

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2026
Reporting from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 9539	Umoja WBS: GFL-11207-14C0003-SB-010123
SMA IPMR ID: 37252	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000618/ PP1-33GFL-001477
Project Short Title: Malawi Invasive Alien Species Management Project	
Project Title: Enhancing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems and Stabilizing Agro-production in Adjoining Areas through Improved IAS Management	
Duration months planned:	60
Duration months age:	99
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Africa
Countries:	Malawi
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 1,502,511.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 5,164,147.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2018-03-14
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2018-05-09
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2018-05-15
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2018-08-05
Date of First Disbursement:	2018-07-10
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2026:	\$ 1,404,511.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 1,404,511.00

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

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Environmental Affairs Department
names of Other Project Partners	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)

UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Jane Nimpamya
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah
UNEP Support Assistants	Elizabeth Kimani
Manager/Representative	Tawonga Mbale-Luka
Project Manager	Mphatso Martha Kalemba
Finance Manager	Patse Banda Chibweya
Communications Lead, if relevant	Mwayi Mukhantama

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
PoW Indicator(s):	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
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	The project actively contributes to 2 of the pillars identified in Malawi UNDAF; pillar 1 and 3. (6.5.1 and 6.6.1)
Link to relevant SDG Goals	- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all - 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
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

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				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
1.2- Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	50,000 ha	320,000 ha	370,000	370000	The project implemented activities in Mulanje Fores Reserve covering 65,000 ha and Nyika National Park of 320,000

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
					hectares making a total of 370,000 ha. Activities included development and implementation of management plans for the 2 Protected Areas, removal of IAS, support to staff and rangers, etc
3.1- Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration	50	50	100	115.7	115.7 ha of agricultural land were restored through removal of invasive species
3.2- Area of forest and forest land under restoration	50 ha	50 ha	100 ha	1641.21	1641.21 ha of forest land were restored through removal of invasive species
3.3- Area of natural grass and woodlands restored	50	50	100	569.60	the project

	Targets - Expected Value				
Indicators	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	Remarks
					assisted 569 ha of grass regeneration after the removal of invasive species
11.2- Female	100	200	200	200	over 200 women were employed as casual laborers and other jobs for removal if IAS
11.1- Male	100	300	300	300	over 300 women were employed as casual laborers and other jobs for removal if IAS

Implementation Status 2026: Final 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 2026	Final PIR	HS	HS	L
FY 2025	6th PIR	HS	HS	L
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				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

1.1 Finalisation and testing of the Risk Analysis Procedures for Invasive Alien Species The risk assessment was as part of testing Risk Analysis procedures, especially the risk assessment methodology adapted from Ireland. The work focused on identifying, assessing, and prioritising invasive species and their pathways of introduction and spread across pilot districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje, including the Shire River and Elephant Marsh. In total, 64 species were assessed: 30 invasive species already occurring in the Lower Shire and 34 potential invasive species identified through horizon scanning of neighbouring countries and major trade partners. The assessment followed a participatory risk analysis process combining desk reviews, expert workshops, field surveys (terrestrial and aquatic), rapid botanical surveys, and community social surveys. Species were scored and ranked based on invasion history, spread potential, impacts, pathways, and management feasibility, with uncertainty explicitly considered. The work involved the Environmental Affairs Department, technical experts from relevant sectors, local communities, and partners supporting the Shire Valley Transformation Programme, the programme which cofinance the project. From the 30 existing species, 15 were prioritized as high risk. These comprised: Plants (10 species): *Argemone mexicana*, *Calotropis procera*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Senna alata*, *Datura innoxia*, *Datura stramonium*, *Lantana camara*, *Opuntia stricta*, *Pistia stratiotes*, *Pontederia crassipes*. Invertebrates (2 species): *Deroceras laeve* (slug) and *Tithonia diversifolia* (treated as a high-impact terrestrial invasive plant in management terms). Vertebrates (2 bird species): *Columba livia* (pigeon) and *Emberiza quelea* (red-billed quelea). Aquatic invertebrates (1 species): *Cherax quadricarinatus* (redclaw crayfish). Key outputs included prioritised lists of high-risk invasive species, identified and ranked invasion pathways, spatial maps of infestation hotspots, and evidence-based recommendations for management, prevention, and early detection. These outputs are useful for guiding policy decisions, targeting control efforts, strengthening biosecurity, and supporting early warning and rapid response systems in the Lower Shire Landscape.

2.0 Two revised Protected Area Management Plans including strategies and budgets for IAS prevention and Control

2.1 Development of an Invasive Alien Species Management Plan for Nyika National Park In December 2025, stakeholders reviewed and approved IAS Management Plans for Mulanje Forest Reserve and Nyika National Park. The plans were developed with technical expertise of CABI and draw on over six years of project experience, including results from experimental invasive species control trials conducted in Mulanje and Nyika over the past five years. The plans compile species identified during the project, present information on a species-by-species basis, outline indicative management costs, and identify high-risk invasive species for prioritisation. Stakeholders feedback acknowledged the technical value of the drafts and approved them provisionally indicating need for additional implementation plan outlining specific actions, implementation approaches, responsible institutions, timelines, and monitoring indicators. This process was agreed to be part of the work of the

sites after the project phases out so that the implementation plan can clearly define what will be done, how it will be implemented, who is responsible, and how success will be measured. Development of Environmental and Social Safeguards as part of the IAS Management Plan for Nyika National Park The Nyika IAS Management Plan was finalised in this reporting period. The implementation plan development was supported by a local consultant. The implementation plan proposes a 10-year management programme targeting approximately 984 ha of invasive species, including eradication of about 450 ha of the Chelinda pine plantation, with an estimated implementation cost of MK 2.7 billion. It also includes environmental and social safeguard measures, post-clearing restoration actions, and institutional arrangements for implementation under the Nyika-Vwaza Trust. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the proposed pine harvesting at Chelinda Plantation was also conducted. The project team supported review of the project brief since the Malawi Environment Protection Authority requires a full ESIA under the Environment Management Act (2017). A consultant was selected and a multidisciplinary ESIA team established to conduct baseline studies, impact assessment, stakeholder consultations, and preparation of an Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring framework. All the final steps related to this work will be supported by Department of National Parks and Wildlife who plan to initiate phased implementation of invasive species clearing and rehabilitation activities according to the IAS management and implementation plans. 3.0. Communication strategy and outreach campaigns including use of media, workshops and meetings targeting government officials, PA staff and affected communities Under this output, the following were achieved in this reporting period: 3.1. Printing, Shipping and Distribution of the Field Guide During the reporting period, significant progress was made on knowledge management and awareness raising through finalisation, printing, launch, and distribution of the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Field Guide. Following approval of the final manuscript, printing specifications were agreed and the guide was produced and shipped to Lilongwe. Despite minor adjustments to original specifications, the printing process was completed successfully. The IAS Field Guide was officially launched as part of efforts to strengthen national capacity for identification and management of invasive alien species. The guide provides practical, user-friendly reference material for field officers, researchers, and practitioners involved in IAS management across Malawi. An initial 30 copies were distributed to academia, researchers, and selected policy makers to support research, teaching, and evidence-based decision-making. The remaining copies are being distributed through the Communication and Awareness Division of the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) and the Malawi Environment Protection Authority, with priority given to field workers, researchers, academia, and institutions directly involved in invasive species management. Distribution is designed to maximise uptake among practitioners working on the ground, while also supporting awareness and policy engagement at national level. Beyond the current project phase, the field guide will continue to be reproduced and disseminated to ensure sustained access and long-term use in invasive alien species management, research, and capacity building initiatives. 2.2. Dissemination of IAS Awareness Materials IAS awareness materials including documentaries, radio jingles, songs, t-shirts, calendar were distributed and being used continuously during this reporting period. The documentaries were aired on MBC TV along with other coverage during the MBC TV news segments.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project faced some challenges that affected the timely and efficient implementation of activities. Foreign exchange scarcity in Malawi made it difficult to pay international consultants, resulting in delays in some project operations. The project was also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, when most activities were put on hold. The subsequent two-year extension helped to complete activities that had been delayed. Political pressure regarding pine harvesting in Nyika National Park also created implementation challenges, as pine revenues were viewed as a potential source of government income, while the project was implementing IAS management protocols. Staff turnover at project sites also affected continuity, although replacement staff were subsequently assigned. In addition, the project faced mobility constraints because activities were implemented in remote areas with difficult terrain and the project lacked a reliable vehicle for supervision and field operations.

However, the project managed to apply adaptive management, institutional coordination and additional resources to maintain implementation progress which eventually led to all project targets being achieved.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 5,164,147
Actual to date:	8,106,529
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: In-Kind co-financing has been provided by many of the institutions that are taking a leading role in implementation of the project activities. Institutions like Blantyre Water Board and Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust support indigenous forest restoration activities on Mulanje Mountain. In Nyika National Park, Peace Parks Foundation and an NGO called Wells of Zoe pay the wages of laborers involved in clearing of the IAS including procurement of clearing equipment and personal protective wear. In addition, Malawi Environment Protection Authority 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. There has been additional co-financing from communication channels who have provided co-financing for airing of IAS messages produced under the project. IAS activities were also implemented jointly with existing programs and hence these programs cofinanced IAS activities. This includes the Shire Valley Transformation Project which supported monitoring of biological control agents' performance. With all of this support as at June 2025 the total co-financing the project has received is US\$8,106,529 which is higher than the budget of US\$5,164, 147 at project inception.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2026-02-06
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	The project has been very successful in bringing on board several stakeholders including the Private Sector, NGO'S, Community organizations, 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: GOVERNMENT 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 ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH 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 NGO's and Private sector Wells of Zoe: Supporting payment of wages and IAS clearing activities on Nyika National Park. 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 CARD: Coordinating Community activities in Mulanje and Phalombe Total Land Care: Coordinating community activities in Rumphi
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	Blantyre Water Board: Supporting restoration efforts of the project Peace Parks Foundation: Supporting clearing of IAS Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust: Technical and financial support and information and platform to share project results and outputs Surrounding communities
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	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 agroecosystems adjoining protected areas through the following: DATA COLLECTION AND DISAGGREGATED DATA 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. LEADERSHIP AND EXPERTISE 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. INCLUSIVENESS IN PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS 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 casual workers involved in IAS clearing were women. This commitment from partner organizations helps to address gender disparities within their respective spheres. AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES 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.

	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION In community activities, the project has witnessed higher participation of women, surpassing that of men. In the agro-ecosystems adjoining protected areas in Rumphi, 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
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2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? No If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?
New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No If yes, describe the new risks or changes?
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?
Environmental and social safeguards management	The project did not identify specific safeguard risks at endorsement and approval stage. The project rather has positive impacts in creation of employment, enhancing biodiversity, providing economic resources to the park management through sale of cleared IAS. The two sites prepared site specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) in collaboration with the District Environmental Sub- Committees (DESC). Where applicable mitigation measures were employed specifically in the trials including getting clearance from the Malawi Pesticides Control Board to ensure safety measures following existing national regulations. Identification of trial sites on the project areas had considered potential impacts on water and safety of workers from wildlife and occupational health and safety. During IAS management trials, the safeguards safety measures were put in place such as use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). More PPE

	will be procured specifically for Mulanje which is mountainous and requires hiking to get to the sites. The trials also aimed at identification of best management methodologies for Invasive Alien Species that have minimal negative impact on biodiversity and the environment and contribute positively in enhancing biodiversity conservation. No methods have been recommended that have a negative impact on biodiversity and natural. The project will continue to enhance Occupational health and safety and promote interventions with insignificant negative impacts whilst enhancing those with positive impacts on the environment, biodiversity, human and social economic outcomes. The Malawi Environment Protection Authority requires a full ESIA under the Environment Management Act (2017) requires that any removal of IAS beyond 10 hectares undergo an ESIA. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the proposed removal of pine at Chelinda Plantation was therefore conducted. A consultant was selected and a multidisciplinary ESIA team established to conduct baseline studies, impact assessment, stakeholder consultations, and preparation of an Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring framework. All the final steps related to this work will be supported by Department of National Parks and Wildlife who plan to initiate phased implementation of invasive species clearing and rehabilitation activities according to the IAS management and implementation plans following the approved ESMP.
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2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	Yes. The project has produced the following Knowledge products so far: 1. Invasive alien Species field guide: https://lnkd.in/dHtu8yAr 2. ii. National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan 3. iii. IAS Early detection and Rapid Response Procedures 4. iv. Several IAS Posters, calendars, t-shirts, car stickers v. Several IAS documentaries 5. vi. Invasive alien Species communication strategy vi. Several IAS radio Programs 6. vii. IAS messages vii Several IAS News Paper articles https://www.capitalradiomalawi.com/2024/07/07/malawi-launches-guidelines-to-fight-invasive-alien-species 7. https://www.nyasatimes.com/ministry-of-natural-resources-launches-publications-to-sensitize-people-on-effects-of-alien-species/ 8. https://www.zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/6464-lwt-tips-communities-on-invasive-alien-species 9. https://blog.invasive-species.org/2024/05/13/cabi-publishes-guide-to-the-naturalized-and-invasive-plants-of-malawi/ 10. https://times.mw/malawis-wildlife-under-alien-threat/ 11. https://mw.chm-cbd.net/projects/invasive-alien-species-management-project-malawi 12. https://www.nyasatimes.com/public-urged-to-support-fight-against-invasive-alien-species/ 13. http://www.aejmalawi.org/news/?invasive-threaten-species-diversity-in-ecosystem-hotspots-482ff0cfe41a3ff2c2c95e2b2a5b6300 14. https://zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/3900-frim-to-eradicate-invasive-alien-species-on-mulanje-
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	forest-reserve 15. https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species 16. https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ACTn6jAnYu4MUk9PVA
Main learning during the period	The main lessons from the reporting period are as follows: 1. Communications and awareness raising are key to ensure sustainability of project outcomes Regular outreach activities such as radio programmes, written materials (flyers, stickers), branded T-shirts and golf shirts, documentaries, and jingles carrying invasive alien species (IAS) messages are essential for reaching large audiences. These communication tools help reinforce public responsibility for environmental management, particularly IAS management, and ensure that messages reach as many people as possible, repeatedly and consistently. Stakeholder engagement and mobilization of co-financing is important to ensure buy in and take up of project activities by other stakeholders Integration of project activities, outputs into existing strategies and management plans is helpful to ensure on-going sustainability Environmental and Social safeguard activities should always be budget for to ensure their implementation Restoration and IAS projects may take years to realize the outcomes Engaging and training the media will allow for ensuring good outcomes and proper reporting and awareness raising ' Integration of IAS in the syllabus is the way to go. Monitoring and Reporting strengthens accountability There is no one single optimal method for addressing IAS

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	
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2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	Here is the list of some of the stories published on IAS in Malawi https://www.capitalradiomalawi.com/2024/07/07/malawi-launches-guidelines-to-fight-invasive-alien-species/ https://www.nyasatimes.com/ministry-of-natural-resources-launches-publications-to-sensitize-people-on-effects-of-alien-species/ https://www.zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/6464-lwt-tips-communities-on-invasive-alien-species https://blog.invasive-species.org/2024/05/13/cabi-publishes-guide-to-the-naturalized-and-invasive-plants-of-malawi/ https://times.mw/malawis-wildlife-under-alien-threat/ https://mw.chm-cbd.net/projects/invasive-alien-species-management-project-malawi https://www.nyasatimes.com/public-urged-to-support-fight-against-invasive-alien-species/ http://www.aejmalawi.org/news/?invasive-threaten-species-diversity-in-ecosystem-hotspots-482ff0cfe41a3ff2c2c95e2b2a5b6300 https://zodiakmalawi.com/nw/national-news/66-news-in-southern-region/3900-frim-to-eradicate-invasive-alien-species-on-mulanje-forest-reserve https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species https://africabrief.substack.com/p/controlling-invasive-alien-species https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ACTn6jAnYu4MUk9PVA
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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 National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) has been finalized, with several of its strategies already under implementation through the Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA). In addition, projects such as the Shire Valley Transformation Programme Phase 2 and the Drylands Development Project are contributing to the execution of NISSAP-related activities. The NISSAP has also been mainstreamed into the revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines and is being applied in watershed management projects, among others. Currently, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) has initiated a project to implement NISSAP interventions in Nyika National Park. Furthermore, African Parks Limited has been conducting Invasive Alien Species (IAS) training sessions aligned with the NISSAP framework.	HS
Outcome 1: Strengthened	Indicator 1 of Outcome	Malawi does not have a	(a)NISSAP content in	(a)NISSAP finalized	100%	The National Invasive Species Strategy and	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
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. (a) NISSAP with focus on preventing and managing IAS in the national PA system, based on broad coordination and representation. (b) # of NISSAP strategic targets initiated towards implementation and/or integrated in sector policy.	NISSAP with IAS management interventions based on national policy and strategic guidance	final draft based on broad national partnership and consultations – sections on PA management included (b)At least one (1) NISSAP target/action item in process for inclusion in at least one sector policy/program/or budget	and adopted by central government(b) At least 2 (two) targets/programs in process for inclusion in at least one sector policy/program/ or budget (e.g. expanded pathway risk management systemsincluded in PA management plans etc)		Action Plan (NISSAP) was finalized, and several of its strategies are already being implemented championed by the Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) and EAD among others . Additionally, other initiatives such as the Shire Valley Transformation Programme Phase 2 and the Drylands Development Project are supporting the implementation of NISSAP actions. The NISSAP has also been integrated into the revised Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines, Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy and incorporated into watershed management projects, among others.	
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	Indicator 2 of Outcome 1. Levels of coordination /cooperation between various stakeholder groups like local communities, private sector and Government agencies in the management of IAS	No or little coordination between various agencies with regard to the management of IAS	Project multi-stakeholder forum/steering committee operational in PY 1, and meeting twice a year, especially at PA and community level	(a) At least 10 forum/steering committee meetings held and agreement reached on national key IAS issues, strategies and action items(b) NISSAP implementation enabled and monitored through a National Designated Agency or Cross-	100%	Through the project, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and technical committees were established and fully operational at both national and local levels. Moving forward, the Biodiversity Advisory Committee will continue to play an oversight role as the coordination mechanism for biodiversity including Invasive Alien Species.Several staff positions on IAS are also being institutionalised. The Malawi Environment Protection Authority	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
				sectoral coordination mechanism – especially on co-management of IAS in and around PA's		(MEPA) has formally incorporated Invasive Alien Species (IAS) management into its mandate and is actively addressing IAS issues. A dedicated division within MEPA has been established to coordinate biodiversity and IAS-related activities, with specific officers assigned to IAS tasks as reflected in the Draft Functional Review. Furthermore, MEPA's draft Strategic Plan includes NISSAP strategies, which are being implemented and financed through MEPA's programs.Nyika National Parks and Wildlife is planning to have an Invasive Alien Species Position at the park. Within the Department of Forestry's Division of Plant Protection, the FRIM research arm already addresses plant protection and has now formally assigned responsibility for IAS. Additionally, Malawi College of forestry and Wildlife has integrated IAS into its syllabus, which will help ensure long-term sustainability and institutionalisation of IAS.MEPA and EAD should continue to engage institutions to ensure that IAS management is scaled up across all	

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
						protected areas. To institutionalize this effort, clear Terms of Reference (TORs) for IAS positions should be developed and established within Forestry, Parks, Fisheries, Agriculture and other relevant institutions.	
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	Indicator 3 of Outcome 1. 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	(a) High risk pathways for invasive alien plants identified and communicated by way of workshops/meetings involving PA staff and communities. (b) NISSAP drafting process incorporating pathway information	(a) High risk pathways for invasive alien plants identified and communicated by way of workshops/meetings involving PA staff and communities. (b) NISSAP drafting process incorporating pathway information	100%	High-Risk Invasive Pathways have been identified, and the analysis report has been presented to stakeholders and Technical Assistance (TA), receiving acceptance with minor comments. The NISSAP incorporates pathway management strategies, and PA staff have been actively engaged in all related processes to ensure ownership and adoption at the PA level. Pathway analyses have been conducted at both national and PA scales.	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	Indicator 4 of Outcome 1. IAS Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) procedures and vigilance systems established for two PAs (NNP and MMFR) application strengthened at	National PRA mainly focussed on crop pests with insufficient analysis of introduced plants, especially agro-forestry species. No PRA at PA levelNo surveillance or rapid response system	National PRA process reviewed and recommendations for strengthening in the fisheries, agriculture and fisheries sectors	- PRA conducted for at least 50% of legally imported plant species and five agro-forestry species already present in Malawi - Inclusive PRA	100%	The risk assessment was as part of testing Risk Analysis procedures, especially the risk assessment methodology adapted from Ireland. The work focused on identifying, assessing, and prioritising invasive species and their pathways of introduction and spread across pilot districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje,	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
throughout Malawi, with focus on protected areas and their adjoining agro-ecosystems	national level through expansion of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry quarantine procedures		made• PRAs developed for 2 targeted PAs• Surveillance and rapid response system developed for 2 Pas	developed and adopted at PA level and at least 10 exotic species present in agro-ecosystems evaluated for risk to targeted PAsSurveillance 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.		including the Shire River and Elephant Marsh. In total, 64 species were assessed: 30 invasive species already occurring in the Lower Shire and 34 potential invasive species identified through horizon scanning of neighbouring countries and major trade partners.From the 30 existing species, 15 were prioritized as high risk. These comprise:Plants (10 species): Argemone mexicana, Calotropis procera, Prosopis juliflora, Senna alata, Datura innoxia, Datura stramonium, Lantana camara, Opuntia stricta, Pistia stratiotes, Pontederia crassipes.Invertebrates (2 species): Deroceras laeve (slug) and Tithonia diversifolia (treated as a high-impact terrestrial invasive plant in management terms).Vertebrates (2 bird species): Columba livia (pigeon) and Emberiza quelea (red-billed quelea).Aquatic invertebrates (1 species): Cherax quadricarinatus (redclaw crayfish).Key outputs included prioritised lists of high-risk invasive species, identified and ranked invasion pathways, spatial maps of infestation hotspots, and evidence-based recommendations for management,	

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
						prevention, and early detection.	
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	Indicator 5 of Outcome 1. 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	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>	- Training on cost-benefit analyses undertaken by end PY1; - Cost-benefit analysis methodology agreed and stratified for gender access, use, benefits and costs. - 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	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 greater than 3 key national agencies; (ii) incorporated in NISSAP action plan; (iii) incorporated in at least 2 PA management plans.	100%	Three Master's students from LUANAR and Mzuzu University (2 males and 1 female) were engaged to conduct studies on the cost-benefit analysis of 3 conflict Invasive Alien Species (IAS) (<i>O. stricta</i> , <i>P. patula</i> , <i>P. juliflora</i>). All the three students have successfully completed and submitted their final thesis reports. The findings from the three completed studies have been shared with the project team and will inform work beyond the project lifetime. This information has also supported prioritization of species in the Management Plans of the two protected areas. Two of the students have also published their findings in the development of IAS management plans and communication materials, which are currently under preparation.	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	Indicator 6 of Outcome 1. Presence and distribution of invasive and potentially invasive plants detailed for five NP's (including NNP), four Wildlife Reserves,	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.	Information available of all invasive and potentially invasive plants in these selected PAs	Knowledge on distribution of invasive and potentially invasive plants in these PAs in Malawi leading to initial steps towards	100%	The National Invasive Species Inventory Report and Field Guide have been developed, finalized, and officially adopted. The Field Guide is currently being utilized in its electronic format and hard copy to support trainings, species	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
invasive species problems throughout Malawi, with focus on protected areas and their adjoining agro-ecosystems	and MMFR, to enable risk analysis and control			a national inventory of all IAS incursions in PAs using the Guide developed under Component 3.		identification, awareness-raising, and other IAS management activities. It was also officially launched at the 2024 International Day on Biological Diversity. During the reporting period, significant progress was made on knowledge management and awareness raising through finalisation, printing, launch, and distribution of the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Field Guide. Following approval of the final manuscript, printing specifications were agreed and the guide was produced and shipped to Lilongwe. Despite minor adjustments to original specifications, the printing process was completed successfully. The IAS Field Guide was officially launched as part of efforts to strengthen national capacity for identification and management of invasive alien species. The guide provides practical, user-friendly reference material for field officers, researchers, and practitioners involved in IAS management across Malawi. An initial 30 copies were distributed to academia, researchers, and selected policy makers to support research, teaching, and evidence-based decision-making. The	

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						remaining copies are being distributed through the Communication and Awareness Division of the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) and the Malawi Environment Protection Authority, with priority given to field workers, researchers, academia, and institutions directly involved in invasive species management	
Outcome 2.1: Reduced IAS impacts in two PAs (Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) resulting in enhanced conservation outcomes for endangered or threatened species	Indicator 1 of Outcome 2.1. PA management effectiveness enhanced on IAS prevention and management in two PAs (strategies, budgets, control and restoration)	- No IAS management strategies and budgets included in PA management plans and operations for Mulanje FR and Nyika NP - METT score of 61 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 63 for Nyika NP	- PA Management Plans amended/developed – specifically on IAS; extra budget requests submitted with GoM and/or local partners - METT score of 64 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 66 for Nyika NP	Increased budgets for IAS management in Mulanje Mountain FR and Nyika NP involving a total of 50,000 ha. under IAS management METT score of 67 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 69 for Nyika NP	100%	The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score for Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve at mid-term was 70, while Nyika National Park achieved a score of 72, both surpassing the targets set at project inception. These improvements reflect significant support for IAS management in the two Protected Areas, including financial and logistical assistance from Blantyre Water Board in Mulanje and the Peace Parks Foundation in Nyika for IAS control and habitat restoration activities. A follow-up METT assessment has been scheduled for September 2025 to inform the project's end-term evaluation. The two protected areas continue to be financed for management of IAS. Mulanje Mountain with support from	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
						MMCT and Blantyre Water board are restoring indigenous trees, Nyika National Park with support from Peace Parks Foundation continue to manage IAS.	
Outcome 2.1: Reduced IAS impacts in two PAs (Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) resulting in enhanced conservation outcomes for endangered or threatened species	Indicator 2 of Outcome 2.1. Level of capacity and on-the-ground implementation of IAS prevention and management in pilot PAs leading to measurable reduction in invaded areas (and associated BD impacts)	- Two pilot sites (Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) confirmed during PPG - No ecosystem management plans available focussing on IAS - Control practices have been applied for a few species but there is too little information available on best IAS management practices	- At least two IAS control intervention areas agreed, control measures designed through partnership with national and international specialised agencies. - At least three different control practices initiated for each of four target spp. (Rubus spp., Acacia mearnsii, Pteridium aquilinum and Dolichandra unguicati) - Ecosystem management plans amended/developed and endorsed by PA management and community leaders living adjacent to	(a) Control practices tested and efficacy determined for each of four target species (b) Lessons on IAS management collated and disseminated to PA managers, communities and other stakeholders (c) Invaded areas (150 ha total) in two protected areas cleared and restored (d) GEF TT scores up with 50% on IAS	100%	A total of 569.6 hectares of grassland has been cleared of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), marking an increase from 346.49 hectares cleared during the previous reporting period. However, significant efforts are still required to manage IAS regrowth in these areas. Additionally, 1,641.21 hectares of forested areas have been cleared of IAS, which includes follow-up clearing of 400 hectares of pine in Mulanje Mountain. This reflects an increase from the previously reported 1,662.84 hectares. The clearing operations have also targeted riverine areas to address IAS infestations along watercourses. The clearing operations have predominantly utilized mechanical methods, which were identified as the most effective during field trials for pine species. In the case of black wattle and Rubus ellipticus, a combination of mechanical and chemical control methods has been applied to enhance effectiveness. Over the past five years, more than	HS

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			PAs			140 community members have been engaged in IAS clearing activities across the project sites. Protected Area (PA) managers have played a supervisory role, providing on-site guidance and capacity-building support to community teams involved in IAS management efforts	
Outcome 2.1: Reduced IAS impacts in two PAs (Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) resulting in enhanced conservation outcomes for endangered or threatened species	Indicator 3 of Outcome 2.1. Changes in skills of protected area staff in IAS identification and management applied to their conservation work	(a) PA staff have little knowledge in IAS identification and management (b)Baseline capacity/ knowledge levels determined at project inception • PA staff have little knowledge in IAS identification and management	• Measured increase in knowledge of greater than 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 management in project PAs. (measured through involvement in management work within and outside the project)	100%	Baseline knowledge levels were determined at the first year of the project and over 200 PA have been trained with 25% of them being women from Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve, Nyika National Parks, Lower Shire and Nkhosakota Wildlife Reserve and they have applied their skills76 PA staff were initially trained in 2023 at the Malawi College of Forestry. Training continued beyond the target due to growing demand. Since the IAS training manual was integrated into the College's syllabus, an additional 61 staff (49 male, 12 female) have been trained.Further training was conducted in 2024 which included:In Nkhosakota Wildlife Reserve, reaching over 50 staff.Through the Shire Valley Transformation Project, with 30+ staff continuously trained during fieldwork in	HS

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						active project sites.	
Outcome 2.1: Reduced IAS impacts in two PAs (Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) resulting in enhanced conservation outcomes for endangered or threatened species	Indicator 4 of Outcome 2.1. Biocontrol programs supported	• Little to no awareness as to biological control with no agents for terrestrial weeds released in the past 50 years • 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)	• IAS Biocontrol Working Group established by Q1-PY 2 and action plan agreed • High priority target IAS agreed and agents identified, Q4-PY2 • Biocontrol aspects integrated in the project communications and capacity building program • Application for import of three agents made	• Approval for introduction and release of three biocontrol agents • 50% increase in awareness of biocontrol above baseline for PA staff and those in the MoNRCC and MoAIWD	100%	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.	HS
Outcome 2.2: Reduced IAS impacts in adjoining agro-ecosystems of Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP contributing to improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation	Indicator 1 of Outcome 2.2. Enhanced collaborative targeting and management of shared and high-risk IAS species through collaboration between PA managers and adjoining communities	• Little to no collaboration/cooperation between PA staff and communities on IAS management	• PA and community representatives identified and participatory meetings being held • Agreement on participatory sustainable farming and acknowledgement w/r to non-	• PA staff and community members meeting at least three times annually to discuss IAS issues • IAS in agro-ecosystems incorporated in the two PA management plans and conflict management	100%	The project established local coordination units responsible for leading trainings, awareness campaigns, and the recruitment of personnel to support IAS clearing activities in protected areas. With project support, these units have held quarterly coordination meetings, alongside additional project-specific sessions addressing key outputs such as sustainable farming practices. The draft management plans incorporate	HS

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			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)			considerations of IAS impacts on agro-ecosystems to ensure integrated management approaches.NGO's working under the project including Total Land Care, WESM, Card and LWT have also strengthened the interaction between local communities and PA staff as they brought them together to implement project activities.	
Outcome 2.2: Reduced IAS impacts in adjoining agro-ecosystems of Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP contributing to improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation	Indicator 2 of Outcome 2.2. Invaded areas in agroecosystems reduced and semi-natural vegetation cover improved though increased capacity of farmers' on IAS management and adoption of sustainable farming practices for weed/IAS management	• 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 adjoining agro-ecosystems (rangelands and croplands)• Continued deforestation and land degradation	• Rangelands/natural pasture identified for development and implementation of IAS management practices including restoration (native tree planting)• Croplands identified for the development and implementation of sustainable farming practices such as FMNR, Conservation Agriculture including crop rotation, crop integration and	"• 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 tree cover in PA buffer zones • Sustainable farming practices adopted by 50 households and incorporating IAS prevention and	100%	In farmland areas, approximately 115.7 hectares have been under sustainable farming practices aimed at controlling Invasive Alien Species (IAS), while 55.7 hectares have been cleared of IAS. The number of households adopting these sustainable practices has surpassed the target of 100, with over 70 households in Mulanje alone participating—45 of whom were led by women.In Rumphi, based on the experimental trials conducted, use of bracken fern ash as fertilizer due to its rich potassium, content was promoted.	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
			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 greater than 50 community members on IAS identification and sustainable farming practices (with at least 25% women) • Croplands identified for the development and implementation	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
			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				
Outcome 3.1. Replication and increased adoption in the Malawi PA system of IAS prevention and management through national dissemination of best practice and awareness programs.	Indicator 1 of Outcome 3.1. Key national decisions makers and adjacent communities awareness increased through project communications, dissemination of best	(a) PA staff have limited knowledge beyond awareness of the major invasive species(b) Baseline IAS awareness levels of PA staff and communities living adjacent to	(a) IAS Communication Strategy developed for use at a local level- focused on PA and related actors and sectors (end PY1) (b)	(a) Surveys show increased average awareness 50% over baseline(b) PA staff and communities show increased knowledge and skills of prioritized IAS and	100%	Communication and outreach on IAS has been fully delivered. Over 10,000 community members have been reached with Invasive Alien Species (IAS) awareness messages through extension services, community outreach, workshops, and meetings.	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
	practice and targeted outreach	MountMulanje FR and Nyika NP set at Inception (PY1)	Communities reached with communications (including gender sensitive topics such as weeding, wood harvesting)	IAS management mechanisms, including biocontrol		Broader public engagement was achieved through radio, television, newspapers, and national events, extending well beyond World Environment Day due to high radio listenership, community campaigns, and outreach initiatives. Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi continue to champion IAS awareness through campaigns, media products, journalist training, and national events. A post-awareness survey can support assessment of impact for PA staff and communities. The baseline level of IAS capacity and awareness has improved significantly over the course of the project. A post-capacity-building evaluation survey conducted to measure these gains revealed that over 90% of the protected area participants to capacity building initiatives indicated they had started putting the knowledge of their training to use, whilst less than 10% had not. Additionally, the mid-term evaluation provided valuable insights into the project's impact, which will also inform the upcoming terminal evaluation. Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessments have been completed, with	

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						Mulanje scoring 70 and Nyika scoring 72, indicating progress in protected area management related to IAS	

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 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	Output 1.1.1.: National framework for the cross-sectoral management of IAS operational and supporting long-term development planning	2024-11-30	100%	100%	Four out of five activities have been achieved under this output. A number of frameworks for cross-sectoral management of IAS have been developed in a participatory manner and are under implementation. The following frameworks have been developed:• The National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) • National and Protected Area Early detection and Rapid Response Procedures• Report of Identification of High-Risk Pathways for IAS in Malawi • Draft IAS Risk Analysis procedures In addition, a National IAS coordination unit was set up which will be based at Malawi Environment Protection Authority and will be reporting to the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee and MEPA Board. MEPA also included IAS in its mandate, in the	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
					strategic plan and budgets and there is a dedicated officers under the biodiversity division to handle IAS issues. In addition, Department of National Parks and Wildlife has included IAS issues under the research division and dedicated officers for dealing with IAS issues.	
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	Activity 1.1.1.1.: Establish a national IAS Coordination Unit	2018-09-20	100%	100%	The project supported the creation of a National IAS coordination unit in MEPA, including defining staffing requirements and roles of office bearers. The project also supported meetings of the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee to present procedures on Early detection and rapid response, IAS Risk analysis among others that will be used as standard documents by MEPA officers. Further MEPA's draft strategic plan contains NISSAP strategies to be implemented and funded through MEPA. At site level, Department of National Parks and Wildlife has identified IAS focal points under its research division.	HS
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	Activity 1.1.1.2: Establish a National Steering Committee (NSC)	2018-09-20	100%	100%	A national steering committee was established in 2019 with representation of 12 institutions and 12 members including government, NGO's, Academia, Private sector and the youth among others. The committee meets annually and on ad hoc where necessary and has provided guidance, advise on	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
					handling risks and oversight direction to the project activities. Most of the NSC members are also in the Biodiversity Advisory Committee of MEPA and therefore will continue to provide guidance on IAS beyond the project life span	
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	1.1.1.3. Develop content of NISSAP (National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan)	2019-05-23	100%	100%	This National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) was developed through a stakeholder engagement process and adopted in 2021. It was however launched in 2023 during the commemoration of the international day on biological diversity. The NISSAP is a comprehensive framework for cross-sectoral co-ordination between competent institutions and stakeholders at all levels to manage IAS in Malawi. This framework will guide the prevention, eradication, preparedness and early detection, and control of IAS as well as restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems ruined by IAS. It is a more harmonized approach for engaging all relevant stakeholders with a common vision – Protected areas, people and their livelihoods safe from the negative impacts of IAS.	HS
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated	Activity 1.1.1.4: Identify high risk pathways, especially those for PA's	2023-10-14	100%	100%	The High-Risk Pathways were identified and the report was presented and adopted by the IAS technical working group, NSC and biodiversity advisory committee. The report	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
agro-ecosystems					provides insights and detailed findings the High-Risk Pathways towards enhancing IAS pathways Management in Malawi. The report was developed through a survey and desk review and Identifies high risk pathways through which IAS are introduced into Malawi and at a local level into PA's and adjoining agro ecosystems, Proposes ways through which the IAS can be managed in such high-risk pathways; recommends regulatory measures and management plans at national and PA level and Isolates key issues to be considered during the revision of Protected Area Management Plans of Nyika National Park and Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve with regards to IAS pathways management and costs associated with their management.	
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	Activity 1.1.1.5: Strengthen National IAS Risk Analysis procedures and develop RA systems for PA's	2025-01-31	100%	100%	Risk Assessment (RA) procedures have developed with participation of relevant stakeholders. These procedures have been applied to assess over 30 invasive species in the Lower Shire Landscape and have been adapted for implementation at the PA level	HS
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated	Activity 1.1.1.6.: Early detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) systems established	2023-09-23	100%	100%	EDRR procedures finalized, adopted and approved in 2023. The procedures contain 4 sections. Section 1 presents the EDRR framework, that is essentially based on best	HS

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agro-ecosystems					international practices. Section 2 presents the developed EDRR procedures as a gold standard for IAS management while section 3 provides a stepwise user guide for protected areas to adopt drafted procedures to their local contexts (taking into account both financial and human resource constraints). Section 4 presents a resource and implementation plan for rolling out the proposed procedures in the Malawi.	
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	Output 1.1.2. Evidence base established and communicated for IAS prevention and management in and around PA's	2023-06-20	100%	100%	A number of studies were undertaken to establish an evidence base for Invasive Alien Species in Malawi use the information to communicate for IAS prevention and Management at National level and in protected areas. The following studies were conducted, concluded and documented from 2019 to 2024• National inventory on the presence and distribution of priority invasive alien species in Malawi. The inventory has been published and is available on Malawi's Biodiversity Clearing House• Cost benefit analysis of 3 conflict IAS species of Prosopis Juliflor, Pinus Patula and opuntia stricta. Scientific reports of two species have been approved by the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	HS
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity	Activity 1.1.2.2.: Produce a national inventory on presence and distribution of	2019-06-27	100%	100%	IAS Inventory developed and finalized and is being used. It was adopted in 2020 and was published in	HS

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to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	priority invasive plants in National Parks and four Wildlife Reserves				2022. The inventory contains information on Naturalized and invasive alien plant species in Malawi based on surveys and a literature review. A total of 175 naturalized or invasive alien plant species were recorded in Malawi. Examples of these species include Bidens pilosa, Tagetes minuta, Erigeron bonariensis, Eclipta prostrata, Sonchus oleraceus, and Galinsoga parviflora.	
1 Component 1: Establishing a national framework and capacity to enhance IAS management in protected areas and associated agro-ecosystems	Activity 1.1.2.1.: Undertake cost-benefit analysis of three "Conflict" species and produce reports	2019-06-27	100%	100%	Three Master's students from LUANAR and Mzuzu University (2 males and 1 female) were engaged to conduct studies on the cost-benefit analysis of 3 conflict Invasive Alien Species (IAS) (O Stricta, P. patula, P. juliflora). All the three students have successfully completed and submitted their final thesis reports. The findings from the three completed studies have been shared with the project team and will inform work beyond the project lifetime. This information has also supported prioritization of species in the Management Plans of the two protected areas. Two of the students have also published their findings in the development of IAS management plans and communication materials, which are currently under preparation.	HS
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing	Output 2.1.1: Two revised Protected Area Management Plans including strategies and	2024-11-30	90%	100%	In December 2025, stakeholders reviewed and approved IAS Management Plans for Mulanje Forest	HS

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protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	budgets for IAS prevention and Control				Reserve and Nyika National Park. The plans were developed with technical expertise of CABI and draw on over six years of project experience, including results from experimental invasive species control trials conducted in Mulanje and Nyika over the past five years. The plans compile species identified during the project, present information on a species-by-species basis, outline indicative management costs, and identify high-risk invasive species for prioritisation. Stakeholders feedback acknowledged the technical value of the drafts and approved them provisionally indicating need for additional implementation plan outlining specific actions, implementation approaches, responsible institutions, timelines, and monitoring indicators. This process was agreed to be part of the work of the sites after the project phases out so that the implementation plan can clearly define what will be done, how it will be implemented, who is responsible, and how success will be measured. economic benefits from sustainably harvested IAS	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining	Activity 2.1.1.1. Revise existing management plans and identify gaps	2025-09-09	90%	100%	All IAS sites have final IAS management plans for all species prioritised, costs calculated and ready to be transformed	HS

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agro-ecosystems					into implementation plans.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Output 2.1.2. Tested management plans for four IAS, including IAS control and habitat restoration in two PA's	2025-09-12	100%	100%	The project prioritised 4 IAS alien species for management, Pinus patula, Acacia mearnsii, Rubus ellipticus and Pteridium aquilinum. These species were subjected to the following treatments; physical removal, chemical and cultural control or a combination of these, in the form of demonstration trials, so that Protected Area (PA) managers and their staff including communities living adjacent to the PAs can familiarize themselves with control methodologies, their efficacy and benefits. Experimental sites were identified in these protected areas to test different approaches for controlling and managing IAS in order to identify the most appropriate and effective intervention that can be adopted at national level. Depending on the target species, trials compared the efficacy of manual removal of the rootstock or hand pulling versus cut-stump (herbicide application to the cut-stump) or scrape and paint treatments. For all the species, the best management methods were tested and agreed and species-specific management plans will be included in the Protected Area Management plans under development.	HS

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2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity 2.1.2.1: i) Species targeted for management trials and methodologies agreed ii) Determine baseline biodiversity levels prior to control interventions iii) Implement control interventions and monitor efficacy and biodiversity impacts iv) Produce report and disseminate results of best management practices v) Implement best management practices across wider area (50 ha in MMFR and 100 ha in NNP) and monitor impacts	2021-12-21	100%	100%	The project tested different methodologies for managing the four priority species. The methods that led to removal of the IAS with minimal impact on biodiversity, non-target species and the environment were chosen. Also, the cost and time of implementation of the methods were taken into consideration when agreeing on the best methodologies. In all experiments, a control was also included where nothing was done. For Pinus Patula, 4 methods tested included ringbarking; uprooting of saplings; and collection of seeds; and cutting with pangas and chainsaws all of which were effective for different sizes of trees. For Accacia mernssii (Black wattle) plants were subjected to 3 methods; uprooting, cutting without application of chemical and cutting combined with application of chemicals. Areas that were uprooted and those that were cut combined with Turbodor chemical application were observed to be clear from new shoots. The cutting and applying with turbodor were more cost effective, with minimal time and effort, whilst uprooting took more effort and time. For the control as expected a dense forest resulted after the two years of the experiment,	HS

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					implying that the chemical is effective in killing black wattle when it is cut or slashed. For Rubus ellipticus two methods were tested. The first was uprooting; the second was cutting combined with application of a chemical (Kaput 100GEL and Impala) and the third was cutting without chemical. Rubus plants subjected to chemical application after being cut died completely within 6 months and new shoots were also not observed. Similarly in areas where r. ellipticus was uprooted no new shoots were observed However, in those areas where Rubus was just cut and in control treatments shoots were observed. Application of Impala, Kaput 100GEL and uprooting were therefore the effective methods in controlling Rubus Ellipticus., however, cutting and applying chemical took less time and effort and hence cost effective. For Bracken Fern 5 methods were tested. These included slashing, uprooting and application of three different chemicals, forester, eco-imazapyr and lime respectively. The control as expected showed the highest number of green ferns followed by quadrants where lime was applied and cutting /slashing treatment. Uprooting also removed the	

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					plants entirely. For the chemical treatments forester and eco-imazapyr the number of green ferns was almost zero. Forester was selective to bracken fern while with eco-imazapyr even grasses were killed alongside the ferns. Application of Forester was therefore the most preferred but questions on the feasibility of such a method on large scale would need to be considered further. The uprooting was seen to not be feasible because of the amount of time it takes and the difficulty there is to undertake that task.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity 2.1.2.2: Pilot sites established through effective partnerships	2021-12-01	100%	100%	The project established two Pilot sites for testing different methods of managing IAS and demonstrating the agreed methods on 150 hectares. 100 hectares was identified in Nyika National Park at the Plateau and 50 hectares in Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve at Chambe (For pine and Rubus ellipticus) basin, Luchanya Basin for Bracken Fern) and at Sombani basin for (Pine and bracken fern). Partnerships were developed between the project and several actors who undertook various roles in the trials as follows• Department of National Parks provided research officers to participate, accommodation, research equipment and GPS, Park rangers to offer protection from wild animals, and off-road	HS

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					vehicles. • Forestry Department provided officers to participate in the trials, rangers to offer protection and guidance in the forest reserve • Forestry Research Institute provided plant specialists, soil specialists and equipment to support the studies • National Herbarium and botanical gardens provided botanists and equipment to undertake species identification and biodiversity assessments • Museums of Malawi provided entomologists and equipment to undertake entomological studies • Raymond Murphy, an entomologist, provided equipment and expertise to support the entomological assessments • Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust provided biodiversity personnel, meeting and planning space at their offices, vehicles and equipment, lodging at the mountain and utensils to support the experiments. • Malawi University of Science and Technology provided and Mr John Mawenda provided GIS expertise who supported with a mapping exercise • CABI provided overall technical support including SOPs for the experiments, supervision and capacity building of the 40 staff involved and 15 internes engaged at various stages of the process. A detailed report	

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					of the trials and its findings is available. The personnel involved in the trials coordinated through a technical working group under the coordination of seconded site coordinators in Mulanje mountain forest reserve and Nyika national park respectively.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Output 2.1.3: Capacity of 80 PA staff improved and applied in the identification and management of IAS	2024-03-12	100%	100%	Although the target was to train 80 protected area staff, over 200 people were trained in the project through various capacity building activities that strengthened their ability to identify and manage IAS. The following were some of the training activities that took place under the project• 40 scientists and protected rea staff (including 10 females and 30 males) involved in the experimental trials were provided on the job training by CABI to effectively carry out the experimental trials• 78 Protected area staff (25% women) were trained on a certificate program that was developed under the project, using a module developed by the project for Malawi college of Forestry and Wildlife which has now being incorporated in their syllabus as they train protected area staff • Training of 20 (8 females and 12 male) government and non-governmental organisations on identification of invasive alien species• Training of 20 officers	HS

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					from fisheries, department of agriculture research, forestry, livestock, trade among others on Pest Risk Analysis • Training of 20 customs and boarder officials on Invasive alien species and Risk analysis procedures • Training of 50 (All male) Protected area staff under African Parks Limited on identification, Early detection and Rapid Response and management of IAS • Training of 15 interns on IAS management • Training of 100 (60 women and 40 men) community members on IAS management • Training of 30 journalists (10 in each region) in IAS reporting • Training of 50 PA officers in Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve • Training of Protected area staff and other staff in Lower shire	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity 2.1.3.1: Develop and conduct training programs on the identification and management of invasive plants targeting PA staff.	2024-12-23	100%	100%	Practical training has been conducted, in house training and formal training through Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife. The project trained over 200 people including over 80 PA staff on identification and management of IAS. At least 20 staff of each targeted PA have applied their new skills on IAS prevention and management in project PAs through involvement in management work within and outside the project. The college with support from the project developed an	HS

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					IAS module and mainstreamed it into its syllabus in the certificate and diploma courses CABI also conducted a training of trainers on identification of IAS. Journalists in all regions as well as staff working in the institution implementing the project have also been trained.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Output 2.1.4: Biocontrol Working Group established and operational leading to the introduction of three host specific and damaging biocontrol agents	2020-06-20	100%	100%	Three biological control agents targeting Mimosa diplotricha, Pistia stratiotes, and Opuntia stricta were submitted to and approved by the Plant Protection Division at the Department of Agriculture Research Service, which also issued import permits. Between April 23 and 28, 2023, these agents were released in Malawi following risk assessments conducted in 2020. A report on the releases is available. The cochineal (<i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i>), a biological control agent for <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> (water lettuce), was released beside the M5 Road (Latitude: -12.896935, Longitude: 34.280431). Monitoring after one year showed effective control, with no <i>Pistia</i> observed at the release site in Nkhotakota. Agents for <i>Opuntia stricta</i> (<i>Neohydrornomus affinis</i>) were released in Chikwawa District, but no reduction in <i>Opuntia</i> size was observed after one year. Further analysis is needed to understand factors affecting control efficacy. The biological	HS

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					control agents for <i>Mimosa diplotricha</i> (<i>Neohydronomus affinis</i>) did not arrive in Malawi due to logistical challenges. However, heavily invaded sites were identified in Nkhatabay along the main road near the district hospital and just past the police checkpoint en route to Nkhotakota.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity Output 2.1.4.1: Establish a Biocontrol Working Group	2020-06-20	100%	100%	The instituted biological control working group was based on an existing biological control working group. The TORs of the group were revised to include IAS in general and not just focusing on crop related IAS and pests. Additional members from Forestry, academia and Parks and Wildlife were included to the working group.	HS
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity Output 2.1.4.2 : Identify target species and potential biocontrol agents	2022-12-08	100%	100%	Three biological control agents for the control of <i>Mimosa diplotricha</i> , <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> and <i>Opuntia stricta</i> were submitted to the Plant Protection Division at the Department of Agriculture Research Service and were approved. Import permits for the agents were granted by the same Division. An activity was conducted from 23 to 28 April 2023 to release biological control agents in Malawi, following results of the risk assessments which were conducted in 2020A report on the release of the biological agents is available. The biological control agent for <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> (water lettuce)	HS

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					- cochineal, <i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i> was released into a pool beside M5 Road at Latitude-12.896935 and longitude 34.280431. A monitoring visit indicated that the biological agent was effective as there were no opuntia seen after 1 years on the site on which they were released in Nkhotakota. Biological agents for <i>Opuntia stricta</i>-<i>Neohydronomus affinis</i> were released in Chikwawa District. There was no difference observed in the size of opuntia after 1 year on the site released. . A detailed analysis would be needed to check the factors that enhance or reduce efficacy of biological control agents on the sites. The biological control agents for <i>M. diplotricha</i>-<i>Neohydronomus affinis</i> did not arrive in Malawi due to logistical challenges. However, places with heavy invasions of <i>M. diplotricha</i> were identified in Nkhatabay along the main road near Nkhatabay District Hospital, and just after the Police Check Point as we go to Nkhotakota.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Output 2.2.1.: 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	2024-12-24	100%	100%	The project exceeded its target by managing over 1,500 hectares of land invaded by Invasive Alien Species (IAS) across two protected areas and their surrounding landscapes, fostering effective partnerships through these management activities. Native Tree Restoration: In Mulanje, 569	HS

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	management				hectares were under IAS management. The project raised and planted 7,084 indigenous seedlings—including <i>Podocarpus milaniana</i>, <i>Pitosporium viridiliflorum</i>, <i>Dudonia viscosa</i>, <i>Trema orientalis</i>, <i>Ilex mitis</i>, and <i>Indigofera iyari</i>—to restore cleared areas. Over 61 people participated in clearing and restoration work on Mulanje Mountain (55 males and 6 females). Restoration efforts were co-financed by the Blantyre Water Board, with local communities, and local leaders supporting worker identification. In Nyika National Park, 1,641 hectares, including riverbank areas, were managed for IAS. Peace Parks Foundation and Wells of Zoe co-financed staff salaries, equipment procurement, and logistics. Surrounding farming communities contributed labor and received on-the-job IAS management training. Farmer Training and Partnerships: The project aimed to train 100 farmers in IAS identification and management. By June 2022, 110 farmers around Mulanje Mountain and Nyika National Park had been trained. Of these, 50 households (42 male-headed, 8 female-headed) in Rumphi District (Nyika NP) and 72 households (27 male-headed, 45 female-headed) in Mulanje actively	

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					participated in IAS management efforts.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity 2.2.1.1.: Develop and conduct training programs on IAS identification and management	2021-12-12	100%	100%	A Training of Trainers (ToT) program was conducted, targeting project staff, protected area (PA) managers and staff, relevant institutions, farmers, and extension workers, resulting in 61 participants trained (49 males and 12 females) on IAS identification and management. The project also established local coordination units at district and Traditional Authority levels. These units lead trainings, awareness campaigns, recruitment for IAS clearing activities, and grievance handling. The coordination units comprise representatives from area development committees, protected area staff, district councils, NGOs, and others. Supported by the project, these units hold quarterly and issue-specific meetings—such as those on sustainable farming practices—with minutes documented for all sessions	HS
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity 2.2.1.2.: Local IAS coordination Units Established	2021-12-25	100%	100%	The project established local coordination units at both district authority and Traditional Authority levels. These units lead trainings, awareness sessions, recruitment of personnel for IAS clearing, and grievance management. They comprise representatives from area development committees, protected area staff, district council representatives, NGOs, and other stakeholders. With project support, these	HS

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					units have held regular quarterly meetings as well as targeted sessions addressing specific outputs, such as sustainable farming practices. Minutes from all meetings have been documented and are available.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity 2.2.1.3: Invaded areas cleared and restored using native trees	2023-12-31	100%	100%	More than 1,500 hectares of invaded land have been cleared, surpassing the project targets in both Nyika National Park and Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve. Specifically, 569 hectares have been managed for IAS in Mulanje, while 1,641 hectares, including riverbank areas, have been managed in Nyika National Park. As part of the restoration efforts on cleared sites, the project raised and planted a total of 7,084 indigenous tree and plant seedlings, including Podocarpus milanjianus, Piptosporium viridiliflorum, Dodonaea viscosa, Trema orientalis, Ilex mitis, and Indigofera iyari. In Nyika National Park, natural regeneration of grasses has also been promoted to support ecosystem recovery. On farmlands, physical removal of IAS is ongoing on 100 hectares, with a recommendation for continued clearing supported by co-financing beyond the project lifespan. In Mulanje, 32 hectares of farmland were cleared of dense bracken fern using	HS

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					the slashing method, as uprooting was impractical due to the fern's high density. The restoration of native trees plays a crucial role in rehabilitating the cleared areas by reestablishing indigenous vegetation, enhancing biodiversity, stabilizing soils, and improving habitat quality for wildlife and local communities.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Output 2.2.2: 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	2023-12-31	100%	100%	The project partnered with two local NGOs, CARD and Total Land Care, to coordinate and promote sustainable farming practices aimed at reducing the presence of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in farmlands and agro-ecosystems surrounding Nyika National Park and Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve. These NGOs bring expertise in sustainable agriculture and community mobilization within their respective operational areas, focusing on agroecological practices and natural resource management. Through these partnerships, 115.7 hectares of farmland across the two districts have been brought under sustainable farming practices. In Rumphi district, where Nyika National Park is located, 50 households (42 male-headed and 8 female-headed) are participating, while in Mulanje, 72 households (27 male-headed and 45 female-headed) are involved. The sustainable farming practices promoted include: • General soil and	HS

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					water conservation (covering 17 hectares)• Construction of contour ridges to reduce soil erosion (12 hectares)• Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), which encourages the systematic regeneration and management of native trees on farmland (15 hectares)Monitoring visits revealed that at least 70% of the farmers adopted two or more of these demonstrated practices, indicating strong uptake and local acceptance. Although the project initially targeted 50 farmers as direct beneficiaries at each pilot site, the actual number of participants has exceeded this, showing growing interest and willingness among farmers to engage in conservation agriculture. In addition to land management practices, the project raised and planted 4,000 indigenous tree seedlings and 480 fruit trees to increase tree cover on farmland, supporting biodiversity restoration and improving livelihoods. Demonstration trials conducted on selected farms allowed farmers to observe the practical benefits of sustainable farming techniques, further enhancing adoption and knowledge sharing within the communities.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening	Activity 2.2.2.1: Develop and conduct	2023-12-31	100%	100%	A total of 53 farmers in Mulanje and 50 farmers in	HS

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IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	training programs on sustainable farming practices				Rumphi received training on sustainable farming and management of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) control interventions. At the Nyika National Park pilot site in Rumphi district, two Village Development Committees (Ntchenachena and Lura) under Traditional Authority Mwalweni were prioritized due to heavy invasion by bracken fern, which threatens farmland productivity. Fifty households were randomly selected to participate in the pilot, which targeted restoration of 50 hectares of invaded land to enable regeneration of native species. The project achieved positive results with the 50 farm households (42 male-headed and 8 female-headed) undertaking a range of activities, including: • Training in IAS management and sustainable farming practices (all 50 households) • Practicing conservation agriculture and soil and water conservation (all 50 households) • Using organic manure (23 households) • Practicing agroforestry (50 households) • Planting fruit trees (48 households) • Engaging in crop diversification (50 households) Additionally, the project cleared 32 hectares of farmland to support native species regeneration	

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					through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), where native trees are managed or allowed to regenerate alongside crops systematically. Two field trials were also conducted to explore the use of bracken fern ash as fertilizer in maize fields, aiming to identify innovative IAS management methods.	
2 Complement 2. Strengthening IAS management in existing protected areas and adjoining agro-ecosystems	Activity 2.2.2.2.: Implementation of sustainable farming practices	2023-12-31	100%	100%	In the Nyika area, 50 farmers (23 men and 27 women) were trained in sustainable farming practices, achieving 100% of the target. Additionally, 12 frontline extension personnel (11 men and 1 woman) received Training of Trainers (ToT). Training was continuous throughout the farming season, using farmer field demonstrations and trial plots. The project organized field days and exchange visits between the two clusters to enhance learning. These events attracted 116 participants, including non-project farmers, technical staff from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), agriculture and forestry departments, and local leaders, many of whom were convinced by the positive results of the sustainable practices. In Mulanje and Phalombe, 72 individuals (45 women and 27 men) were trained in sustainable farming practices such as conservation agriculture,	HS

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					agroforestry, and the use of Mbeya fertilizer. About 70% of those trained have adopted these sustainable practices.	
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Output 3.1.1. Communication strategy and outreach campaigns including use of media, workshops and meetings (targeting government officials, PA staff and affected communities)	2025-06-06	100%	100%	Two NGOs—Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi—continue to champion IAS awareness. So far, the following awareness and communication activities have been conducted: o 14 posters, 2 jingles, and 2 songs developed.o 800 posters distributed.o Jingles aired on 8 radio stations.o 4 panel discussions conductedo 1000 stickers developedo 1000 flyers developedo 6 banners developedo 730 calendars for the year 2024o 20 solar powered radios and 20 flash discso 1000-shirtso 18 IAS messages developed.o 7 campaigns held, reaching over 3,000 people.o The Mulanje Mountain Porters Race reached an estimated 6,000 people.o Journalists trained; a documentary on IAS aired on MBC TV.o Media Training & Tour (May-July 2024): 10 journalists (8 male, 2 female) trained. At least 16 articles were published across media platforms. Journalists visited community sites to witness IAS management practices.o Documentary Production (May-July2024): A documentary covering IAS threats and interventions in	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
					Nyika was produced and aired on national television.o Commemoration Event (July 2024): During the Biodiversity and Environment Day in Neno, the NISSAP, Communications Strategy, and Field Guide were launched by the Principal Secretary. A booth showcased awareness materials, jingles, and posters, and educated attendees on IAS.	
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Activity 3.3.1.1: Develop Communication strategy and undertake comprehensive local and targeted national awareness campaign	2024-10-20	100%	100%	The project developed and implemented a comprehensive communication strategy outlining principles, goals, objectives, and approaches to effectively disseminate IAS knowledge, advocate for IAS management, and mobilize communities. Key activities undertaken to implement this strategy include:• Production of 5 IAS documentaries aired on major TV channels such as MBC-TV, Times TV, Zodiak, and Luntha. • Creation and broadcast of IAS jingles on several radio programs. • Development of over 12 radio programs on IAS aired on stations including Mzati, MBC, and Times. • Media training sessions and organized tours focused on IAS at Nyika National Park. • Launch events for the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP), Communication Strategy, and Field Guide during International Biodiversity Day, alongside support for other biodiversity	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
					celebrations highlighting IAS activities. • Distribution of awareness materials including 600 IAS posters, 100 calendars, 500 T-shirts, and 100 car stickers. • Community rallies featuring football and netball tournaments involving 8 teams and attracting 5,000 participants, representing over 80% of the planned target of 7,000 people. Participants comprised approximately 70% youth of both sexes, 15% adult men, and 15% women across Mulanje and Phalombe. • Organization of biodiversity day commemorations at Nyika National Park with a focus on IAS.	
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Output 3.1.2.: National information sharing procedures including the development of a Guide on identification and management of invasive plant species in Malawi	2024-12-08	100%	100%	A Field Guide to the naturalized and invasive plants of Malawi was developed, covers over 100 species, and includes detailed species descriptions, complete with line drawings, color images and distribution maps, as well as information on impacts and on methods of control, all of which will significantly enhance the understanding of, and ability to manage, invasive plant species in Malawi. The Field Guide also provides information on the distributions of invasive alien plants in neighboring countries, specifically Zambia, which shares many transboundary conservation areas with	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
					Malawi. The Field Guide will also contribute significantly to increasing awareness and building capacity about the threat that these species pose to sustainable development.	
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Activity 3.1.2.1: Produce invasive alien plant Field Guide	2024-10-30	100%	100%	The field guide was finalised, printed distributed.	HS
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Output 3.1.3. Project M&E program, evidence of IAS monitoring capacity built and implemented in PA's and their agroecosystems	2024-12-31	100%	100%	A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan was developed and is currently being implemented as part of the Invasive Alien Species Management Project. The M&E framework supports tracking progress toward the project's three main components, ensuring effective and efficient implementation. It also defines roles and responsibilities for project staff and partners regarding M&E and outlines data management procedures. Key M&E activities conducted include: • METT scoring at baseline and mid-term • Biodiversity monitoring at experimental sites • Spatial mapping of IAS spread • Monitoring of experimental trials • Project expenditure audits • Preparation of progress reports • Tree cover assessments • Soil assessments following lime application	S
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Output Activity 3.1.3.1: Establish and implement Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	2024-12-31	100%	100%	A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan was developed and is currently being implemented as part	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
adoption					of the Invasive Alien Species Management Project. The M&E framework supports tracking progress toward the project's three main components, ensuring effective and efficient implementation. It also defines roles and responsibilities for project staff and partners regarding M&E and outlines data management procedures. Key M&E activities conducted include: • METT scoring at baseline and mid-term • Biodiversity monitoring at experimental sites • Spatial mapping of IAS spread • Monitoring of experimental trials • Project expenditure audits • Preparation of progress reports • Tree cover assessments • Soil assessments following lime application	
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Activity 3.1.3.2.: Develop M&E plan, indicators and baseline	2024-12-10	100%	100%	The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan together with the indicators was developed and is actively guiding project implementation. Likewise, the baseline information was collected and a report produced. Quarterly reports are prepared using the M&E Plan, supported by an indicator tracking table and data collection tools included as annexes. A Mid-Term Review was conducted, which included METT scoring for the two protected areas. Baseline studies carried out include: • Awareness levels in Mulanje and Nyika • Impact of IAS on agricultural production in	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
					target areas• Capacity and knowledge on IAS among protected area staff• Tree cover assessment in adjoining agro-ecosystems• Biodiversity surveys at experimental sites• Soil assessments	
3 Component 3: Knowledge management and broader adoption	Activity 3.1.3.3: Annual Auditing	2025-12-31	95%	100%	Audit from 2018 to 2023 was conducted. Finalising with audit of 2024 to 2025	HS

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	Δ	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 invasive pines from riparian zones and other vulnerable areas in key water catchments like Mulanje and Nyika to

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										prevent their spread and secure water supply for downstream users. Co-financing from the Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Project, Wells of Zoe, and Blantyre Water Board has supported these activities, enabling increased labor involvement at both sites.
Insufficient funding and Government support to continue implementation of the project activities		L	M	M	L	L	L	L	=	Initially, the lack of committed financing for IAS management was seen as a potential risk to all three project components. However, with the co-management arrangement between Nyika National Park and Peace Parks Foundation, there is growing interest in funding the implementation of the IAS management plan. Similarly, Blantyre Water Board has committed to supporting restoration efforts at Chambe Basin on Mulanje Mountain. Moreover, IAS issues have been mainstreamed into the Protected Area management plans, ensuring that IAS activities are budgeted alongside other priority interventions. The establishment of an IAS Coordination Unit at MEPA will further help sustain the

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										implementation of the National IAS Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) and secure IAS-related activities within the national budget
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	L	=	
		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.

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:	

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
1	Amendment & Extension	2024-05-17	2024-05-20	2026-12-31	Extend the duration of the agreement at no additional cost to UNEP for 31 months from 01 June 2024 to 31 December 2026 in order to achieve the objectives of the project. The legal instrument remains in force until 31 December 2026 to allow receipt of all terminal reporting.” Covid resulted in delays in implementation

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	-10.66	33.63			The project implemented activities Nyika National Park of 320,000 hectares Activities included development and

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
					implementation of management plans removal of IAS, support to staff and rangers, etc
Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve	15.95	35.59			The project implemented activities in Mulanje Fores Reserve covering 65,000 ha Activities included development and implementation of management plans removal of IAS, support to staff and rangers, etc

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

see the attached files of maps

-10.666664 33.6333308 15.9551° S, 35.5929° E

[Annex any linked geospatial file]