

Building climate change resilience in the fisheries sector in Malawi

GCP /MLW/053/LDF and GEF ID 5328

**MANAGEMENT RESPONSE
TO
MID TERM REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Malawi, 2022**

Response by recommendation

In this section, Management should address each recommendation, discussing them in the order presented in the executive summary of the MTR report. This should be done in the format of the Management Response matrix below and include:

- a. The recommendation number and text copied from the MTR report;
- b. Indication of whether the recommendation is accepted fully, partially, or rejected;
- c. Description of the actions to be taken, with comments as required on the conditions to be met during implementation, or on reasons leading to a partial acceptance or rejection of a recommendation;
- d. The responsible party or FAO unit for implementing the action/s;
- e. The time-frame for implementation and/or an implementation schedule, if required;
- f. Indication if further funding from FAO or a resource partner is required for implementing the recommendation.

Management response matrix¹

Management response to the MTR recommendations – “Building climate change resilience in the fisheries sector in Malawi”					14-01-2022
Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted, Partially Accepted or Rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Time frame (e)	Further funding required (Y or N) (f)
A. Strategic Relevance					
Recommendation A1: Given the prevalent budget and schedule constraints, the Project should strengthen partnerships with institutions or projects that have similar objectives as those of FiRM such as REFRESH, PROSPER, SFAD-WDP, M-CLIMES and explore co-financing arrangements (leveraged co-funding) e.g. with REFRESH. Co-financing should particularly aim at addressing the financing gaps relevant to but not adequately addressed through current programming – such as strengthening value chains for the fishery and sustainable land-based income-generating activities.	Accepted	<p>While cooperation with listed entities is established, further strengthening of partnerships can and will be pursued.</p> <p>A particular opportunity to strengthen partnerships with projects and institutions will emerge from FiRMs support to the Save the Chambo Campaign. The campaign will be coordinated by Department of Fisheries and will potentially engage all actors in the sector.</p> <p>Regular coordination meetings between fisheries sector projects and other actors will provide opportunity for DOF to facilitate cooperation that supports DOFs Policies and Strategies. This may include the preparation of joint work plans and/or MOUs</p>	FiRM PMU with support to Department of Fisheries- FAO Malawi to facilitate high-level engagements	Ongoing. Progress report to be submitted to the Project Steering Committee on a bi-annual basis.	N

¹ Each column is cross-referenced to the bullet letters above.

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B. Effectiveness					
Recommendation B1: The Project management should request for a no-cost extension to deliver the remaining outputs and outcomes. Relatedly, there is need for budget re-allocation to sustain the salaries of the PMU. A further periodization [interpreted as: “prioritization”] is required to implement high impact activities given this financial constraint	Accepted	<p>The no-cost extension (NCE) request was submitted in December 2021 and subsequently approved. The new NTE approved by the donor is 31st December 2023, which includes a 6-month closure period.</p> <p>Prioritizations were addressed in the NCE request and may be further optimized early in the NCE.</p> <p>The NCE has been accompanied with a budget revision that has been prepared in tune with the recommendations of the MTR and the operational needs of the project up to December 2023.</p>	FiRM PMU and FAO Malawi	<p>Completed by January 2022.</p> <p>Confirmation of the project extension approval to be communicated formally by FAO to members of the PSC by end of January 2022.</p>	N
Recommendation B2: Expedite execution of the remaining EAFM activities to demonstrate and test effectiveness of the EAFM approach before project closure (e.g. sanctuaries, Kulungwi watershed management, VMS, etc.)	Accepted	<p>EAFM activities will remain a priority area during the NCE.</p> <p>Specific work plans will be drawn to ensure progress is attained in regard of the strategic interventions highlighted by the MTR and specific reports will be submitted to the attention of the PSC regularly (quarterly).</p>	FiRM PMU, DoF	Ongoing	N

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C. Efficiency					
<p>Recommendation C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite processing and execution of LoAs for activities such as ‘Save the Chambo Campaign’ (under DoF) • Execute the data methodology/collection activity by Monkey Bay Research under DoF Headquarters LoA 	Accepted	<p>Completion and signing of LoAs will be prioritized within the first quarter of 2022.</p> <p>FAO will engage the Department of Fisheries to establish a partnership agreement through a Letter of Agreement (LoA) to support the implementation of project activities related with the data collection around fisheries within the project implementation areas. Likewise, support for the implementation of the “Save Chambo” National campaign will be addressed through a LoA.</p>	FiRM DoF and FAO Malawi	By March 2022	N
<p>Recommendation C2: Expedite physical (in-person) training sessions given that the rate and risk of infection to Covid-19 have come down sufficiently and will presumably continue to do so as more people get vaccinated.</p>	Partially Accepted	<p>The project activities will be informed by the COVID-19 situation prevailing during the implementation period, ensuring duty of care and safeguarding health of communities and technical staff involved.</p> <p>In-person training will be first option whenever the Government of Malawi (GoM) rules and regulations permit. The situation will be monitored closely by the</p>	FiRM PMU and FAO Malawi	Ongoing	N

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		project and in line with GoM and FAO Business Continuity Plan.			
D. Sustainability and catalysis/replication					
Recommendation D1: Prepare a practically implementable sustainability plan inclusive of legislation and financing mechanisms of VMS	Partially Accepted	<p>Establishing and enforcing effective legislation and sustainable financing mechanisms for VMS is beyond the mandate and reach of the project.</p> <p>The project will support the DOF/DFO by providing advisories and operational assistance to the extent that the remaining budget permits. Updates to the PSC will be provided by the PMU in a quarterly basis.</p>	FiRM PMU and DoF	Ongoing	N

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E. Factors affecting performance					
Recommendation E1: FAO should look into the use of LoA for implementation of activities. If this is not possible, then FAO should review the processing and modalities for use of OAs and make the system faster and more efficient.	Accepted	<p>The project will sign additional LoAs to reduce bottlenecks caused by the use of Operational Advances. This will be finalized by June 2022.</p> <p>The project envisages to roll-out LoAs with the following entities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With Mangochi District Council: To support Integrated Catchment Management; 2. With the Malawi College of Fisheries: to support the implementation of EAFm at Lake Malombe; 3. With the Monkey Bay Fisheries Research Station: to improve fisheries monitoring activities; 4. Department of Fisheries: to coordinate the Save the Chambo Campaign. <p>FAO Malawi is also reviewing alternative modalities (Cash in Transit, Mobile payments) to facilitate provision of funds for specific activities on the ground and other implementation arrangements that suit the project requirements.</p> <p>Progress updates will be shared with the PSC quarterly in this particular regard.</p>	FiRM PMU, FAO Malawi and DoF	Ongoing	N

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Recommendation E2: Develop, agree and sign a partnership strategy with its project partners for the remainder of the project. This should set out the role and responsibilities, what each partner will deliver, and with what resources.	Partially Accepted	<p>As stated in the recommendation A1, efforts will be made in the next 6 months to progress on this.</p> <p>However, the recommendation may go beyond the project mandate as the DOF/DFO along with the District Council authorities are mandated to coordinate and develop the fisheries sector and are positioned to enable cooperation between and across projects and other actors in the sector. Efforts will be made to advocate for improved coordination of GoM institutions concerned with the project.</p>	FiRM PMU, DoF	Ongoing	N

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F. Cross-cutting dimensions					
Recommendation F1: Expedite co-funding arrangements to support women’s participation and advancement in the fishery value chain and other livelihood interventions.	Accepted	<p>Cooperation with projects and initiatives that comprise support to women’s participation and related initiatives will be actively pursued during the remaining implementation period. This will be conducted in line with the MTR Recommendation A1.</p> <p>This includes collaboration with implementing partners linked to the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources at National, District and community levels.</p> <p>By the first half of 2022, the project will have concrete partnerships with the Joint Programme for Gender Transformative Approaches (JP-GTA) implemented by WFP, IFAD and FAO.</p> <p>FAO is also pursuing additional partnerships with other initiatives to support the implementation of the project and progress updates will be share bi-annually with the PSC by the project PMU.</p>	FiRM DoF, Malawi PMU, FAO	Ongoing	N

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Recommendation F2: Expedite finalization of biosafety standards and implementation of biosafety mitigation measures for Lake Malombe	Accepted	<p>The national biosecurity standards will be finalized and readied for adoption by Malawi by the end of 2022.</p> <p>Pilot restocking of Lake Malombe was proposed during the inception workshop, where biosafety was emphasized as a major consideration.</p> <p>However, the COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial delays in establishing fisheries governance and management arrangements necessary for rational restocking.</p> <p>Therefore restocking will not be feasible within the NCE, and hatchery biosafety standards and mitigation measures at Lake Malombe will focus on the supply of biosafe fingerlings for pond and cage aquaculture activities.</p>	FiRM PMU and DoF	Ongoing	N