95e2b2a5b6300</a></p> <p><a href="https://zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/3900-frim-to-eradicate-invasive-alien-species-on-mulanje-forest-reserve">https://zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/3900-frim-to-eradicate-invasive-alien-species-on-mulanje-forest-reserve</a></p> <p><a href="https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species">https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species</a></p> <p><a href="https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species">https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species</a></p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OACTn6jAnYu4MUk9PVA">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OACTn6jAnYu4MUk9PVA</a></p>
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### 3 Performance

#### 3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Objective: To prevent new invasion and reduce the current impacts of invasive alien species (IAS) in protected areas and adjoining Agro-Ecosystems in Malawi	Level of implementation of the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP), especially in and around PAs	Malawi does not have a NISSAP with IAS management interventions based on national policy and strategic guidance	• NISSAP content in final draft based on broad national partnership and consultations – sections on PA management included	NISSAP finalized; and some of its strategies started, funded or integrated in sector policies, management plans or field programs – specifically in support of national PA system	100%	The NISSAP has been finalized and some of its strategies are already under implementation through the Malawi Environment Protection Authority. Other projects like the Shire Valley Transformation Phase 2 and Drylands project among others. The NISSAP has also been integrated into the revised EIA guidelines, Watershed projects amongst others.	HS
Outcome 1: Strengthened national IAS policy and improved national capacity and coordination among different Government agencies and the private sector to respond to new invasive species problems throughout Malawi, with focus on protected areas and their adjoining agro-ecosystems	1. Level of implementation of the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP), especially in and around PAs	Malawi does not have a NISSAP with IAS management interventions based on national policy and strategic guidance	• NISSAP content in final draft based on broad national partnership and consultations – sections on PA management included	NISSAP finalized; and some of its strategies started, funded or integrated in sector policies, management plans or field programs – specifically in support of national PA system	100%	NISSAP was finalised and some of its strategies are already under implementation through the Malawi Environment Protection Authority, Other projects like the Shire Valley Transformation Phase 2 and Drylands project among others. The NISSAP has also been intergrated ito the revised EIA guidelines, Watershed projects amongs others.	HS
	2. Levels of coordination /cooperation between	No or little coordination between various agencies with regard to the	Project multi-stakeholder forum/steering	NISSAP implementation enabled and	100%	Through the project, A project steering committee (PSC), technical committees were set up and operational at National	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	various stakeholder groups like local communities, private sector and Government agencies in the management of IAS	management of IAS	committee operational in PY 1, and meeting twice a year, especially at PA and community level	monitored through a National Designated Agency or Cross-sectoral coordination mechanism – especially on co-management of IAS in and around PA's		and Local level. MEPA included IAS in its mandate and undertaking IAS issues. There is a dedicated division in MEPA to be undertaking biodiversity activities and Coordinating IAS activities and officers assigned for IAS in the Draft Functional Review. Further MEPA's draft strategic plan contains NISSAP strategies to be implemented and funded through MEPA. At site level there is lobbying for focal points. Inclusion in Management plans is the first stage so far for Mulanje. Further, the NISSAP and the EDRR procedures have provided a clear institutional arrangement that will strengthen further coordination.	
	3. High risk pathways and most damaging species, incorporated in at least one modified or new national policy and/or PA Management Plans and operations	• No information on high-risk pathways or a prioritized list of IAS threatening PAs	• High risk pathways for invasive alien plants identified and communicated by way of workshops/meetings involving PA staff and communities. • NISSAP drafting process incorporating pathway	• High risk pathways for invasive alien plants identified and communicated by way of workshops/meetings involving PA staff and communities. • NISSAP drafting process incorporating pathway	95%	The High Risk Pathways have been identified and report has been presented to stakeholders and TA and accepted with minor comments. The NISSAP also incorporates Pathway information and PA staff were involved in all the processes to enhance adoption at PA level. The Pathway analysis was done at National and PA level.	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	4. IAS Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) procedures and vigilance systems established for two PAs (NNP and MMFR) application strengthened at national level through expansion of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry quarantine procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National PRA mainly focussed on crop pests with insufficient analysis of introduced plants, especially agro-forestry species. No PRA at PA level</li> <li>No surveillance or rapid response system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National PRA process reviewed and recommendations for strengthening in the fisheries, agriculture and fisheries sectors made</li> <li>PRAs developed for 2 targeted PAs</li> <li>Surveillance and rapid response system developed for 2 PAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PRA conducted for at least 50% of legally imported plant species and five agro-forestry species already present in Malawi</li> <li>Inclusive PRA developed and adopted at PA level and at least 10 exotic species present in agro-ecosystems evaluated for risk to targeted PAs</li> <li>Surveillance and rapid response systems (i) part of the new PA Management Plans, and (ii) trialled in and around (buffer zones) the 2 PAs for invasive and/or potentially invasive species.</li> </ul>	50%	RA procedures have been drafted and are under review and once finalized will be used to test 10 species and will be customized to PA level.	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	5. Results of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of selected priority IAS, including 'conflict' species present in agro-ecosystems adjoining PAs, leading to positive change, allocations, safeguards or policy, to reduce or prevent promotion and further spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evaluations have been undertaken on the costs and benefits of some highly invasive agro-forestry species such as <i>Acacia mearnsii</i>, <i>Pinus patula</i>, and <i>Prosopis juliflora</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training on cost-benefit analyses undertaken by end PY1;</li> <li>Cost-benefit analysis methodology agreed and stratified for gender access, use, benefits and costs.</li> <li>Enhanced capacity and implementation/use of CBAs by partner institution(s) undertaking PRAs to evaluate risks of exotic species – incorporated by Plant Protection Services as part of PRA procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results of cost-benefit analyses of 3 'conflict' species (<i>A. mearnsii</i>, <i>P. patula</i>, <i>P. juliflora</i>) reported by PY3, and results: (i) communicated with &gt; 3 key national agencies; (ii) incorporated in NISSAP action plan; (iii) incorporated in at least 2 PA management plans.</li> </ul>	70%	Three Masters Students from LUANAR and Mzuzu University (2 males, 1 female) were recruited to undertake studies on cost benefit analysis of IAS. Two of the students already submitted their final thesis reports, one student is yet to finalise. The results of the two students were communicated to the project team and will be used in the development of management plans and communication messages which is underway.	S
	6. Presence and distribution of invasive and potentially invasive plants detailed for five NP's (including NNP), four Wildlife Reserves, and MMFR, to enable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No detailed information on presence and distribution of all invasive and potentially invasive plant species in these PAs. Only pines and bracken in NNP and pines in MMFR.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information available of all invasive and potentially invasive plants in these selected PAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge on distribution of invasive and potentially invasive plants in these PAs in Malawi leading to initial steps towards</li> </ul>	100%	The National Invasive Species Inventory report and Field Guide were developed completed and adopted. The field guide is being used in its electronic form for trainings, identification of species, communication and other IAS management activities.	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	risk analysis and control			a national inventory of all IAS incursions in PAs using the Guide developed under Component 3.			
Outcome 2: Reduced IAS impacts in two PAs (Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) resulting in enhanced conservation outcomes for endangered or threatened species	1. PA management effectiveness enhanced on IAS prevention and management in two PAs (strategies, budgets, control and restoration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No IAS management strategies and budgets included in PA management plans and operations for Mulanje FR and Nyika NP</li> <li>METT score of 61 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 63 for Nyika NP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA Management Plans amended/developed – specifically on IAS; extra budget requests submitted with GoM and/or local partners</li> <li>METT score of 64 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 66 for Nyika NP</li> </ul>	Increased budgets for IAS management in Mulanje Mountain FR and Nyika NP involving a total of 50,000 ha. under IAS management <li>METT score of 67 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 69 for Nyika NP</li>	100%	METT score for Mulanje at mid terms was 70 whilst that for Nyika was 72 exceeding the targets that were set at project inception. There has been a lot of support in financing IAS in the two protected areas including support from Blantyre Water Board in Mulanje Mountain and support from Peace Parks Foundation in Nyika National Park for control of IAS and restoration of the managed areas. Another METT scoring exercise has been scheduled for May 2023 to inform the end term assessments.	HS
	2. Enhanced IAS management planning and capacity in pilot PAs leading to on-the-ground implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two pilot sites (Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) confirmed during PPG</li> <li>No ecosystem management plans available focussing on IAS</li> <li>Control practices have been applied for a few species but there is too little information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least two IAS control intervention areas agreed, control measures designed through partnership with national and international specialised agencies</li> <li>At least</li> </ul>	Control practices tested and efficacy determined for each of four target species <li>Lessons on IAS management collated and disseminated to PA managers, communities and</li>	100%	569.6 ha of grassland has been under clearing of IAS, an increase from 346.49 realized during the previous reporting period. A lot of work however remains to manage regrowth. 1641.21 of forest area has been cleared of IAS including follow up clearing of 400 ha of Pine in Mulanje mountain which is an increase from 1662.84. This includes clearing in riverine areas. The clearing has	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		available on best IAS management practices	three different control practices initiated for each of four target spp. (Rubus spp., Acacia mearnsii, Pteridium aquilinum and Dolichandra unguis-cati)• Ecosystem management plans amended/developed and endorsed by PA management and community leaders living adjacent to PAs	other stakeholders• GEF TT scores up with 50% on IAS• Invaded areas (150 ha total) in two protected areas cleared and restored		mostly applied mechanical methods that were identified to be effective in the trials for Pine whilst black wattle and Rubus ellipticus have combine both mechanical and chemical methods. over 140 community members have been recruited collectively over the past 5 years during the clearing and PA managers has provided supervisory and capacity building roles.	
	3. Changes in skills of protected area staff in IAS identification and management applied to their conservation work	• Baseline capacity/ knowledge levels determined at project inception • PA staff have little knowledge in IAS identification and management	• Measured increase in knowledge of >50 PA staff on IAS identification (with at least 25% women)	Increase in knowledge of 80 PA staff on IAS identification (with at least 25% women)• At least 4 staff of each targeted PA (incl. at least one woman each) have applied their new skills on IAS prevention and	100%	The project has managed to hold a number of trainings and the trainings cover all the topics that have been included in the Training module plus information that has been provided in the IAS Field Guide. The first training targeted 76 PA staff and 4 management staff were trained in IAS (25% of the PA staff were women). Some of these staff are engaged in the active management of IAS in the PA's and tasked with several roles.	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
				management in project PAs. (measured through involvement in management work within and outside the project)			
	4. Biocontrol programs supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little to no awareness as to biological control with no agents for terrestrial weeds released in the past 50 years</li> <li>Baseline awareness levels on biocontrol determined in PY1, as part of the overall awareness baseline assessment (for PA staff and those in the MoNRCC and MoAIWD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IAS Biocontrol Working Group established by Q1-PY 2 and action plan agreed</li> <li>High priority target IAS agreed and agents identified, Q4-PY2</li> <li>Biocontrol aspects integrated in the project communications and capacity building program</li> <li>Application for import of three agents made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval for introduction and release of three biocontrol agents</li> <li>50% increase in awareness of biocontrol above baseline for PA staff and those in the MoNRCC and MoAIWD</li> </ul>	80%	3 Target species proposed and potential targets and agents were identified for the control of Mimosa diplotricha, Opuntia stricta, and Pistia stratiotes and import permits were issued. For all the agents Risk assessments were done and approved. During the release of the agents, officers from Department of Agriculture research and environmental affairs department were engaged and the biological control issues were presented at a project technical committee to provide more information and create an understanding of the biological control as an option for IAS Management.	S
Outcome 3: Reduced IAS impacts in adjoining agro-ecosystems of Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP	1. Collaboration between PA managers and adjoining communities improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little to no collaboration/cooperation between PA staff and communities on IAS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA and community representatives identified and participatory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA staff and community members meeting at least three times</li> </ul>	90%	The project established local coordination units which spearhead trainings, awareness meetings, recruitment of personnel to work in	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
contributing to improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation		management	meetings being held• Agreement on participatory sustainable farming and acknowledgement w/r to non-monetary benefits of IAS control• Agreed IAS action plans and actors agreed (PY 1), and in process of incorporation in the PA management plans (PY 2)	annually to discuss IAS issues• IAS in agro-ecosystems incorporated in the two PA management plans and conflict management		clearing of IAS in protected areas among others. Through the support of the project quarterly meetings have been held and project specific meetings have been held on certain project outputs including sustainable farming practice issues. The draft management plans include issues affecting agro-ecosystems in relation to IAS	
	2. Knowledge on IAS management and adoption of sustainable farming practices for weed/IAS management by farmers	• Areas around two PAs (Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) identified during PPG• Farmers have little to no knowledge on IAS identification, management and sustainable farming practices• No effective management plans available for many IAS in	• Rangelands/natural pasture identified for development and implementation of IAS management practices including restoration (native tree planting)• Croplands identified for the development and implementation	"• Control practices tested and efficacy determined for each of three target species in rangelands• Invaded areas (100 ha total) in areas adjoining rangelands around PAs cleared and restored• 15% enhanced native	100%	In farmlands, about 115.7 hectares is under sustainable farming practices to manage IAS AND 55.7 Hectres has been cleared of IAS. The number of households adopting sustainable practices has exceeded the target of 100 with over 70 from Mulanje of which 45 are women.	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		adjoining agro-ecosystems (rangelands and croplands)• Continued deforestation and land degradation	of sustainable farming practices such as FMNR, Conservation Agriculture including crop rotation, crop integration and cover cropping to enhance crop yields and reduce weed impacts and herbicide-use• Sustainable crop production practices adopted by 15 households, incorporating IAS prevention and control• 70 farmers trained in FMNR, Conservation Agriculture and other sustainable land-use practices• Measured increase in knowledge of >50 community members on IAS	tree cover in PA buffer zones • Sustainable farming practices adopted by 50 households and incorporating IAS prevention and control• 100 farmers trained in IAS identification sustainable land-use practices such as Conservation Agriculture and FMNR"			

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			identification and sustainable farming practices (with at least 25% women) • Croplands identified for the development and implementation of sustainable farming practices such as FMNR, Conservation Agriculture including crop rotation, crop integration and cover cropping to enhance crop yields and reduce weed impacts and herbicide-use • Sustainable crop production practices adopted by 15 households, incorporating IAS prevention and control • 70 farmers trained in FMNR, Conservation				

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Outcome 4: Lessons learnt, documented and disseminated and awareness programs established to facilitate replication and broader adoption in the Malawi PA system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA staff have limited knowledge beyond awareness of the major invasive species</li> <li>Baseline IAS awareness levels of PA staff and communities living adjacent to Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP set at Inception (PY1)s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA staff have limited knowledge beyond awareness of the major invasive species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IAS Communication Strategy developed for use at a local level- focussed on PA and related actors and sectors (end PY1)</li> <li>Communities reached with communications (including gender-sensitive topics such as weeding, wood harvesting)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveys show increased average awareness 50% over baseline</li> <li>PA staff and communities show increased knowledge and skills of prioritized IAS and IAS management mechanisms, including biocontrol</li> </ul>	70%	Over 3,000 community members have been reached with IAS messages through extension services, workshops awareness meetings and more others through radio and TV. The general public reached through radio, TV, Newspapers, commemoration of biodiversity and environment days, press briefing by ministers and higher officials among others. A post awareness survey is expected at the end of the project to determine whether the project has brought an increase in awareness levels or not.	S
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IAS control pilots reducing the spread and impact of IAS to (i) PA target area, and (ii) the agro-ecosystems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline biodiversity levels will be quantified at project inception</li> <li>METT scores of 61 for Mount Mulanje FR and 63 for Nyika NP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M&amp;E Plan developed including budget, survey periods and reporting cycles</li> <li>Mid-term evaluation and report presented to MTR team</li> <li>Biodiversity and awareness levels sustained or improved from baseline</li> <li>METT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terminal evaluation completed (within 3 months of project completion)</li> <li>M&amp;E Impact Report available to TE</li> <li>IAS control results in increased levels of biodiversity and capacity/awareness above baseline of 20 and 50%</li> </ul>	80%	The baseline level of IAS capacity and awareness has increased. A post capacity building evaluation survey indicated that . The mid Terms evaluation was conducted and it provided information on the impact of the project which will also be important to assess during terminal evaluation. METT scores have been undertaken where Mulanje scored 70 and Nyika had a score of 72.	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			score of 64 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 66 for Nyika NP	respectively • METT score of 67 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 69 for Nyika NP			

### 3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	Output 1: National framework for the cross-sectoral management of IAS operational and supporting long-term development planning	2024-11-30	95%	98%	All the four out of five activities under this output have been achieved. The fifth activity of Risk Analysis is 80% done and will be completed by November 2024	HS
	Activity 1: Establish a national IAS Coordination Unit	2018-09-20	95	100	The National IAS coordination mechanism and Coordination Unit has been outlined in Malawi's NISSAP and in the Procedures for Early Detection and Rapid Response. The Malawi Environment Protection Authority has a structure that responds to the provisions of the Environmental Management Act on IAS and has	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					incorporated issues that are in NISSAP in its draft strategic plan. At present, MEPA has established a biodiversity division and an IAS unit under the division.	
	Activity 2: Establish a National Steering Committee (NSC)	2018-09-20	100%	100%	The NSC was established by May 2019 based on the collaborative institutional arrangements stipulated in the project document.	HS
	Activity 3: Develop National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan	2019-05-23	100%	100%	Final NISSAP adopted and under implementation	HS
	Activity 4: Identify high risk pathways, especially those for PA's	2023-10-14	95%	100%	The High Risk Pathways have been identified and report has been presented to stakeholders and TA and accepted	HS
	Activity 5: Strengthen National IAS Risk Analysis procedures and develop RA systems for PA's	2025-01-31	50%	80%	Draft procedures available and been reviewed based on stakeholders comments	S
	Activity 6: Early detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) systems established	2023-09-23	98%	100%	EDRR procedures finalized, adopted and approved.	HS
2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Output 2: Evidence base established and communicated for IAS prevention and management in and around PA's	2023-06-20	70%	100%	One student conducting costs benefit analysis did not conclude his work because he did not conclude his masters course	HS
	Activity 8: Produce a national inventory on presence and distribution of priority invasive plants in National Parks and four Wildlife Reserves	2019-06-27	100%	100%	IAS Inventory developed and finalized and is being used.	HS
	Activity 9: Undertake cost-benefit analysis of three "Conflict" species and produce reports	2024-31-12	80%	90%	The target was that 3 Masters students undertake IAS cost benefit analysis studies however 1 student did not finalize his masters and hence funds will be used by project team to finalize	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					the remaining work.	
3. Knowledge management and broader adoption	Output 3: Two revised Protected Area Management Plans including strategies and budgets for IAS prevention and Control	2024-11-30	75%	85%	Nyika National Park yet to be finalised as the department in charge requested a focus on an additional IAS species	HS
	Activity 10: Two revised PA Management Plans including strategies and budgets for IAS prevention and control					
	Output 4. Tested management plans for four IAS, including IAS control and habitat restoration in two PA's	2023-06-30	100%	100%	Methodologies for management of IAS identified and species to be prioritized agreed. Also management methods for the agreed IAS identified and agreed.	HS
	Activity 11: Species targeted for management trials and methodologies agreed					
	Activity 12: Pilot sites established through effective partnerships					
	Output 5: Capacity of 80 PA staff improved and applied in the identification and management of IAS					
	Activity 13: Develop and conduct training programs on the identification and management of invasive plants targeting PA staff.					
	Output 6: Biocontrol Working Group established and operational leading to the introduction of three host specific and damaging biocontrol agents					
	Activity 14: Establish a Biocontrol Working Group					
	Activity 15: Identify target species and potential biocontrol agents					
	Output 7: Invaded rangeland (100 ha total) in buffer zones/agro-ecosystems of two adjoining PA's cleared and restored (native trees) through enhanced partnerships between PA staff and farmer communities, including the training of 100 farmers on IAS identification and management					
Activity 16: Develop and conduct training programs on IAS identification and management						

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Activity 17: Local IAS coordination Units Established					
	Activity 18: Invaded areas cleared and restored using native trees					
	Output 8: Sustainable farming practices such as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), Conservation Agriculture (CA), including crop rotation, crop integration and cover cropping adopted and promoted by 50 households as a result of training and demonstration trials					
	Activity 19: Develop and conduct training programs on sustainable farming practices					
	Activity 20: Implementation of sustainable farming practices					
	Activity 21: Develop Communication strategy and undertake comprehensive local and targeted national awareness campaign					
	Activity 22: Produce invasive alien plant Field Guide					
	Activity 23: Develop M&E plan, indicators and baseline					

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

## 4 Risks

### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Low	Low
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

### 4.2 Table B. Risk-log

#### Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Justification
Rapid changes in climate conditions could outstrip the ability of Malawi to successfully manage IAS	Component 2	L	M	M	L	L	L	L	The project is clearing pines in riparian zones and other localities where it had potential of invading larger areas. By removing these from water catchments. such as Mulanje and Nyika. the project will secure the

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										provision of water to downstream water-users. Malawi Zambia Tranfrontier Project. Wells of Zoe and Blantyre Water Board have provided co-financial support for project activities in the two sites which is helping increase amount of labour involved
Insufficient funding and Government support to continue implementation of the project activities		L	M	M	L	L	L	L		"Initially the lack of committed financings for IAS was seen to be able to likely affect all the three components of IAS. But with the co-management arrangement of Nyika National Park and Peace Parks foundation. there is interest that IAS management plan implementation will be funded. Similary for Mulanje mountain . Blantyre Water Board is committed to supporting restoration efforts at Chambe Basin. IAS issues have been mainstreamed into the PA management plans . This will ensure that IAS activities are budgeted together with some of the activities in the plan. Having an IAS coordination Unit at MEPA will also be a sure way of sustaining implementation of NISSAP and ensure that IAS incorporated in the national budget

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Inability to demonstrate impact of project interventions due to complex natural interactions and a long-time span until impacts are noticed		L	M	M	M	M	L			The project interventions have been mainstreamed into the PA management plans. the Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife Curricula to ensure long-term benefits of the project. Based on what has been suggested by the NISSAP. to have focal points in each relevant protected area. and ensure sustainable budgets. this will ensure sustainability. Moreover. peace parks are already considering recruiting a full time IAS specialist in Nyika National Park for sustaining implementation of IAS activities. The project has focused on demonstrating best management practises that can have effective outcomes on a larger scale in the long run. Further. some IAS like pine that have invaded Nyika and Mulanje. especially in riparian zones have been cleared to prevent further spread. By demonstrating best management practices. all protected areas can adopt the approaches piloted under the project and the capacity of protected area staff can be built in these approaches to enhance management of

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										<p>biodiversity in the two areas and in Malawi as a whole. However, there is need for long term planning to sustain and enhance follow up on areas that have been cleared if we are to demonstrate significant impact. the biggest message is that this pilot has demonstrated methods that work and long term plans through the restoration and management plans are needed. The project will also increase knowledge on IAS amongst the project beneficiaries and policy makers. This is through mainstreaming of IAS in the curricula, management plans and other relevant initiatives.</p>
		L	M	M	M	L	L	L		

### 4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

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## 5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

### Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

#### 5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

## 5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Nyika National Park	-.103959.99	333759.99			
Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve	-.15550.12	35349.84			

**Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. \***

see the attached files of maps

[\[Annex any linked geospatial file\]](#)

### Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Map of Mulanje Forest Reserve showing cleared areas.pdf	BDLD TM	2024-08-06 14:13:07	<a href="#">Download</a>
Figure 3- Map of Nyika NP.png	BDLD TM	2024-08-06 14:01:18	<a href="#">Download</a>