



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Africa
Country (ies):	Malawi
Project Title:	Building climate change resilience in the fisheries sector in Malawi
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP /MLW/053/LDF
GEF ID:	5328
GEF Focal Area(s):	CCA
Project Executing Partners:	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change
Initial project duration (years):	FSP 5 Years (2 years NCE)
Project coordinates: <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.	N/A

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	29 August 2016
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	01 January 2017
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	31 December 2021
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	31 December 2023

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	5,460,000 USD
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	12,120,000 USD
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	\$4,638,922USD
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	4,093,448 USD
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	9,628,096 USD

¹ As per FPMIS

² If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

³ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

⁴ The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	20th March 2023
Expected Mid-term Review date ⁶ :	2nd Quarter 2021
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	July to November 2021
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date ⁷ :	4th Quarter 2023
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	Yes

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	<i>Moderately Satisfactory</i>
Overall implementation progress rating:	<i>Moderately Satisfactory</i>
Overall risk rating:	<i>Moderate</i>

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low
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Status

Implementation Status (1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	6 th PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Francisco Noble, CTA, FAO Representation in Malawi	Francisco.Noble@fao.org
Budget Holder (BH)	Zhijun Chen, FAO Representative, FAO Representation in Malawi	Zhijun.Chen@fao.org
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Shamiso Najira	shamiso_b@yahoo.com
Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Vasco Schmidt, Fisheries Officer, Sub regional Office for Southern Africa	vasco.schmidt@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Pierre Begat, Natural Resources Officer	Pierre.Begat@fao.org

⁶ The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁸	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁹	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹⁰
Objective¹¹ Improved resilience of fishing communities around Lake Malombe to the effects of climate change	Vulnerability and risk perception index score	1. Extreme	2. High	3 Medium	Index will be updated after an endline survey (procurement in progress).	To be updated after Endline Survey
	Food consumption Score (FCS)¹²	HH with Poor FCS: 15% HH Borderline FCS: 29% HH Acceptable FCS: 56%	HH acceptable FCS: 65%	HH acceptable FCS: 85%	To be updated HH with Poor FCS: 15% HH Borderline FCS: 29% HH Acceptable FCS: 56%	To be updated after Endline Survey

⁸ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

⁹ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹⁰ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Marginally Satisfactory (MS)**, **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

¹¹ Applicable only for projects with objective level indicators.

¹² Source of data – baseline survey report

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁸	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁹	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹⁰
Outcome 1.1: Enhanced information on climate trends, extreme events and resource status, is available and used for the formulation and implementation of effective and timely resilience and management measures.	Outcome 1.1.1: % of local natural resources management authorities that are using relevant information for the implementation of management measures	To be developed	Target can only be set after a baseline	Target can only be set after a baseline NB: a LUNAR assessment was included in a service provider's contract and was due for December 2022. However, the contract expired before the service provider could carry out the assignment. Delayed delivery of outputs further resulted in non-renewal of contract hence the project is planning to conduct the assessment third quarter of 2023. A consultant is currently being recruited to	To be determined, as we await assessments that will inform baseline target and level of progress. - The project conducted a Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Assessment (VDRA) that informed climate trends and major risks then drew adaptation and mitigation measures. - FiRM has since continued supporting dissemination of weather updates and severe weather warnings/advisories to local fishing communities for prevention of loss of life and property through local radios and WhatsApp mobile based platform. - FiRM continued to improve coordination between Department of Fisheries Staff, Marine Police and Department of Marine Services to enhance synergies while undertaking community based activities towards creating awareness on roles and responsibilities of the three sectors, as well as reporting channels for maritime accidents.	S

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁸	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁹	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹⁰
				undertake the survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Annual Fisheries Frame survey in Lake Malombe, Upper Shire River and Lake Malawi (Mangochi waters) for evidence-based planning and management of the fisheries resource through provision of trends in fishing effort and investment. 	
<p>Outcome 2.1: Climate change resilience mainstreamed into key policy and planning instruments of relevance to fisheries and fishing communities</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1.1: Percentage of households around Lake Malombe practicing climate change adaptation measures</p>	54%	63%	75%	<p>To be determined, as we await assessments (endline survey) that will inform level of progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As advised by MTR and in particular the No Cost Extension workshop the project dropped national level policy related actions in order to focus on district level issues. Policy advisories have since been developed and disseminated in the areas of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for capture fisheries, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFm), Extreme Weather Early Warning System (EWS) for fisheries, feasibility of cage culture in Upper Shire River and Drivers of non-compliance with fishing regulations. 	MS

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁸	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁹	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹⁰
Outcome 2.2 Strengthened capacities and awareness of fisheries professionals and other relevant stakeholders to address climate resilience building in fisheries	Outcome 2.2.1: Number of targeted institutions promoting awareness of resilience measures	To be developed	Target can only be set after a baseline	Target can only be set after a baseline	To be determined, as we await assessments that will inform baseline target and level of progress. There is satisfactory progress working with partner institutions in strengthening their capacities and creating awareness to address climate change resilience in fisheries. Letters of Agreements have been signed with key partner institutions (LUANAR, MCF, and Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture Offices at the District Council)	S
Outcome 3.1: Adaptive co-management and resource governance systems in support of climate-resilient capture fisheries	% of fishers complying with norms and regulations for resource co-management	15%		30%	The project supported fisheries inspectorate patrols to enhance compliance to fisheries regulations, promote sustainable utilization of fisheries resource and improve the aquatic ecosystem status. FiRM supported inspection of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) gadgets to ensure that they are functional and hence promote surveillance of commercial fishing operations to enhance conservation of the fisheries resource	S
Outcome 3.2:	Outcome Indicator 3.2.1: Species abundance (disaggregated by sanctuary)					

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁸	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁹	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹⁰	
Fish stocks and habitats restored through Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management	Chisumbi	22	N/A	N/A	Waiting for the endline Fisheries Independent Survey		
	Chiwaula	205	N/A	N/A			
	Kambulire	410	N/A	N/A			
	Likala	140	N/A	N/A			
	Ntanga/Kabuthu	157	N/A	N/A			
	Outcome Indicator 3.2.2 Species richness (disaggregated by sanctuary)						
	Chisumbi	7	N/A	N/A	Waiting for the endline Fisheries Independent Survey		
	Chiwaula	10	N/A	N/A			
	Kambulire	8	N/A	N/A			
	Likala	9	N/A	N/A			
	Ntanga/Kabuthu	8	N/A	N/A			
	Outcome Indicator 3.2.3: Diversity Index (disaggregated by sanctuary)						
	Chisumbi	0.73	N/A	N/A	Waiting for the endline Fisheries Independent Survey		
	Chiwaula	1.74	N/A	N/A			
	Kambulire	1.43	N/A	N/A			
	Likala	1.58	N/A	N/A			
	Ntanga/Kabuthu	1.49	N/A	N/A			
	Outcome Indicator 3.2.4: Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE)	2.5kgs/0.15hrs (TCP)			3.75kgs/0.15hrs		Waiting for the endline Fisheries Independent Survey

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁸	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁹	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹⁰
Outcome 3.3: Aquaculture is climate-proofed and able to contribute to diverse and resilient livelihood strategies of the most vulnerable sectors of the population	Outcome Indicator 3.3.1: Number of aquaculture facilities (cages and ponds) with climate resilience measures in place	10 ponds	15 ponds	57 ponds	36	S
	Outcome Indicator 3.3.2: Yield from ponds (Kgs/ha)	2340 kgs/ha	N/A	6000kg/ha	10283.83kg/ha	HS
	Outcome Indicator 3.3.3: Yield from Cages (Kgs/m3)	0	N/A	15kg/m3	10kg/m3	S
Outcome 3.4: Local people have access to diverse, pro-poor farming systems as a central element of resilient rural livelihoods	Outcome Indicator 3.4.1: % of households practicing good land, soil and water conservation measures	36%	50%	50% (693 households in the 3 villages around Kulungwi micro-catchment)	To be determined, as we await assessments that will inform level of progress FiRM has been supporting implementation of Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) interventions such as check dam construction, marker ridge construction, establishment of banana orchards, tree nurseries and vegetative hedgerows to enhance	MS

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁸	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁹	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹⁰
					sustainable land and water management	

Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 1.1: Enhanced information on climate trends, extreme events and resource status, is available and used for the formulation and implementation of effective and timely resilience and management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance local community participation in resource management and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and the environment by legitimizing existing local fisheries management authorities (LFMAs) in the Upper Shire River through Malawi College of Fisheries LoA which is operational - Continue providing advisories from DCCMS to radios and LFMAs for dissemination of timely extreme weather events and early warning messages for fishers and fishing communities 	<p>PMU and Malawi College of Fisheries</p> <p>PMU, DFO, DCCMS</p>	<p>October 2023</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Outcome 2.1: Climate change resilience mainstreamed into key policy and planning instruments of relevance to fisheries and fishing communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most climate change adaptation measures being promoted are at conclusion stages hence policy advisories will be developed based on lessons learnt 	PMU, DFO	October 2023
Outcome 3.4: Local people have access to diverse, pro-poor farming systems as a central element of resilient rural livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Forestry Management Plan - Enhance natural regeneration activities - Continuous collaboration with PROSPER team to leverage both technical and financial support on banana production within Kulungwi micro-catchment and irrigation activities at Msauka village 	<p>DAO</p> <p>DFO/DOF</p> <p>PMU</p>	October 2023

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and Outputs ¹³	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹⁴ (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁵ in delivering outputs
Outcome 1.1 Enhanced information on climate trends, extreme events and resource status, is available and used for the formulation and implementation of effective and timely resilience and management measures	Outcome Indicator 1.1.1 % of local natural resources management authorities that are using relevant information for the implementation of management measures	75%	Cost benefit analysis of restoration initiatives, training on VMS standard operating procedures, safety at sea and annual frame survey generated information that is informing fishery and ecosystem enhancement activities at local level.	None
Output 1.1.1 Information resources on ecological parameters determining management and resilience options in and around Lake Malombe generated	Number of technical reports produced	4	- Technical reports on EAFm restoration planning, status of Vessel Monitoring System, Cost benefit analysis of fishery resource restoration interventions, Annual fisheries frame survey and safety at sea are produced	
Output 1.1.2 Early Warning System (EWS) about extreme weather	Percentage of fishers receiving early warning advisories	15%	- FIRM is improving coordination between Department of Fisheries Staff, Marine Police and Marine Department to enhance synergies	

¹³ Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹⁴ Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

<p>for fishing communities strengthened</p>			<p>while undertaking community-based activities towards creating awareness on roles and responsibilities of the three sectors, as well as reporting channels for maritime accidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported dissemination of weather updates and severe weather warnings/advisories to local fishing communities for prevention of loss of life and property through local radios and WhatsApp mobile based platform - Conducted a strategic planning meeting with district level facilitators (Malawi Police Maritime Department, District Fisheries Office, Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, and Malawi College of Fisheries) on safety at sea training. - Conducted 4 training sessions on safety at sea for 135 local community representatives (102M, 33F) around Lake Malombe and Upper Shire River. The training objectives aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Raising awareness of the extent of the problem among fishers, community-based committee representatives and local leaders o Develop a recording and reporting mechanism of maritime accidents, o Identify the mode of communication among fishers at sea o Impart knowledge and skills on survival strategies. - Participants indicated that the objectives were met after taking them through the following topics: 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weather awareness, sources of information on weather and extreme events how they disseminate them amongst themselves ○ Vessel seaworthiness, checklist for required items to take when going offshore ○ Accidents and types of accidents at Sea ○ Distress signals, rescue and survival strategies ○ Rules of collision avoidance ○ Man overboard, correct donning of a life jacket, search and rescue ○ First aid and assisting a drowned victim <p>- Fishing is one of the most dangerous activities due to extreme weather events. DCCMS continues sharing daily weather forecasts and 5-day weather forecasts through WhatsApp groups, and the same are aired through community radio stations to reach out to the wider community. In the month of April, DCCMS monitored and issued continuous updates on locally heavy rains and strong winds. For instance, lakeshore areas, including Mangochi, had a range of 18–41 km/h between 14-18 April 2023, and the likelihood of heavy storms. Warnings on heavy rains and strong winds were issued throughout the month to enable fishers and other lake users to take the necessary precautionary measures to avoid loss of life and property.</p>	
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<p>Output 1.1.3. Strengthened fisheries monitoring system</p>	<p>Guideline for capture fisheries routine data collection developed</p>	<p>1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Annual Fisheries Frame survey in Lake Malombe, Upper Shire River and Lake Malawi (Mangochi waters) for evidence-based planning and management of the fisheries resource through provision of trends in fishing effort and investment. - Integrated training of commercial fishers in data collection and submission within the vessel monitoring system standard operating procedures training 	<p>Foreseen LoA with DOF through the fisheries research station at Monkey Bay was dropped some of the activities which were committed in the LoA are being supported by other partners to DoF. However, few activities such as guidelines for data collection and Annual Fisheries Frame Survey will be conducted using Operation Advances (OA)</p>
<p>Outcome 2.1 Climate change resilience mainstreamed into key policy and planning instruments of relevance to fisheries and fishing communities</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 2.1.1 % of households around Lake Malombe practicing climate change adaptation measures</p>	<p>21%</p>	<p>Project beneficiaries have been supported to practice the following adaptation measures; pond and cage culture, Village Savings and Loans, soil and water conservation, sanctuary management</p>	<p><u>None</u></p>
<p>Output 2.1.1 Policy advisory materials developed</p>	<p>Number of advisories (thematic areas; Drivers of non-compliance with fishing regulations, Extreme Weather EWS for fisheries, EAFm, Feasibility of Cage culture in Upper Shire River, VMS for capture fisheries, fisheries ecosystem) developed</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Project provided an advisory on Vessel Monitoring System regarding migration from battery powered to solar powered gadgets</p>	<p>Most climate change adaptation measures being promoted are at conclusion stages hence only one policy advisory was developed</p>

<p>Outcome 2.2 Strengthened capacities and awareness of fisheries professionals and other relevant stakeholders to address climate resilience building in fisheries sector</p>	<p>Outcome indicator 2.2.1 Number of targeted institutions promoting awareness of resilience measures</p>	<p><u>12</u></p>	<p>The target has been achieved. Targeted institutions include; Department of Fisheries (DoF), District Fisheries Office (DFO), Malawi College of Fisheries (MCF), Monkey Bay Fisheries Research Station, Senga Bay Fisheries, National Aquaculture Center, Department of Climate Change and Metrological Studies DCCMS, Academia (LUANAR, MZUNI), Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), District Forestry Office, District Agriculture Office, District Council</p>																			
<p>Output 2.2.1 Capacity for staff of key institutions in relation to climate change preparedness and resilience enhanced</p>	<p>Number of people trained or supported to participate in international events</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>None was planned in the reporting period</p>	<p>The target of 4 was achieved in 2022 and no activities were planned in the reporting period</p>																		
<p>Output 2.2.2 Improved physical capacities for DOF to sustain the resilience strategies</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 740 877 833">Number and type of infrastructure/equipment procured or maintained</td> <td data-bbox="884 740 1035 833">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 837 877 889">VMS gadgets procured</td> <td data-bbox="884 837 1035 889">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 894 877 946">Patrol boat procured</td> <td data-bbox="884 894 1035 946">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 951 877 1003">Patrol boat maintained</td> <td data-bbox="884 951 1035 1003">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 1008 877 1060">Vehicles procured</td> <td data-bbox="884 1008 1035 1060">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 1065 877 1117">Vehicles maintained</td> <td data-bbox="884 1065 1035 1117">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 1122 877 1174">Motorcycles procured</td> <td data-bbox="884 1122 1035 1174">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 1179 877 1230">Buildings renovated</td> <td data-bbox="884 1179 1035 1230">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 1235 877 1401">Bicycles</td> <td data-bbox="884 1235 1035 1401">48</td> </tr> </table>	Number and type of infrastructure/equipment procured or maintained	0	VMS gadgets procured	0	Patrol boat procured	1	Patrol boat maintained	0	Vehicles procured	0	Vehicles maintained	2	Motorcycles procured	0	Buildings renovated	0	Bicycles	48		<p>In order to improved delivery of technical extension services within the Department of Fisheries, FIRM supported overhaul rehabilitation of a mobile van under Malawi College of Fisheries. The van has audio-visual facilities, which are vital in mass media approach to community mobilization, communication, education and information delivery.</p> <p>To support the efficiency of land-based monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities, the project supported maintenance of a patrol vehicle to facilitate mobility of the fisheries inspectorate unit within the project catchment area.</p> <p>Following a lengthy procurement process, the fisheries patrol vessel for Fisheries Inspectorate was finally delivered in the third quarter of 2022. The patrol vessel is being used primarily in Lake Malombe and the Southeast Arm of Lake Malawi. However, use of the vessel is basically affected by</p>	
Number and type of infrastructure/equipment procured or maintained	0																					
VMS gadgets procured	0																					
Patrol boat procured	1																					
Patrol boat maintained	0																					
Vehicles procured	0																					
Vehicles maintained	2																					
Motorcycles procured	0																					
Buildings renovated	0																					
Bicycles	48																					

			<p>inadequate capacity of Class IV Launch Masters (Navigators) and Marine Engineers within the Department of Fisheries. The project is thus planning to train 3 navigators and 2 engineers who will be manning the patrol vessel. The 5 students have completed course work and are awaiting a year-long sea phase as part of the requirements for Class IV certification.</p> <p>Development towards technical clearance of technical specifications for solar powered gadgets in progress</p>	
<p>Output 2.2.3: Awareness of fisheries restoration initiatives in southern Lake Malawi and Malombe rolled out</p>	<p>Number of awareness campaigns/meetings conducted</p>	4	<p>Supported mobilization of Local Fisheries Management Authorities (LFMAs), Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) and Village Agriculture Committee (VAC) members to implement participatory formulated and consolidated EAFm Interventions.</p> <p>Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials for capture fisheries, aquaculture, land conservation, safety at sea and all crosscutting issues developed and validated through an expert workshop. The materials validated focused on the following issues: fisheries governance, water and sanitation, pond/cage-based aquaculture management practices, soil and water conservation, gender, child labour and HIV/AIDS. The materials are in the form of posters, flyers and banners.</p>	

Outcome 3.1 Adaptive co-management and resource governance systems in support of climate-resilient capture fisheries	Outcome indicator 3.1.1 % of fishers complying with norms and regulations for resource co-management	15%	The project supported fisheries inspectorate patrols to enhance compliance to fisheries regulations, promote sustainable utilization of the fisheries resource and improve the aquatic ecosystem status. FiRM supported inspection of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) gadgets to ensure that they are functional and hence promote surveillance of commercial fishing operations to enhance conservation of the fisheries resource	
Output 3.1.1 Multi-stakeholder co-management structures strengthened	Number of active Local Fisheries Management Authorities (BVCs and VNRMCs)	37	To strengthen co-management structures and improve fisheries governance the project provided financial and technical support towards reconstitution of the Lake Malombe and Upper Shire River Fisheries Association (FA). The Fisheries Association represents the interests of Local Fisheries Management Authorities (LFMAs) at both national and district level i.e. participated in 2023 National Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum, 2023 National Agriculture Fair and 2023 World Food Day Commemoration. The association is also coordinating participatory fisheries management interventions in the project catchment area. LFMAs have been actively engaged in consultative meetings aimed at developing a consolidated Lake Malombe and Upper Shire Fishery Restoration Plan.	
Output 3.1.2: Norms and regulations for	Percentage of fishing units that use illegal fishing gears and/ or fish in conservation areas	20%	Currently, 52% of fishing economic units are estimated to be using illegal fishing ¹⁶ gears which include; Nkacha, Kandwindwi, Monofilament and	

¹⁶ The fisheries sector conducted an annual frame survey of fishing economic units and out of the recorded gears, 52% were deemed illegal as their specifications had deviated from the minimum promulgated requirements.

resource co-management supported			under-meshed Gillnets, Mosquito nets and under-meshed seines.	
Outcome 3.2: Fish stocks and habitats restored through Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management	Outcome indicator 3.2.1 Species abundance disaggregated by fish sanctuary	N/A		
	Chisumbi			
	Chiwaula			
	Kambulire			
	Likala			
	Ntanga/Kabuthu			
	Outcome indicator 3.2.2 Species richness disaggregated by fish sanctuary	N/A		
	Chisumbi			
	Chiwaula			
	Kambulire			
	Likala			
	Ntanga/Kabuthu			
	Outcome indicator 3.2.3 Diversity Index disaggregated by fish sanctuary	N/A		
	Chisumbi			
	Chiwaula			
Kambulire				
Likala				

	Ntanga/Kabuthu			
	Outcome indicator 3.2.4 Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE)	N/A		
Output 3.2.1: EAFm training for inland fisheries delivered	Number of EAFm trainings delivered	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trained 26 participants (23 crew members, 3 Fisheries Officers) in vessel monitoring system standard operating procedures from Salima and Nkhotakota Districts - The training was aimed to address challenges in the commercial fishing industry that ranges from violation of regulations by fishing in undesignated fishing areas, fishing in closed areas, fishing during closed season and VMS gadgets vandalism - Training content included:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fisheries management objectives and purpose of Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) o The role of Vessel Monitoring System (MVS) in MCS o Legal and institutional mandate o Utilization and functions of the VMS gadgets o Compliance with Fisheries Regulations, Penalties and costs associated with the VMS – how VMS may be financed o Eligibility and installation of VMS o VMS data handling and management o The role of VMS taskforce o VMS user and access rights o VMS helpdesk support 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During plenary participants raised the following issues:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The participants supported the idea of migrating to the solar powered system based on its advantages like no connectivity with vessel battery for power o The participants called for more interface with the Department of Fisheries for more clarity on how the VMS system operates to remove unfounded fears like allegation of spy camera on the gadget o There is need for the Department to present to FAO on exit strategy which among other things considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Source of funding for sustenance of the system ▪ Mainstreaming VMS into Fisheries programs - VMS is capable of assisting locating stray vessels due to adverse weather on the lake, hence boat owners should have access to the portal - VMS is very essential in warning fishers who might find themselves fishing beyond Lake Malawi borders especially for districts like Salima, Nkhotakota and Nkhata Bay - Overcrowding of fishing areas can easily be controlled as each vessel is geo-fenced according to designated fishing ground 	
Output 3.2.2: A participatory ecosystem	Restoration plan developed	1	A Letter of Agreement was signed 1st quarter of 2023 with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). Restoration plan	

restoration plan for Lake Malombe developed			<p>for Lake Malombe is one of the main outputs in the LoA.</p> <p>Consultation meetings have been conducted with key stakeholders at national and local level to brainstorm and consolidate strategies for ecosystem restoration and stock enhancement. Ranking of the same will inform priority interventions to be delivered in the implementation period of the developed management plan.</p>	
<p>Outcome 3.3: Aquaculture is climate-proofed and able to contribute to diverse and resilient livelihood strategies of the most vulnerable sectors of the population</p>	<p>Outcome indicator 3.3.1 Number of aquaculture facilities (cages and ponds) with climate resilience measures in place</p>	21	26 aquaculture facilities climate proofed with climate proof measures to enhance productivity through increased culture period	Target surpassed
	<p>Outcome indicator 3.3.2 Yield from ponds (Kgs/ha)</p>	6000kg/ha	<p>Facilitated harvesting of <i>Oreochromis shiranus</i> from fishponds for local beneficiary fish farmers where recorded average yield of 10,283.83kg/ha was realized with a cost benefit ratio of 1.19±0.26.</p> <p>Financial analysis of the business showed a profitable enterprise with a profit margin of 20%. The business is viable in that there is a ready market for farmed fish since the communities have limited access to the lake-based fish products. An off taker has also shown tremendous interest towards producing fillets from farmed fish of reasonable sizes. This has changed the landscape of aquaculture which was predominantly dependent on farm-gate and local consumption.</p>	Growing period was 9 months and fish were fed with completely formulated feed
	<p>Outcome indicator 3.3.3 Yield from Cages (Kgs/m3)</p>	15kg/m3	Facilitated harvesting of <i>Oreochromis shiranus</i> from pilot fish cages in upper Shire River where recorded average yield of 10.73kg/m3 was realized from the fish cages with return on feed of 1.24.	The recorded low yield was due to considerable mortality of up to 50%, as a result of stress from

				displacement of cages due to persistent cyclones experienced in the production period
Output 3.3.1: Technologies for climate proofing of aquaculture demonstrated and underpinned through ongoing research and impact tracking	Number of aquaculture ponds climate proofed	11	21	FIRM has facilitated rehabilitation of fish ponds by application climate proof measures i.e., pond deepening. Note that the ponds are yet to be stocked
	Number of Cages piloted	10	5	The project is yet to facilitate construction of low-cost cages due to delayed processing of beneficiary grants
Outcome 3.4: Local people have access to diverse, pro-poor farming systems as a central element of resilient rural livelihoods	Outcome indicator 3.4. % of households practicing good land, soil and water conservation measures	14%	The project has supported soil and water conservation interventions which include gully reclamation, marker ridges, check dam construction, managing natural regeneration sites, enrichment planting in existing woodlot and establishment of orchards	
Output 3.4.1: Kulungwi micro catchment natural resources management committees trained in appropriate soil and	Number of Natural Resources Based Enterprises (NRBE) Promoted	2	- Banana orchards were established on a total area of 1.08 ha by fish farmers. A total of 1,200 suckers from six varieties were planted namely; Mulanje, Sweshi, Ndoki, William, Zomba Red and Harare in the selected sites.	Planned investment on beekeeping was dropped due to

water conservation measures				budgetary constraints
	Area under Natural regeneration	1ha	- Management of natural regeneration sites covering 3.44 ha through firebreak construction, brushing, weeding and forestry patrols	Target surpassed
	Area under woodlot establishment (enrichment planting in the existing woodlots)	1ha	- 2ha	Target surpassed
	Area (in ha) covered with soil and water conservation	3ha	- Construction of check dams in Somanje, Mpembena and Nsauka villages covering a total length of 5.32km within 72 gullies - Construction of marker ridges on 5.2 ha	Target surpassed
Output 3.4.2: Utilization of Chitofu 3-in-1 promoted	Number of Chitofu 3 in 1 installed	3	Conducted 3 sensitization meetings on usage of Chitofu 3 in 1 at Chapola, Mtanga and Silli fish landing sites	Installation of the stoves was part of investments under beneficiary grants facility
Outcome 4.1: Project implementation is based on results-based management and application of lessons learned and good practices in current and future interventions	Number of knowledge management materials accessible	11	Produced 2700 posters, 10 jingles, 2 online publications on Integrated Agriculture Aquaculture and Fisheries Patrol Vessel – <i>Nkholokolo</i> , 3 visibility banners, 1 informative video (fisheries patrol vessel), 1 education promotional video on cage culture	
Output 4.1.1 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting system established, supporting adaptive project management	Number of monitoring visits conducted	4	6	

<p>Output 4.1.2 Effective management and dissemination of knowledge</p>	<p>Number of knowledge packages (papers, print media, Twitter publications) produced</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>To enhance project visibility, FiRM supported the participation of cage based and pond based fish farmers to the 2022 National Agriculture Fair (NAF), 2022 World Food Day (WFD) commemoration and 2022 National Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum (NFAF) where farmers shared experiences and made networks for marketing of farmed fish products among others. At all the fora, the project exhibited a model cage-based production system (galvanized iron-framed hexagonal prototype) along with pond based (tank modeled) production systems. At the NFAF, FiRM made presentations on “Potential for aquaculture-based fisheries enhancement and restoration in Lake Malombe: An initial appraisal” as adapted from the initial studies by University of Florida under LoA 07/2019 "Capacity Building and Technical Support for Inland Fisheries Enhancements in Lake Malombe"; and “The face of socio-ecological vulnerability at Lake Malombe” an evidence based report on assessment of the current and potential vulnerability to climate change of communities around Lake Malombe and Upper Shire River</p>	
<p>Output 4.1.3 Project Evaluation conducted</p>	<p>Number of evaluations done</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The service provider that was engaged to conduct a survey to update progress indicators could not deliver due to contractual issues An endline survey that was</p>

				planned to be conducted 2 nd quarter of 2023 is due owing to protracted procurement processes
Output 4.1.4 Project Reports produced	Number of project reports produced	2	2	

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

Progress has been hampered by slow processes, especially processing of LoAs with approving authorities where the operation modality was singled as the best fit going into the no-cost extension phase of project implementation.

There are also specific challenges with obtaining adequate input from some partners. The commitment or capacity by the Department of Fisheries to provide timely inputs to important processes has been insufficient. Importantly, this has been so for the implementation of the VMS and in the preparation of some LoAs.

Banning of the most destructive fishing gear “Nkacha”, which has high probability to transform the fishery, is almost impossible as a cost benefit analysis of buying back the gear proved beyond the reach of project budget. It is equally challenged with several political, environmental, sociological, technological, economical, and legal overtones. In such a way that the investors take it as tradition to use the Nkacha. Nkacha seine net is permitted only on Lake Malombe for social considerations. However, all the approximately 160 "Nkacha" seines in use on the lake today are illegal. The gear has undergone evolution in headline length, maximum depth and mesh size. Each fishing unit has a long chain of beneficiaries, and some Authorities are involved in supporting the fishing malpractices.

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

Recommendations on the Result Framework were received as part of the Mid Term Review. Because fisheries management is substantially different from agriculture and farm management about which the M&E Unit is familiar, the unit has required substantial inputs from the project to better understand the challenges. Engagement of a generic service provider to deliver assessment of project indicators aimed at populating revised project indicators also compounded the issue. This process has thus delayed and affected the M&E work. Expeditious processing and execution of LoAs with DoF (IP) for activities such as the Save the Chambo Campaign and Fisheries Data Systems Analysis were challenged by perverse unresponsiveness leading to extensive delays to any agreement. Significant fiduciary risks with FRU based on previous assessment were to undermine progress on the LoA. The Project determined to proceed with implementation of some of the activities of the Fisheries Data System Analysis through an OA for training of data collectors and implementation of the 2023 annual fisheries frame survey in Mangochi District. Likewise, an overwhelmed DoF could not be cleared for receipt of a LoA on aquaculture development hence delayed processing of the service level agreement.

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating¹⁷	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating¹⁸	Comments/reasons¹⁹ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	MS	MS	While the No Cost Extension, which started in January 2022, provided an opportunity to realign the project, slow progress with preparing LoAs affected progress. However, signing of 3 LoAs with LUANAR, MCF and Mangochi District Council provides a lifeline towards registering progress on key deliverables.
Budget Holder	MS	MS	Delayed processing of LoAs affected the implementation progress, however, the signing of the 3 LOAs will enhance project delivery. The project team should finalize the processing of the beneficiary grants facility to complement the existing LoAs.
GEF Operational Focal Point²⁰			<i>Comments and ratings from the GEF OFP were not received within the set deadline for PIR final submission.</i>
Lead Technical Officer²¹	MS	MS	The project was without a Chief Technical Adviser from July 2022 to the end of the reporting period. The FAO project team prepared timely the pending contracts for implementation of remaining project activities.
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	MS	MU	In the reporting period project progress was hindered by delays in the procurement of services. The CTA position was not filled after the previous CTA retired. It is recommended that the project team works with the LTO to produce a detailed workplan of remaining activities before Terminal Evaluation, to ensure that the project is on track to deliver on the key pending results.

¹⁷ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁹ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

²⁰ In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

²¹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
	NA/Low Risk			
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
	NA/Low Risk			
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
	NA/Low Risk			
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
	Restocking component to follow Responsible Approach to stock Enhancement (Lorenzen et al. 2010)	The restocking activity was removed in the No-Cost Extension	None	NA
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
	NA/Low Risk			
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
	NA/Low Risk			
ESS 7: Decent Work				
	NA/Low Risk			
ESS 8: Gender Equality				

	NA/Low Risk			
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
	NA/Low Risk			
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				
	NA/Low Risk			

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²² . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
MEDIUM	LOW. The one action that caused the medium ESS risk classification, the restocking component, was removed from the project's no-cost extension work plan

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>
N/A

²² **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²³	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Insufficient fisheries sector stakeholder capacities to absorb Climate Change action needs	M	Y	Capacities of stakeholders at Lake Malombe and southeast Lake Malawi have been strengthened under the FISH project	Additional capacity development actions have been prioritised for different stakeholders i.e. safety at sea, VMS standard operation procedures, gender gap analysis, data collection	Good progress has been registered to enhanced sector stakeholder capacity including DoF, Agriculture, Forestry, DCCMS, Commercial Fishers and Community Development

²³ Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²³	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
2	Low pilot level capacities	M	Y	DOF researchers involved in the TCP/MLW/3504 project have strengthened their capacity to carry out research	The research capability of DoF and district council technical staff has been enhanced by, among others engaging in collaborative work with academia i.e. LUANAR and Mzuzu University	The project facilitated a training in data collection and management during Annual Fisheries Frame Survey which has built on efforts already made on virtual training sessions for stock assessment.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²³	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	<p>Restoration failures i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulties in regenerating water plants & habitat <p>Fingerling supply chain problems</p>	M	Y	<p>Experience from elsewhere indicate substantial potential for natural regeneration of submerged vegetation following enforced moratorium on fishing</p> <p>Supply of fingerlings for restocking would be addressed primarily using the NAC facilities at Domasi/Zomba. Challenges will include establishing a bio secure facility, sourcing of brood stock in the wild, minimizing hatchery selectivity and mitigating lack of reliable electricity.</p> <p>A more critical issue is the lack of sufficiently protected and managed areas where fingerlings could be released. It is likely that once such managed areas are realised, the need for restocking is no longer there, as natural recruitment will take place.</p>	<p>Restocking option was empirically deemed ineffective and economically non-viable.</p> <p>Recommendations included efforts to improve representation of key fisheries stakeholders in co-management and conducting further quantitative assessment of management options to restore the fishery and ecosystem, while maintain or enhancing social and economic benefits</p>	<p>Good progress in nourishment of sanctuaries cascading into habitat restoration in the protected areas. The project is to further enforce compliance to <i>no-fishing in sanctuaries</i> through installation of fishing protection devices as a fish stock and habitat enhancement strategy</p>

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²³	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
4	<p>Co-management failures i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resistance to implement/enforce agreed measures <p>Criminal elements in the community</p>	M	Y	<p>A stronger role of traditional leaders under the new fisheries by-laws will reduce the risk of non-compliance. The institution building that has been carried out under FISH will contribute to increased compliance.</p> <p>The FiRM project will bring support to enforcement equipment and activities, by DOF as well as by local institutions, which would reduce incentive/opportunities for criminal elements</p>	<p>FiRM procured a high-speed boat which is supporting the Department of Fisheries with monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities on Lake Malombe, the upper Shire River and south east arm of Lake Malawi. The boat on Malawi's waterways comes as part of efforts by Government and FAO to safeguard productive natural resources to ensure better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for communities that are reliant on fisheries for their livelihoods.</p>	<p>Good progress has been registered where illegal fishing dropped down to 52% from 80% in the previous reporting period</p>

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²³	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
5	Aquaculture failures i.e. - Capacity of local partner too low to implement activities successfully - Negative climate impacts	L	Y	It will be essential to ensure that support to small-scale aquaculture operators is properly assessed for risks and profitability. Aquaculture operators with surplus resources (generally larger scale operators) will have higher capability to adapt to negative climate impacts	By adopting the deep pond technology adapted from the UKAID funded Agriculture Technology Transfer project, the FiRM project has built capacity of local operators who have successfully implemented successful and potentially profitable productive interventions with an average yield of 10283.83/ha for pond based culture and a cost benefit ratio of 1.19±0.26	Very good progress as targeted average yield has been surpassed in pond based aquaculture with equally good harvest sizes for the cage-based production system. Project is enhancing sustainability plan by prioritizing investment in community based fish feed production and local fingerling/seed production

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period

Medium	Low	The overall risk rating is Low. Whilst delayed recruitment of the CTA may have affected delivery due to work overload most project activities are back on track. The schedule of the project was also clearly impacted by the COVID19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022. Furthermore, the one action that caused the medium ESS risk classification, the restocking component, was dropped from the project's no-cost extension work plan.
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7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Status	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
<p>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-WM, 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.</p>		<p>Substantial cooperation is developing with REFRESH and PROSPER. FiRM has participated in Pause and Reflect workshop by REFRESH to review operational arrangements as well as development of standard operating procedures for DoF protocols including the vessel monitoring system along with training manual on the same. The Department of Fisheries (DoF) through FiRM, is leading a Save the Chambo campaign and the project will avail resources through a Letter of Agreement during the third quarter of 2023 in which projects like REFRESH have committed to support. Another area where cooperation has been discussed is operational support to the fisheries patrol vessels. FiRM earlier renovated an existing vessel and equipped it with outboard engines provided by TCP/MLW/3504 and FiRM further procured a new patrol vessel that was delivered in July 2022.</p> <p>PROSPER activities in relation to watershed management is an important opportunity for cooperation which is under active development. Through PROSPER, Msauka Irrigation scheme will be supported technically and with a solar irrigation pump and a banana humidity chamber.</p> <p>Cooperation with SFAD-WM and UNDP and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) has scope to be improved. The GCP-funded M-CLIMES programme implemented by UNDP/DoDMA has activities in relation to safety at sea and early warning systems where FiRM has an interest. To date, M-CLIMES support has been critical to increase availability of climate information at Lake Malawi.</p>

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Status	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
		FiRM is carrying out activities that are contributing to the implementation of the SSF guidelines, for which there is support from FAO HQ.
<p>Recommendation B1: The Project management should request 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</p>		<p>The no-cost extension (NCE) request was approved in early January 2022. Revision of priority areas has been incorporated in the justification provided and the revised results framework was finalized.</p> <p>A budget revision was submitted along the NCE request and it was approved by the GEF Coordination Unit. The revision considered the recommendations provided by the MTR.</p>
<p>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.)</p>		<p>This recommendation comprises core activities of the FiRM project and are actively pursued. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFm) activities remain a priority during the NCE.</p> <p>During the first semester of 2022, EAFm training materials in Chichewa were developed and endorsed at a national workshop concluded on 8th April 2022. The training materials are in the process of dissemination with relevant stakeholders across Malawi and are at an advanced stage towards publication.</p> <p>IEC materials on EAFm were developed and vetted by technocrats from DoF, the Academia and other national level stakeholders to enhance capacity building among project beneficiaries.</p> <p>Cost benefit analysis of key ecosystem restoration initiatives was conducted to prioritize restoration and enhancement activities towards building the resilience of local communities to impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The Local Fisheries Management Authorities (LFMA) at Lake Malombe have been re-elected (“revamped”) and the process to adopt a lake wide EAFm management plan and bylaws are under way. Fish sanctuaries are widely proposed by BVCs and actions for their protection will be supported by FiRM, including introduction of fishing prevention devices.</p>

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Status	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
<p>Recommendation C1:</p> <p>Expedite processing and execution of LoAs for activities such as ‘Save the Chambo Campaign’ (under DoF)</p> <p>Execute the data methodology/collection activity by Monkey Bay Research under DoF Headquarters LoA</p>		<p>The process to sign Letters of Agreement (LoAs) with FAO has taken more time than expected, especially for implementing partners with limited experience with this type of instrument, being more difficult to be finalized with technical entities from the Government.</p> <p>A total of 3 LoAs with Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and Malawi College of Fisheries on EAFm; and Mangochi District Council on integrated watershed management, EAFm, project technical committee and aquaculture. In turn, a LoA with the National Aquaculture Centre has been developed to expedite implementation of aquaculture actions and a LoA with Malawi College of Fisheries (MCF) on Save the Chambo Campaign which is under review</p>
<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>		<p>In-person training continue to be the first option but depending on covid-19 situation and as per government regulations and UN recommendations.</p> <p>FiRM conducted fourteen (14) training sessions with a cumulative participation of 268 (190M and 78F) for both cage and pond-based fisheries extension workers and fish farmers; banana production, safety at sea; VMS standard operating procedures. Twelve frontline staff from Mangochi District (8 male, 4 female) who are involved in collecting, analysing and reporting on fisheries data using a gear-based Malawi Traditional Fisheries (MTF) system were oriented to updated data collection methods and use of MTF software for analysis and generation of reports.</p>
<p>Recommendation D1: Prepare a practically implementable sustainability plan inclusive of legislation and financing mechanisms of VMS</p>		<p>Establishing and enforcing effective legislation and sustainable financing mechanisms for a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is beyond the mandate and reach of the project. The project will however continue to support the DOF/District Fisheries Office by providing advisories and operational assistance.</p> <p>A survey was conducted to inspect the status of the VMS trackers, and especially those that were not reporting, after which half of the gadgets reported. Recommendations were made to consider migrating from the battery powered to solar powered gadgets,</p>

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Status	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
		<p>and the project is facilitating the migration process. Technical specifications for the solar powered gadgets have been developed and technical clearance is being sought to initiate procurement</p> <p>Fitting of VMS tracking devices on commercial fishing vessels was made mandatory from 1 January 2019 through a General Notice issued on 30 November 2018. However, DOF has so far failed to take decisive action to curb tampering and outright sabotage of the tracking devices on several vessels. It is expected that DOF will put appropriate legal action and sanctions into place without further delay. Further, the replacement of tracking devices and operation of the system urgently needs to be funded as part of licensing of fishing vessels. Failing this, the future of the VMS appears bleak.</p>
<p>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.</p>		<p>Ongoing, c.f. C1 above</p>
<p>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</p>		<p>FiRM and other projects can (and do) act for improved and strengthened partnerships.</p> <p>However, the DOF/DFO along with the Director of Planning and Development (DPD) of the District Council 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. Projects are time limited, and government must demonstrate higher-level leadership by facilitating the integration of the various initiatives for incremental results and sustainable outcomes. These roles and responsibilities are inherent to the respective mandates of the government entities mentioned and are already articulated in the Project Document signed by Government.</p> <p>Areas where partnerships are actively developing include the VMS (D1), MCS (A1), and the Letters of Agreement (C1).</p>

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Status	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
<p>Recommendation F1: Expedite co-funding arrangements to support women’s participation and advancement in the fishery value chain and other livelihood interventions.</p>		<p>Cooperation with projects and initiatives that comprise support to women’s participation and related initiatives are actively pursued. This includes collaboration with implementing partners linked to the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social welfare and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change at National, District and community levels including Non- Governmental Organizations.</p> <p>The Non- Governmental Organizations include other Rome-based agencies in Malawi, IFAD and WFP that are working on a Joint Programme for Gender Transformative Approaches (JP-GTA). FiRM project is also working with other Non-Governmental Organizations including partners that form part of the Gender Technical Working Group in Mangochi.</p> <p>A gender equality capacity building training for 18 National and District key stakeholders (4 female and 14 male participants) was conducted where tools for programme and project appraisal guide for gender equality; National and District level Staff Gender analysis; and a Gender Equality Capacity Assessment questionnaire were developed.</p> <p>A Dimitra Approach was launched, communication will be enhanced through a community radio program using solar powered radio sets. Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) was launched through Dimitra club Approach by FAO through the District Fisheries Officer and an NGO called Rights Advice Centre (RAC) under a Joint Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA) Program. FAO, IFAD and WFP are collaborating in a Joint Programme with interventions around Gender Transformative Approaches to achieving greater gender transformative impacts by complementing each other’s work at different levels of intervention</p>
<p>Recommendation F2: Expedite finalization of biosafety standards and implementation of biosafety mitigation measures for Lake Malombe</p>		<p>Efforts to finalize biosecurity standard documents through financing with an Operational Advance has proven futile due to programmatic issues. The activity has since been incorporated in an LoA with NAC</p>

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize

The project plans to develop an exit strategy which will include a dedicated- exit and sustainability plan for VMS which is to include funding mechanisms and systemization of the VMS within the Fisheries statutes.

8. Minor project 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 GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²⁴. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

²⁴ Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government institutions			
Department of Fisheries (DoF) (in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security) (national level)	Implementing partner	Substantial progress has been registered as major implementing partner on EAFm, aquaculture development, climate change mainstreaming and MCS	Delayed processing of LoAs on Aquaculture, Save the Chambo Campaign and Data Systems prove to affect timely realisation of project milestones under the IP's technical guidance
DoF: Mangochi District Fisheries Office	Implementing partner	Substantial progress has been registered as the District Fisheries Office is the major implementing partner on almost all project interventions being the line department for the targeted local project beneficiaries	Delayed processing of all LoAs (quality assurance, feedback from executing partners) proved to affect delivery of milestones under the EAFm
Malawi College of Fisheries (MCF)	Implementing partner	MCF has been a leading implementing partner on capacity building for LFMAs on Safety at Sea. Further, they were also involved in Cost Benefit Analysis of restoration interventions	Delayed processing of the LoA on EAFm prove to affect timely realisation of project milestones under the IP's technical guidance.
DoF: Fisheries research stations esp. Monkey Bay, Senga Bay and NAC	Implementing partner	Monkey Bay fisheries research has supported data monitoring actions while NAC and Senga Bay fisheries research have successfully supported aquaculture interventions in the project area through trainings and technical guidance	Delayed processing of LoAs on Aquaculture and Data Systems prove to affect timely realisation of project milestones under the IP's technical guidance
District (Mangochi) governance structures; District Council	Implementing partner	Continuous engagements with Council sectors of District Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture offices	Delayed processing of LoA on watershed integrated management and project technical committee prove to affect timely realisation of project milestones under the IP's technical guidance
Department of Climate Change and Meteorology Services (DCCMS)	Implementing partner	Continuous engagements with DCCMS on dissemination of weather	

		advisories has proved effective and enhanced EWS. DCCMS has been generating and providing weather advisories to the project for dissemination to local level beneficiaries	
NGOs²⁵			
REFRESH Project, PACT (ex 'FISH')	Collaborating partner	Despite working in different catchment areas, there is good corporation with REFRESH in areas of data systems, MCS and governance	Initial corporation was envisaged with FISH Project which had actions in the same catchment area of Lake Malombe
Private Sector entities			
Others²⁶ (Academia)			
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)	Implementing Partner	Implementation of EAFm Letters of Agreements which involved producing EAFm training materials and facilitating development of ecosystem restoration and fishery enhancement plan for Lake Malombe and Upper Shire River. The IP further collaborated with MCF in conducting cost benefit analysis of ecosystem restoration interventions	No challenges
Mzuzu University (MZUNI)	Implementing Partner	Participated in EAFm activities i.e. cost benefit analysis of ecosystem restoration interventions, EAFm promotional materials.	Distance has limited participation of MZUNI in project activities
Local Community Institutions			
Beach Village Committees (BVCs)	Beneficiaries	Good collaboration and cooperation on all field level activities aimed at resource management.	Poor incentive mechanisms limiting BVC interventions, hence illegal fishing is still a major concern

²⁵ Non-government organizations

²⁶ They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

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Fisheries Association (FA)	Beneficiaries	Collaborated with LUANAR in consolidation of field level proposed interventions into lakewide management strategies. Some members participated in National events aimed at knowledge sharing i.e. National Agriculture Fair, World Food Day commemoration and National Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum	Poor incentive mechanisms have limited the reach and commitment of FA members towards lake-wide support to restoration activities
Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRMCs)	Beneficiaries	Spearheaded natural regeneration, afforestation, soil and water conservation activities at local level as part of macro-catchment watershed management	Poor incentive mechanisms have limited the reach and commitment of VNRMC members towards ecosystem/catchment wide support to restoration activities
Village Agriculture Committees (VAC)	Beneficiaries	Supported soil and water conservation measures through establishment of banana orchards, gully reclamation, contour ridging and vetiver planting	Poor incentive mechanisms have limited the reach and commitment of VAG members towards soil and water conservation activities
Fish Farmers	Beneficiaries	Participated in climate proofing of aquaculture interventions through pond rehabilitation, general pond management, harvesting and marketing of farmed fish. Most of the pond-based fish farmers also participated in banana orchard establishment around their pond areas as part of micro-catchment watershed management	No challenges
<i>New stakeholders identified</i>			

10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.		
Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	The FiRM project baseline study and Mid-term evaluation were gender inclusive during planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting phase
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	The project committed to promotion of gender equality by ensuring 50% participation of women to National level events i.e. National Agriculture Fair, World Food Day commemoration and National Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	The project continued to advocate for equal access to control over natural resources through awareness and promoting access to financial services for women engaged in fish processing and trading. The Dimitra approach was implemented so there is integration of EAFm and Gender Transformative Approaches. FiRM further engaged in building the capacity of men and women to take responsibility in identifying negative socio norms and challenge them to make efforts aimed at addressing these at community, household and individual level
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Election of women into leadership positions for the Fisheries Association (FA) of Lake Malombe and Upper Shire River. Introducing self-financing approaches at local level has empowered women to be active in decision making that affects their respective households as well as the community at large. Participation of women in implementation and evaluation of EAFm plans
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	In collaboration with JP-GTA, village savings and loans have been introduced to enhance women access to ecosystem services through participation in fishery-based value chains
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people trained: 242 (180M and 72F) Number of beneficiaries participated in out-planting of tree seedlings: 187 (50M, 137F) Number of beneficiaries participated in national events: 12 (6M, 6F)
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	The project has a Socioeconomic Gender and Governance Specialist who is responsible for gender

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		<p>activities in the FiRM project. In addition, the PMU also has experience in gender and ensures that gender is inclusive during implementation of all project activities.</p>
<p>Any other good practices on gender</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Creating synergies with relevant projects like the Joint Programme Gender Transformative Approaches Project funded by EU and implemented in partnership with Malawi Government and fellow Rome Based Agencies WFP and IFAD, provided an opportunity for conducting socio norms diagnostic studies and increased implementation of Gender Transformative Approaches which are challenging some of the discriminatory negative socio norms and harmful cultures and promoting gender equality in the fishing communities.</p>

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.	FiRM Project gathers, organizes, analyses, facilitate vet validates and share knowledge in a way that is easily accessible to partners and stakeholders
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year .	The project has a communication strategy. FiRM project developed and locally validated IEC messages for all key thematic areas. Procurement of IEC materials for dissemination of the messages is underway. The project also produced promotional jingles on EAFn a 10-minute video documentary on cage culture which due under vetting by Department of Fisheries
Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/news-archive/de/news/fr/c/1630784/ https://twitter.com/FAOMalawi/status/162551975341066?t=HZ8_4KUgR9_tEQL33vkqbA&s=08
Please provide links to related website, social media account	
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	https://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/news-archive/de/news/en/c/1605368
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details	Romeo Ngwira Romeo.Ngwira@fao.org +265 992 16 0103/ +265 888 63 8117

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

If applicable, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities.

Do indigenous peoples and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

There are no indigenous people in the communities, however, the community is made up of mixed tribes, including Yao, Lomwe, Chewa, Ngoni and many other tribes which together makes a combination of majority and minority groups. FiRM project ensures that everyone is treated equally with dignity without discrimination, regardless of their/his/her tribe

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁷	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²⁸	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Government	DOF	In kind	1 500 000	1 758 403	745 086	1 758 403
Government	DCCMS	In kind	300 000	231 610	98 140	300 000
Government	MoAIWD	In kind	1 500 000	858 122	363 611	1 500 000
Bilateral aid agency	FISH	Grant	5 500 000	4 134 721	4 134 721	5 500 000
GEF Agency	FAO	In kind	100 000	720 020	193 267.64	720 020
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	470 000	539 682	436 993	539 682
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	2 000 000	293 897	293 897	2 000 000
CSO	LUANAR	In kind	750 000	1 091 642	462 560	1 091 642
TOTAL			12 120 000	9 628 097	6 728 276	13,409,747

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement?

²⁷Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

²⁸Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

Implementation Progress Rating. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
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.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, 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 moderate risk
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 low risks

Annex 2.

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 & Activity Description

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