



UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	9539	SMA IPMR ID	37252
Project Short Title	Invasive Alien Species	Grant ID	S1-32GFL-000618/ PP1-33GFL-001477
		Umoja WBS	GFL-11207-14C0003-SB-010123
Project Title	Enhancing sustainability of protected area systems in Malawi and stabilizing agro-production in adjoining areas through improved IAS Management		
Project Type	▼ Medium Sized Project (MSP)	Duration months	Planned 60 months
Parent Programme if child project			Age 63 Months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Biodiversity	Completion Date	Planned -original PCA 31-May-23
Project Scope	▼ National		Revised - Current PCA 31-May-24
Region	▼ Africa	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	15-Mar-18
Countries	Malawi	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	
GEF financing amount	US\$ 1, 502, 511	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	
Co-financing amount	US\$ 5, 164, 147	Date of First Disbursement	10-Jul-18
		Date of Inception Workshop, if available	5-Aug-18
Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 1,317,269	Midterm undertaken?	▼ Yes
Total expenditure as of 30 June	USD 1,104,328	Actual Mid-term Date, if taken	1-Jun-22
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	31-Dec-23
		Expected Financial Closure Date	31-May-24

1.2 EA: 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 Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project

Ecosystems Division, UN
Environment, Kenya

Executing Agency(ies)

Environmental Affairs Department

Name of co-implementing Agency

None

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)

TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)

Ersin E.

EA: Manager/Representative

Tawonga Mbale-Luka

TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)

Jane Nimpamy

EA: Project Manager

Mphatso Martha Kalemba

TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer

George Saddimbah

EA: Finance Manager

Patse Banda Chibweya

TM: UNEP Support/Assistant

Ruth Igamba

EA: Communications lead, if relevant

N/A

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)

Ecosystems Division
<p>Expected Accomplishment (a) The health and productivity of marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sectoral and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels</p> <p>Indicator: (iii) The number of countries and groups of countries that improve their cross-sectoral and transboundary collaboration frameworks for marine and terrestrial ecosystem management with the assistance of UNEP</p> <p>Expected Accomplishment (a) The health and productivity of marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sectoral and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels</p> <p>Indicator: (iii) The number of countries and groups of countries that improve their cross-sectoral and transboundary collaboration frameworks for marine and terrestrial ecosystem management with the assistance of UNEP</p>

TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)

Healthy and Productive Ecosystems

TM: PoW Indicator(s)

EA: 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)

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

SDG 15: Life on Land (15.8, 15.1.1, 15.1.2, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.4.1, 15.4.2, 15.5.1, 15.8.1 and 15.9.1)

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation (6.5.1 and 6.6.1)

2.2. GEF Core or Sub Indicators

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected value			Materialised to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
✓ 1.2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	64	67	67	70
✓ 1.2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	66	69	69	72
✓ 3.1: Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration		100	55.7	115.7
✓ 3.2: Area of forest and forest land under restoration		50	13	1622.84
✓ 3.3: Area of natural grass and woodlands restored		100	223.39	346.49
✓ 11.2: Female		40%	30%	30%

Implementation Status

2023

4th PIR

FY 2023

FY 2022

FY 2021

FY 2020

FY 2019

FY 2018

FY 2017

FY 2016

FY 2015

PIR #

4th PIR

3rd PIR

2nd PIR

1st PIR

Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)

S

S

S

MS

Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)

S

S

S

MS

Risk rating (section 4.2)

S

M

M

M

2.3 Implementation status & Risk

Rating towards outputs:

The rating for the 2023 year is satisfactory because the project has managed to finalise most of the project outputs. **On Output 1: National framework for the cross-sectoral management of IAS operational and supporting long-term development planning**, the project has managed to set up the National IAS coordination mechanism and Coordination Unit has been outlined in Malawi's NISSAP and EDRR Procedures. The Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) has a structure that responds to the provisions of the Environmental Management Act on IAS and has incorporated issues in the NISSAP in its draft strategic plan. Further, MEPA has established positions in the Biodiversity Unit that will be in charge of National Coordination for IAS in the country. Most of the Procedures for IAS that were under development have been finalised. The Early Detection and Rapid Response procedures have been finalised, Pathway Risk Analysis studies have been concluded, and IAS Risk Analysis procedures are under development.

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

With regard to Output 3: Two revised Protected Area Management Plans including strategies and budgets for IAS prevention and Control has also being partially achieved. Mulanje mountain Forest Reserve was able to integrate IAS in its Integrated Management Plan when it was being developed, whilst Nyika National Park has just produced a zero draft of the IAS management Plan expected to be completed by April 2024. In term of Output 4. Tested management plans for four IAS, including IAS control and habitat restoration in two PA's, By June 2020 species targeted for management trials and methodologies for testing the best management methods for IAS including the sites for trials had been agreed. IAS trials were concluded by December 2023 in most sites apart from bracken fern which was repeated and concluded by April 2023. Activities to clear and manage IAS have directly been undertaken in a total of 1,622.84 ha and 346.49 of grassland area in the two PAs. At Mid-term Mulanje had METT scores of 70 and Nyika had METT scores of 72.

On Output 5: Capacity of 80 PA staff improved and applied in the identification and management of IAS, although trainings were conducted at Malawi college of forestry for the targeted 80 staff under the project, trainings offered by the project team have continued based on demand from other protected areas. In July 2023, the project team conducted IAS training at Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, a privately managed protected area, targeting over 50 PA staff and is working on conducting another training under the Shire Valley Transformation project. In depth training targeting over 30 PA staff who are directly involved in project activities continuously underway in all on the ground activities.

With regards to progress on Output 6: Biocontrol Working Group established and operational leading to the introduction of three host specific and damaging biocontrol agents; Target species proposed and potential targets and agents were identified for the control of Mimosa diplotricha, Opuntia stricta, and Pistia stratiotes and import permits have been issued. Risk assessments were done and approved. Two of the three agents were successfully shipped into Malawi in April 2023 and have been released in the Northern, Central and Southern Regions. One of the agents for Mimosa diplotricha was unfortunately not able to arrive from Australia due to logistical challenges. The project will seek to source new ways of getting the agent into Malawi.

EA: Summary of status
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

2.4 Co-finance

EA: Planned Co-finance

US\$ 5,164,147

EA: Actual to date:

US\$ 5,672,189

EA: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.

In-Kind co-financing continues to being provided by many of the institutions that are taking a leading role in implementation of the project activities. Other institutions like Blantyre Water Board which is supporting restoration activities in Mulanje Mountain and Peace Parks Foundation which is supporting IAS clearing activities in Nyika National Park have also continued to provide monetary co-financing for the project. In addition, Malawi Environment Protection Authority has included in its annual budget money that is supporting some of the activities of the project as well as towards implementation of the NISSAP. The institutions have provided Personnel at different levels of expertise, provided office space including maintenance costs, vehicle hire and meeting facilities, utilities, stationery and printing and communication and internet costs for the support of project activities also continue to add on to the co-financing which is higher than expected. There has been additional co-financing from communication channels who have provided co-financing for airing of IAS messages produced under the project, IAS riding on existing programs to build capacity programs and raise awareness but also minor some of its activities like biological control agents performance. With all of this supports as at June 2023 the total co-financing received has increased to US\$5672,189 from 3,815,909 which has exceeded what was planned for at inception.

EA: Date of project steering committee meeting

17-Mar-23

2.5. Stakeholder

EA: Stakeholder engagement
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The project engages stakeholders through its multistakeholder implementation modality, through its steering, technical and local committees and through workshops, meetings, trainings and awareness activities. The major stakeholders including the following

Government
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
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
MEPA: supporting regulatory aspects of the project
NGO's and Private sector
Partners like MMCT, WESM and CARD were involved in implementing some of the activities under the project.
CABI: Technical support and Capacity building
Lilongwe Wildlife Trust: Coordinating awareness activities at National Level and in Rumphi
WESM: Coordinating awareness activities in Mulanje and Phalombe
CARD: Coordinating Community activities in Mulanje and Phalombe
Total Land Care: Coordinating community activities in Rumphi
Blantyre Water Board: Supporting restoration efforts of the project
Peace Parks Foundation: Supporting clearing of IAS
Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust: Technical and financial support and information and platform to share project results and outputs

Surrounding communities
Partners involved were communities; concerned citizens were engaged in the following activities;

- i. Clearing of the invasive pines
- ii. Transporting seedlings up the mountain
- iii. Tree planting and management

Local authorities:
Village headmen (Lula, Ntchenatchena and those surrounding Mulanje mountain), Phalombe ward councilor, lula councilor and Mulanje ward councilor.

Schools:
Phalombe catholic school, Lura community school and Pasani Primary school in Mulanje, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mzuzu University (Provided Students who undertook costs benefit analysis studies under the project)

Local government stakeholders:
Mulanje department of Information, Mulanje district council, Phalombe department of information, Phalombe department of agriculture, phalombe department of sports, Rumphi Department of Agriculture, Rumphi Department of Forestry, Rumphi Department of Information,

Miscellaneous:
Nyika Vwaza Association, Malawi News Agency, Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust, Zodiak Broadcasting Station and Churches
Action in Relief and Development

TM: Does the project have a gender action plan?



No

2.6. Gender

EA: Gender mainstreaming
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Although the project does not have a gender action plan, its data collection tools enable the project team to collect sex disaggregated data to ensure that information on the participation of men and women is recorded and that equal participation is encouraged in all project activities. Although currently at PA level, the recruitment of female PA staff lower than that of males due to the nature of the job, the project encouraged the few available women to participate in the PA trainings that are being delivered under the project. However, with regards to community activities, the project has seen more women participation, which is higher than that of men. With regards for community activities in agro-ecosystems adjoin protected areas for Rumphu the overall participation by gender was 23 men and 27 women. This was despite that other women participating came from male headed households (42 MHH and 8 FHH). In Mulanje on the other hand out of the 70 participants, 45 were women. In addition, at least 40% women have participated in all awareness raising activities. In addition to this, the Project Director, the Project Coordinator and the Chair of the Project Steering Committee are all women, and the project has brought on board an Environmental, Social and Gender mainstreaming expert in the project technical team to assist in integrating gender in all project activities. Although most of the staff in the two protected areas are men Most of the project excuting partners are trying their best to implement their own institutional Policies on ensuring inclusiveness. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife promotes the policy of inclusiveness in the implementation of its activities. As a park it ensured that out of the communities recruited for clearing of IAS, 37% were women. In Mulanje as well 10% of the women involved in clearing of IAS were women.

2.7. ESSM

TM: Was the project classified as moderate/high risk at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?

▼

TM: If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?

TM: Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?

▼

No

TM: If yes, please describe the new risks, or changes

TM & EA: Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?

▼

Yes

TM & EA: If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken.

In terms of grievances, the following were received:

- i. One of the local leader questioned selection criteria used for farmers involved in sustainable farming practices and complained that few members were selected which will affect project visibility. The NGO in charge of communities in response has linked the farmers involved to various VNRMC's were they can pass the knowledge to other farmers. The projects target was 50 farmers and the focus was on those whose field are adjoining to the protected areas and somehow invaded with IAS.
- ii. Another complaint was related to lack of incentives. Most of the farmers' complained that the project does incorporate economic empowerment activities. In response, CARD which is one of the NGO's has co-financed the project by supporting economic empowerment activities to the farmers.

2.8. KM/Learning

EA: Environmental and social safeguards management
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The project developed an Environment and Social Management Plan. Casual laborers are briefed on occupational health and safety issues when they start undertaking activities in the protected areas. It was also ensured that the casual laborers were provided with safety aid kits, protective wear to the ones handling chainsaws and clearing larger diameter trees. So far the project reported one minor injury where a casual laborer fell into a ditch. He was rushed to the nearby hospital and treated as an outpatient. The person resumed work three days after the injury. The communities are encouraged to report any injuries and potential sources of injuries to their supervisors. The supervisors are also encouraged to report to either the District Project Technical Team members whenever they face challenges beyond their control. The MTR review recommended development of GR committees for those recruited to work. The project is properly aligned with the Local Governments Grievance Redress Mechanism. Currently under the National Social Support Program in Malawi each District has a Grievance Redress Committee at the District Level and Traditional Area level. The IAS project was properly introduced at District and Traditional area level and its interventions are monitored by Local Grievance Redress Structure which are in place. The MTR also recommend procurement of HIV and AIDS awareness materials. The project has identified some projects that deal with this issues to support its work on this.

EA: Knowledge activities and products
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The project has produced the following Knowledge products so far:

- i. Invasive alien Species field guide
- ii. National Invasive Alien Species Startegy and Action Plan
- iii. IAS Early detection and Rapid Response Procedures
- iv. Several IAS Posters
- v. Several IAS documentaries
- vi. Several IAS radio Programs
- vii. IAS messeges
- vii> Several IAS NewsPaper articles

<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>

Please attach a copy of any products

EA: Main learning during the period

2.9. Storie

EA: Stories to be shared
(section to be shared with communication division/
GEF communication)

Stories can be found in the articles or can communicate to the GEF communication directly to share the case studies. However, we will send one case study.

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives)

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)	EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	TM: 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		EA to fill	EA to fill	EA to fill	EA to fill	EA to fill	
Outcome 1							
Strengthened national IAS policy and improved national capacity and coordination among different Government agencies and the private	1. Level of implementation of the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP), especially in and around PAs	Malawi does not have a NISSAP with IAS management interventions based on national policy and strategic guidance	• NISSAP content in final draft based on broad national partnership and consultations – sections on PA management included	NISSAP finalized; and some of its strategies started, funded or integrated in sector policies, management plans or field programs – specifically in support of national PA system	100%	NISSAP was finalised and some of its strategies are already under implementation through the Malawi Environment Protection Authority, Other projects like the Shire Valley Transformation Phase 2 and Drylands project among others. The NISSAP has also been integrated into the revised EIA guidelines, Watershed projects among others.	HS
	2. 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	NISSAP implementation enabled and monitored through a National Designated Agency or Cross-sectoral coordination mechanism – especially on co-management of IAS in and around PA's	100%	Through the project, A project steering committee (PSC), technical committees were set up and operational at National and Local level. MEPA included IAS in its mandate and undertaking IAS issues. There is a dedicated division in MEPA to be undertaking biodiversity activities and Coordinating IAS activities and officers assigned for IAS in the Draft Functional Review. Further MEPA's draft strategic plan contains NISSAP strategies to be implemented and funded through MEPA. At site level there is lobbying for focal points. Inclusion in Management plans is the first stage so far for Mulanje. Further, the NISSAP and the EDRR procedures have provided a clear institutional arrangement that will strengthen further coordination.	HS
	3. High risk pathways and most damaging species, incorporated in at least one modified or new national policy and/or PA Management Plans and operations	• No information on high-risk pathways or a prioritized list of IAS threatening PAs	• High risk pathways for invasive alien plants identified and communicated by way of workshops/meetings involving PA staff and communities. • NISSAP drafting process incorporating pathway information	• Identified pathways for high-risk species included in PA Management Plans – supported by specific resources, especially for targeted PAs NISSAP based on understanding and analysis of pathway risks	95%	The High Risk Pathways have been identified and report has been presented to stakeholders and TA and accepted with minor comments. The NISSAP also incorporates Pathway information and PA staff were involved in all the processes to enhance adoption at PA level. The Pathway analysis was done at National and PA level.	S

sector to respond to new invasive species problems throughout Malawi, with focus on protected areas and their adjoining agro-ecosystems	4. IAS Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) procedures and vigilance systems established for two PAs (NNP and MMFR) application strengthened at national level through expansion of the agriculture, fisheries and forestry quarantine procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National PRA mainly focussed on crop pests with insufficient analysis of introduced plants, especially agro-forestry species. No PRA at PA level No surveillance or rapid response system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National PRA process reviewed and recommendations for strengthening in the fisheries, agriculture and fisheries sectors made PRAs developed for 2 targeted PAs Surveillance and rapid response system developed for 2 PAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRA conducted for at least 50% of legally imported plant species and five agro-forestry species already present in Malawi Inclusive PRA developed and adopted at PA level and at least 10 exotic species present in agro-ecosystems evaluated for risk to targeted PAs Surveillance and rapid response systems (i) part of the new PA Management Plans, and (ii) trialled in and around (buffer zones) the 2 PAs for invasive and/or potentially invasive species. 	50%	PRA procedures are under review and stakeholder consultations were carried out to determine what RA procedures exist in different institutions. It was agreed that there is need to develop IAS specific RA procedures since IAS does not fall within the mandate of some of the sectors. Once the RA procedures have been finalised they will be used to test 10 species and will be customised to PA level.	S
	5. Results of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of selected priority IAS, including 'conflict' species present in agro-ecosystems adjoining PAs, leading to positive change, allocations, safeguards or policy, to reduce or prevent promotion and further spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 > 3 key national agencies; (ii) incorporated in NISSAP action plan; (iii) incorporated in at least 2 PA management plans. 	80%	Three Masters Students from LUANAR and Mzuzu University (2 males, 1 female) were recruited to undertake studies on cost benefit analysis of IAS. Two of the students already submitted their final thesis reports, one student is yet to finalise. The results of the two students were communicated to the project team and will be used in the development of management plans and communication messages which is underway.	S
	6. Presence and distribution of invasive and potentially invasive plants detailed for five NP's (including NNP), four Wildlife Reserves, and MMFR, to enable risk analysis and control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information available of all invasive and potentially invasive plants in these selected PAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge on distribution of invasive and potentially invasive plants in these PAs in Malawi leading to initial steps towards a national inventory of all IAS incursions in PAs using the Guide developed under Component 3. 	100%	The National Invasive Species Inventory report and Field Guide were developed completed and adopted. The field guide is being used in its electronic form for trainings, identification of species, communication and other IAS management activities.	HS
Outcome 2 Reduced IAS impacts in two PAs (Mulanje FR and Nyika NP) resulting in enhanced conservation outcomes for endangered or threatened species	1. PA management effectiveness enhanced on IAS prevention and management in two PAs (strategies, budgets, control and restoration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	90%	METT score for Mulanje at mid terms was 70 whilst that for Nyika was 72 exceeding the targets that were set at project inception. There has been a lot of support in financing IAS in the two protected areas including support from Blantyre Water Board in Mulanje Mountain and support from Peace Parks Foundation in Nyika National Park for control of IAS and restoration of the managed areas. Another METT scoring exercise has been scheduled for May 2023 to inform the end term assessments.	S

	2. Enhanced IAS management planning and capacity in pilot PAs leading to on-the-ground implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 unguis-cati) • Ecosystem management plans amended/developed and endorsed by PA management and community leaders living adjacent to PAs 	Control practices tested and efficacy determined for each of four target species • Lessons on IAS management collated and disseminated to PA managers, communities and other stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF TT scores up with 50% on IAS • Invaded areas (150 ha total) in two protected areas cleared and restored 	100%	346.49 ha of grassland has been under clearing of IAS with a lot of follow up needed to manage regrowth whilst 1662.84 of forest area including river rine areas has been under clearing of IAS. The clearing has mostly applied mechanical methods that were identified to be effective in the trials for Pine whilst black wattle and Rubus ellipticus have combine both mechanical and chemical methods. over 100 community members has been recruited during the clearing and PA managers has provided supervisory and capacity building roles.	HS	
	3. Changes in skills of protected area staff in IAS identification and management applied to their conservation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline capacity/ knowledge levels determined at project inception • PA staff have little knowledge in IAS identification and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured increase in knowledge of >50 PA staff on IAS identification (with at least 25% women) 	Increase in knowledge of 80 PA staff on IAS identification (with at least 25% women) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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%	The project has managed to hold a number of trainings and the trainings cover all the topics that have been included in the Training module plus information that has been provided in the IAS Field Guide. The first training targeted 76 PA staff and 4 management staff were trained in IAS (25% of the PA staff were women). Some of these staff are engaged in the active management of IAS in the PA's and tasked with several roles.	HS	
	4. Biocontrol programs supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	80%	3 Target species proposed and potential targets and agents were identified for the control of Mimosa diplotricha, Opuntia stricta, and Pistia stratiotes and import permits were issued. For all the agents Risk assessments were done and approved. During the release of the agents, officers from Department of Agriculture research and environmental affairs department were engaged and the biological control issues were presented at a project technical committee to provide more information and create an understanding of the biological control as an option for IAS Management.	S	
Outcome 3	Reduced IAS impacts in adjoining agro-ecosystems of Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP contributing to improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation	1.Collaboration between PA managers and adjoining communities improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little to no collaboration/cooperation between PA staff and communities on IAS management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA and community representatives identified and participatory meetings being held • Agreement on participatory sustainable farming and acknowledgement w/r to non-monetary benefits of IAS control • Agreed IAS action plans and actors agreed (PY 1), and in process of incorporation in the PA management plans (PY 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	80%	The project established local coordination units which spearhead trainings, awareness meetings, recruitment of personnel to work in clearing of IAS in protected areas among others. Through the support of the project quarterly meetings have been held and project specific meetings have been held on certain project outpus including sustainable farming practice issues. Since the management plans are still under development, its is expected that they will include issues affecting agro-ecosystems in relation to IAS	S

	2. Knowledge on IAS management and adoption of sustainable farming practices for weed/IAS management by farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 cover cropping to enhance crop yields and reduce weed impacts and herbicide-use • Sustainable crop production practices adopted by 15 households, incorporating IAS prevention and control • 70 farmers trained in FMNR, Conservation Agriculture and other sustainable land-use practices • Measured increase in knowledge of >50 community members on IAS identification and sustainable farming practices (with at least 25% women) • Croplands identified for the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 control • 100 farmers trained in IAS identification sustainable land-use practices such as Conservation Agriculture and FMNR 	100%	In farmlands, about 115.7 hectares is under sustainable farming practices to manage IAS AND 55.7 Hectres has been cleared of IAS. The number of households adopting sustainable practices has exceeded the target of 100 with over 70 from Mulanje of which 45 are women.	HS
Outcome 4							
Lessons learnt, documented and disseminated and awareness programs established to facilitate replication and broader adoption in the Malawi PA system	1. PA staff and adjacent communities' awareness increased through project communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA staff have limited knowledge beyond awareness of the major invasive species • Baseline IAS awareness levels of PA staff and communities living adjacent to Mount Mulanje FR and Nyika NP set at Inception (PY1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAS Communication Strategy developed for use at a local level- focussed on PA and related actors and sectors (end PY1) • Communities reached with communications (including gender-sensitive topics such as weeding, wood harvesting) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys show increased average awareness 50% over baseline • PA staff and communities show increased knowledge and skills of prioritized IAS and IAS management mechanisms, including biocontrol 	90%	Over 3,000 community members have been reached with IAS messages through extension services, workshops awareness meetings and more others through radio and TV. The general public reached through radio, TV, Newspapers, commemoration of biodiversity and environment days, press briefing by ministers and higher officials among others. A post awareness survey is expected at the end of the project to determine whether the project has brought an increase in awareness levels or not.	S
	IAS control pilots reducing the spread and impact of IAS to (i) PA target area, and (ii) the agro-ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline biodiversity levels will be quantified at project inception • METT scores of 61 for Mount Mulanje FR and 63 for Nyika NP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&E Plan developed including budget, survey periods and reporting cycles • Mid-term evaluation and report presented to NTR team • Biodiversity and awareness levels sustained or improved from baseline • METT score of 64 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 66 for Nyika NP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminal evaluation completed (within 3 months of project completion) • M&E Impact Report available to TE • IAS control results in increased levels of biodiversity and capacity/awareness above baseline of 20 and 50% respectively • METT score of 67 for Mulanje Mountain FR and 69 for Nyika NP 	80%	The baseline level of IAS capacity and awarness has increased. A post capacity building evaluation survey indicatd that . The mid Terms evaluation was conducted and it provided information on the impact of the project which will also be important to assess during terminal evaluation. METT scores have been undertaken where Mulanje scored 70 and Nyika had a score of 72.	S

For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

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

Output	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	TM: Progress rating
Under Comp 1					
Output 1: Output 1: National framework for the cross-sectoral management of IAS operational and supporting long-term development planning		copy from previous			
Activity 1: Establish a national IAS Coordination Unit	Sep-18	95%	100%	The National IAS coordination mechanism and Coordination Unit has been outlined in Malawi's NISSAP and in the Procedures for Early Detection and Rapid Response. The Malawi Environment Protection Authority has a structure that responds to the provisions of the Environmental Management Act on IAS and has incorporated issues that are in NISSAP in its draft strategic plan. At present, MEPA is recruiting its secretariate and has included a position for personnel to be responsible for coordination of IAS issues at National Level .	HS
Activity 2: Establish a National Steering Committee (NSC)	Sep-18	100%	100%	The NSC was established by May 2019 based on the collaborative institutional arrangements stipulated in the project document.	HS
Activity 3: Develop National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan	May-19	100%	100%	Final NISSAP adopted and under implementation	HS
Activity 4: Identify high risk pathways, especially those for PA's	Oct-23	50%	95%	The High Risk Pathways have been identified and report has been presented to stakeholders and TA and accepted with minor comments	S
Activity 5: Strengthen National IAS Risk Analysis procedures and develop RA systems for PA's	Jan-24	4%	50%	Stakeholder consultative meeting was conducted to determine existing Risk Analysis procedures in different sectors. It was agreed that there needs to be separate procedures for RA on IAS. Draft RA procedures have been developed and will be presented to stakeholders for comments and further adoption.	S
Activity 6: Early detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) systems established	Sep-23	50%	98%	EDRR procedures have been developed, with clear budgets, institutional arrangements and have been adopted at a stakeholders meeting. They will be disseminated and launched.	HS
Under Comp 2					
Output 2: Evidence base established and communicated for IAS prevention and management in and around PA's					
Activity 8: Produce a national inventory on presence and distribution of priority invasive plants in National Parks and four Wildlife Reserves	Jun-19	100%	100%	Inventory was developed and list of species circulated and was endorsed by stakeholders. It is now under dissemination	HS
Activity 9: Undertake cost-benefit analysis of three "Conflict" species and produce reports	Dec-23	70%	80%	Three Masters students were engaged to undertake studies on the costs and benefit of three IAS, including 'conflict' species, present in agro-ecosystems adjoining PA's . 2 students have concluded their research and have defended their thesis successfully. One of the students has struggled to finalise on time due to personal challenges but is still working on his thesis.	S
Under Comp 3					
Output 3: Two revised Protected Area Management Plans including strategies and budgets for IAS prevention and control					
Activity 10: Two revised PA Management Plans including strategies and budgets for IAS prevention and control	Mar-24	70%	75%	Mulanje Mountain Management Plan revised and adopted and launched. The TA for the project is developing Nyika National Park IAS Management Plan which is being informed by the outcomes of processes in Component 1. A zero draft has been produced.	S
Output 4. Tested management plans for four IAS, including IAS control and habitat restoration in two PA's					

Output 9: Communication strategy and outreach campaigns including use of media, workshops and meetings targeting government officials, PA staff and affected communities					
Activity 21: Develop Communication strategy and undertake comprehensive local and targeted national awareness campaign	Apr-24	60%	80%	The project engaged two local NGO's to champion implementation of the communication strategy which was developed in 2020 and enhance awareness activities in the Pilot sites and National Wide. Over the course . In the last reporting period 14 posters, 2 jingles and 2 songs developed 800 posters distributed, 2 jingles advertised on 8 radio stations on IAS. Further 18 IAS messages were developed and a 7 awareness campaigns were held reachin over 3000 people in the areas where the campaigns were held.	S
Output 10: National information sharing procedures including the development of a Guide on identification and management of invasive plant species in Malawi					
Activity 22: Produce invasive alien plant Field Guide	Dec-23	95%	95%	This was finalised some time back but printing is yet to be done , however, the soft copy is being utilised in trainings and awareness creation as well as species identification and management.	S
Output 11: Establish and implement Monitoring and Evaluation Plan					
Activity 23: Develop M&E plan, indicators and baseline	May-24	100%	100%	M&E Plan was developed and under implementation and is being used for data collection and reporting on the project progress	HS
Under Comp 5					

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.

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	Explain in table B
Executing Entity	No
Executing Entity Category	No
Minor project objective change	No
Safeguards	No
Risk analysis	No
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	No
Co-financing	No
Location of project activity	No
Other	No

Minor amendments

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP
Original Legal Instrument		15-May-18
Amendment 1	Revision	
Extension 1	Extension	

Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
15-May-18	31-May-24	

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 (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79>) or GeoNames(<http://www.geonames.org/>) 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(<https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx>)

Location Name <small>Required field</small>	Latitude <small>Required field</small>	Longitude <small>Required field</small>	Geo Name ID <small>Required field if the location is not an exact site</small>	Location Description <small>Optional text field</small>	Activity Description <small>Optional text field</small>
Nyika National Park	-.10° 39' 59.99" S	33° 37' 59.99" E			
Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve	-.15° 55' 0.12" S	35° 34' 9.84" E			

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

