GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

2025-08-28 10:34:31

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1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 11019	**Umoja WBS:**GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-025088
SMA IPMR ID:180642	**Grant ID:**S1-32GFL-000929
Project Short Title: Mchinji forest Ecosystems for Restoration	
Project Title: Effective Management of Mchinji Ecosystems for Restoration of Upper Bua River Catchment	
Duration months planned:	48
Duration months age:	19
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Africa
Countries:	Malawi
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	$ 921,508.00
Co-financing amount:	$ 8,198,004.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2023-11-16
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2024-02-19
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2024-02-26
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2024-07-05
Date of First Disbursement:	2024-05-01
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2025:	$ 178,302.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	$ 147,673.00

Midterm undertaken?:	No
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	2026-12-31
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2029-06-30
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2027-12-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2029-12-31

1.2 Project Description

The "Effective Management of Mchinji Ecosystems for Restoration of Upper Bua River Catchment" is a four-year project that is aimed at restoring and enhancing ecosystems in Mchinji District, Malawi, specifically focusing on Mchinji Forest Reserve, a critical source of water for the Bua River. The project is executed by Environmental Affairs Department in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change in collaboration with Mchinji District Council, Department of Forestry and Local NGOs. The project seeks to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustain ecosystem services for local communities. It responds to key threats such as deforestation, unsustainable land use, and inadequate forest governance. The project has four core components: (1) development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement, (2) strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation, (3) generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices, and (4) establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.

The project outcomes include the establishment of a gender-responsive management plan for Mchinji Forest Reserve, improved management of community forests and communal lands, restoration of degraded forest landscapes, and effective documentation and sharing of lessons learned. Major outputs include the development of forest management plans, formation of Village Forest Areas (VFAs), capacity building of stakeholders, implementation of ecosystem-based livelihoods, and operationalization of M&E and knowledge management systems. Through inclusive stakeholder engagement, with attention to gender and social inclusion, the project aims to contribute significantly to national biodiversity targets, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods in line with Malawi's Vision 2063 and the Global Environmental Facility's (GEF) biodiversity strategic objectives.

1.3 Project Contacts

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

names of Other Project Partners	Department of Forestry, Mchinji District Council and Wildlife and Environmental society of Malawi
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Jane Nimpamya
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah
UNEP Support Assistants	Ruth Igamba&Evelyn Machaiso
Manager/Representative	Tawonga Mbale Luka
Project Manager	Mphatso Martha Kalemba
Finance Manager	Stella Mawonga
Communications Lead, if relevant	Mphatso Martha Kalemba

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
PoW Indicator(s):	• Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	The project actively contributes to 2 of the pillars identified in Malawi UNDAF; pillar 1 and 3. (6.5.1 and 6.6.1)
Link to relevant SDG Goals	• Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	• 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements • 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally • 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world • 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

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

	Targets - Expected Value			
Indicators	**Mid-term**	**End-of-project**	**Total Target**	**Materialized to date**
1- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use	19,166 ha for Mchinji FR mapped and demarcated for boundary opening	19,166 ha for Mchinji FR clearly mapped and all boundaries delineated for effective management	19166 ha	19166 ha
3- Area of land under restoration	1,000 ha of customary	3,000 ha (cumulative) of	3000 ha	

	Targets - Expected Value			
Indicators	**Mid-term**	**End-of-project**	**Total Target**	**Materialized to date**
	forests restored through afforestation /reforestation	customary forests restored through afforestation/reforestation and natural regeneration		
6- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated	-600,000 tCO2e sequestered or avoided through effective management of the Mchinji forest	-1,046,590 tCO2e sequestered or avoided through effective management of the Mchinji forest	2093180	
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	25,000 (Female = 15,000 Male = 10,000) directly benefit from the GEF investment in the project	50,000 (Female = 25,000, Male = 25,000) directly benefit from the GEF investment in the project	50000	10,000

Implementation Status 2025: 1st PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2025	1st PIR	MS	MS	L
FY 2024				
FY 2023				
FY 2022				
FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				

FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

Rating towards outputs is also satisfactory. The rating for the first year 2025 is satisfactory because all the preliminary activities for laying a foundation for the realization of the key outputs of the project have been conducted. Output 1. Forest management plan for Mchinji forest Reserve is developed and implemented. The Terms of Reference for a Consultant to lead in the process of developing the Forest Management Plan have been developed and validated. The Project Management Unit is facilitating the advertisement for applications from eligible consultants. Outputs 2.1; 2.2 and 2.3: Ecosystem based IGAs and livelihoods of forest dependent communities promoted; New village forest areas are created and natural tree regeneration is promoted in community forests; and Ecosystem based IGAs and livelihoods of forest dependent communities promoted. Activities under this output will be led by Mchinji District Council and a local Non-Governmental Organization based in Mchinji. The process of identifying the local organization is in progress. The project team has since developed Terms of Reference for the local organization and Mchinji District Council is in the process of releasing a call for applications from eligible local organizations. 11 villages have been identified where livelihood interventions and new village forest areas will be created. Output 3.1: A gender-responsive communication strategy to facilitate better understanding of project activities amongst all stakeholders developed and implemented. This output will be implemented together with the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi; a local organization identified during project development that will help implementation of activities under output 4 of the project. A memorandum of Understanding between the Environmental Affairs Department and the Wildlife Environment Society of Malawi has been developed. Output 4.2: The project exit strategy developed and implemented. The project Management Unit has conducted consultations with all the relevant project stakeholders to consolidate issue that will feed into the Exit strategy. A draft Project strategy has since been developed and a validation workshop with all stakeholders is being planned. Output 4.1 Project gender-responsive Monitoring and Evaluation system developed to track project progress. Under this output, a Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy has been developed. This will help to track progress of the [project activities and outputs. A gender mainstreaming and Action Plan has also been developed. This will guide integration of all gender issues during the project implementation period. Both the M&E framework and the gender target Strategy have been approved by the National Project Steering Committee.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activitiesDuring the initial stages of the project, organizing joint planning sessions with key stakeholders including community leaders was hindered by conflicting schedules and competing commitments such as voter's registration and registration for subsidy programmes. This led to delays in finalizing implementation of some activities. To mitigate this, the project team adopted a staggered consultation approach, holding smaller, targeted meetings with specific stakeholder groups, and used district focal points to facilitate coordination. This ensured broad stakeholder input while maintaining project momentum. Furthermore, at the onset of the project implementation, there were noticeable gaps in the representation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities in project structures and activities. To address this, the project applied the Gender Mainstreaming and Action Plan to guide inclusive participation. The Project Management Team took deliberate measures including the inclusion of women and youth to the Project Steering Committee and ensuring gender-disaggregated data collection during all project activities to track participation. These measures have enhanced the inclusion of marginalized groups in decision-making and implementation processes.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	$ 8,498,004
Actual to date:	1,734,000
Progress	**Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:** So far most of the co-financing has been realized as planned which includes salary support from staff working on the project by executing agencies, office space, vehicle provision, stationery and venue for holding some of the workshops and meetings. More cofinancing can be expected from the engagement of NGO's who will be undertaking implementation of activities with the communities.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2025-05-07
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	During the reporting period, the project technical team has actively engaged key stakeholders through the activities that have been conducted. The inception meeting brought a total of 71 different stakeholders including from Central government, local government, Traditional Authorities, Members of Parliament, councilors, non-governmental organizations, youth group representatives, women group representatives, the private sector, the media and artists who graced the occasion and composed project relevant songs. This was to all ensure that all relevant stakeholders are well informed and aligned to the project. In addition, the project is subcontracting the local council and local NGOs to support implementation of some of the project activities including engaging Village Natural Resources Management Groups in implementation. The development of work plans has also been done in collaboration with Mchinji District Council and Department of Forestry. The design of the key activities was designed to foster collaboration and alignment with the stakeholders. The Monitoring and Evaluation strategy that has been developed has all responded to the needs of the communities and will be implemented in a participatory nature. The proposed steering committee is also inclusive of government organization, Traditional authorities, women and non-state actors to ensure different perspectives are integrated into the project frameworks. Moving forward, we will continue to prioritize stakeholder involvement to maintain transparency and foster ownership and inclusion throughout the project lifecycle.

2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	Yes
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	The project has prioritized inclusion of gender issues through the development and implementation of a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan. This strategy provides a comprehensive framework to ensure that all project activities are inclusive, participatory, and responsive to the needs and priorities of different gender groups, especially women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The strategy and action plan has outlined practical steps to integrate gender considerations in planning, implementation, and monitoring, including developing a gender disaggregated data collection tool, and capacity building of stakeholders on gender-responsive practices. The strategy also promotes equal access to project benefits and decision-making structures, ensuring that both women and men can meaningfully contribute to and influence conservation outcomes and livelihoods initiatives. By aligning with national policies and GEF guidelines on gender equality, the strategy reinforces the project's commitment to equitable development and environmental sustainability. In practice, during the reporting period, the project has made deliberate efforts to implement this strategy. For example, youth and women representatives have deliberately been included in the National Project Steering Committee to ensure their voices influence key decisions. Furthermore, during all project activities, attendance lists are used to collect disaggregated data by gender and age group, enabling the project to track participation trends and adjust engagement strategies accordingly. This approach has enhanced the visibility and contribution of women and youth in the project implementation. Moreover, the project manager, project finance manager and the project coordinator at Mchinji District Council are all women

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	**Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?** Yes **If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?** SS 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks SS 5: Cultural Heritage
New social and/or environmental risks	**Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?** No **If yes, describe the new risks or changes?**

Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	**Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?** No **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?**
Environmental and social safeguards management	Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource ManagementThe ultimate goal is to improve terrestrial forest biodiversity by implementing activities that are aimed at restoration of degraded and deforested areas in Mchinji Forest Reserve and the surrounding areas. This will be achieved through development and implementation of conservation plans for Mchinji Forest Reserve and the surrounding areas. The plans shall constitute activities aimed at conserving known endangered species of plants and any additional endangered species identified through routine surveys in Mchinji Forest Reserve. The project will actually improve quality and quantity of water in rivers that originate from Mchinji Forest Reserve. This will be achieved through an increase in vegetative cover along the river banks and Mchinji Forest Reserve as a whole. The vegetative cover will reduce soil erosion and siltation of rivers which is one the major problems, currently. There are several activities related to reforestation and these include nursery establishment and management, permaculture and agroforestry practices. Field patrols by forest guards will be intensified. The project will also introduce and/or upscale ecosystem-based income generating activities to reduce pressure on the forest resources used to earn income which will result into enhanced forest coverage. Communities surrounding Mchinji Forest Reserve will continue harvesting natural resources such as honey, mushrooms and thatch grass from Mchinji Forest Reserve. This project does not include any activity that can be blamed as a source of genetically modified organisms. All the living materials used in the project will also be certified by competent experts The project will put in place measures to prevent introduction of invasive alien species such as tree seeds but these will be sourced from Forestry Research Institute of Malawi which sell certified seeds.Safeguard Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster RisksThe project has some interventions which are vulnerable to impacts of climate change such as bee-keeping which requires adequate water supply and flowers which are prone to drought and dry spells; nursery establishment which also require adequate water supply. However, the project will promote vegetation cover through tree planting, natural regeneration and forest patrols which will contribute towards addressing issues of siltation since the Bua river is prone to flooding. With an increase in vegetation cover, there will be a corresponding increase in carbon sequestration. The project will improve social resilience of vulnerable people, especially women, against impacts of climate change by contributing towards food security (e.g. through agroforestry) and income (through IGAs), leading to an improvement in social resilience of the rural communities. Safeguard Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource EfficiencySome elements of pollution and resource inefficiency may be prevalent but the project has put in place mitigation measures. For instance, seeds for tree nursery establishment will be raised in polythene tubes though the impact will be very minimal since they will be re-used if they are in good condition. There might also be open defecation by communities during boundary clearing and demarcation of Mchinji Forest

	Reserve and also during harvest of natural resources. To protect tree seedlings in nurseries from pests and diseases, pesticides will be used and these are harmful to people and the environment but these will be carefully assessed and consultations made, to ensure they are not among those internationally banned. There will use of inputs such as water for tree nurseries but this will not be significant since this is a small project with small sized nurseries established since only a few households shall be involved.Safeguard Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and SecurityThe project recognizes potential risks pertaining to community health, security and safety. For instance, tree nurseries will utilize some water will be drawn from rivers and wetlands which may expose people to breeding grounds of mosquitoes and bilharzia. In addition, there may be some dangerous animals in Mchinji Forest Reserve which may endanger people's lives during boundary clearing and harvesting of natural resources from the reserve. However, the project shall rehabilitate 3 tiny forest guard houses and one office block belonging to the District Forestry Officer to provide security and safety to forest as well as communities surrounding the forest reserve. The project will foster collaboration with other law enforcement agencies such as the Malawi Police, the Magistrates, Judiciary and Rangers from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to curb illegal activities through patrols and stiffer penalties to offender. The project will promote natural regeneration through enhancing ecosystem services and their functions such as activities that enhance vegetation cover and fruit production will be promoted as well. Safe guard 5: Cultural HeritageThe project will be implemented in a forest reserve area which has no any cultural heritage sites. However, initiation camps for Gule Wamkulu – a dominant practice among the Chewa tribe exist in the surrounding communities. Since the project is promoting restoration of the ecosystems in forest reserve and its surrounding communities, the camps will benefit from such interventions to enhance the forest in such initiation camps. Similarly, graveyards in the surrounding communities will conserved and their dignity restored through the afforestation drive. In addition, the project does not require the use of cultural heritage to achieve this main objective neither will the project have any effect on the cultural heritage. Therefore, the risk assessment for this safeguard is low as the probability of its occurrence is close to zero. Safeguard Standard 6: Displacement and Involuntary ResettlementAn economic displacement risk may be associated with the implementation of controls and restrictions on some human economic activities in the forest reserves which will affect the project objective of restoring the ecosystem of the forest. The communities depend on the forest for income generation since the forest reserve is a source of timber, firewood, charcoal production and encroachment due to scarcity of alternative livelihood strategies. There is minimal likelihood that the project may rightly restrict communities their rights to land and water use in the spirit conserving the forest and increasing biodiversity in the forest reserve and surrounding communities. However, the project aims to mitigate these risks by supporting the communities through livelihood diversification interventions that would help to reduce the communities' dependence on these resources. The project will support the communities to enhance livelihood strategies that have a positive impact on the ecosystem and biodiversity such as bee keeping, use of energy saving cook stoves, recreation activities such as picnics, sightseeing and education visits, and mushroom production. The project will also provide alternative sources of resources such as medicinal plants, fruits, mushrooms, timber, firewood through establishment of new village forest areas and promotion of natural tree regeneration. Furthermore, the sustainable land management (SLM) and environmental restoration

	interventions that the project will implement will also contribute to overall resilience and well-being of the local communities. The increased alternative livelihood strategies will significantly contribute to sustainable and efficient use of resources (e.g. Good Agriculture Practices and technologies that promote intensification resulting in increased production per unit land area) in the areas whereby reducing the likelihood land use and ownership.Safeguard Standard 7: Indigenous PeoplesThe project area is a reserved area despite people utilizing it for other purposes such as extraction of water by the Central Region Water Board, source of timber, firewood, medicinal plants, fruits, mushroom, bee keeping, thatching grass besides other uses like recreation (picnics and sight-seeing as well as education purposes. However, no indigenous peoples reside in the project area and therefore the project will not in any way affect them. Therefore, the risk of the project affecting the indigenous people or vice versa does not exist as complemented in the table below.Safeguard Standard 8: Labor and working conditionsThe national employment and labour policy which is aligned to the ILO conventions which the country ratified ensures that the project adopts guidelines on employment, health and safety of all stakeholders. It is in line with the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi, The National Employment Act, Labour relations act, Workers compensation act, Occupational Safety, Health and Welfare Act, the TIVET and the public finance and management act. The project will comply with these statutes by developing an occupation health and safety plan which will be part of the environmental and social management plan for the project. Amongst the guidelines, the project will not engage in any forms of child labour, sexual harassment and exploitation and will provide Personal Protective Equipment to all relevant stakeholders. The project will ensure no one is subjected to any forms of gender-based violence. Awareness creation will be done through trainings and provision of IEC materials and other community meetings to ensure compliance. On the other hand, the project will promote local skills and knowledge in Good Agriculture Practices, Sustainable land Management and alternative sources which have the potential promote self-employment, asset creation, creation of business opportunities, increased incomes and household and individual level/household level, improved living standards/social status and food security. In the interest of gender and equity, the project will implement safeguards that will promote women and youth employment while protecting them from any form of exploitation by the employers and fellow employees. A code of conduct will be developed and all staff employed by the project will be oriented on the same which will ensure no interference in marriages for local people in the impact area which will also contribute to reduction of the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV.

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	During the reporting period the project Produced two (2) roll up banners, 1 one wall banner and 100 flyers which were distributed during the launch of the project. The products were in Chichewa and English to allow all stakeholders be able to grasp the messages of the project. The information contained in the flyers include the project goals, expected outputs, target area, total financing and location among others. These products were also displayed during the commemoration of the 2025 International Day Biodiversity and the World Environment Day at Chia Lagoon in Nkhotakota District on 5th June. During this event, Environmental Affairs Department raised

	awareness of the project to key government officials including the Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change who was the guest of Honor at the event. The project management team also conducted a learning visit to Permaculture Paradise Institute with the National Steering Committee Members on board in Mchinji. The visit aimed at understanding and appreciate how permaculture functioning permaculture site allowing both Project Management Team members and the Project Steering Committee observe best practices, innovative techniques, and real-life applications of sustainable land management, appreciate what works on the ground, challenges faced, and success factors. Integrating permaculture principles in farming is one of the key activities under component 2 of the project.
Main learning during the period	The main lesson learnt during the reporting period is the importance of stakeholder engagement in project implementation. Stakeholder engagement and participation has proved to be crucial components of as project implementation. In all the activities, the project has emphasized on stakeholder engagement including the local communities living around Mchinji forest Reserve. This has helped the project to identify local issues and incorporate community and local knowledge in the project. This has strengthened trust and enhanced cooperation. The project is also ensured of sustainable outcomes because risks that come with lack of engagement has been reduced and the legitimacy of the project has been enhanced as it is aligned with existing frameworks. Finally, resource mobilization for co-financing has become easier as stakeholders are helping to identify funding sources and facilitate partnerships but also allowing for skills sharing and capacity sharing.

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	The inception meeting of the project was a great event that brought together diverse actors important for Mchinji ecosystem restoration. These included Traditional Authorities, Councillors, Members of Parliament, Youth Groups, Women Groups, Local Government Officials, Central Government Officials, the media, Performances, UNEP Representatives and community group representatives among others. Below is a news abstract from the media who covered the inception of the meeting.

	https://www.manaonline.gov.mw/index.php/national-news/environment/item/4035-mchinji-receives-boost-in-environmental-conservation

3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
The management of Mchinji forest and supporting local government institutions and communities to enhance conservation and sustainable use of forest resource s to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in community forests and community land	Objective indicator 1: Core Indicator 1.1 -Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use	Mchinji FR management has not been tracked for efficiency and effectiveness. Management effectiveness score = 18%	19,166 ha of Mchinji FR is fairly managed. Management effectiveness score= 30%	19,166 of Mchinji FR is fairly managed. Management effectiveness score= 60%	50%	The development and implementation of the Mchinji Forest Management Plan is expected to enhance the management effectiveness of the Mchinji Forest Reserve and significantly improve its METT score. Progress towards this outcome is well on track, as key preparatory milestones have been achieved. A dedicated Task Team has been established to oversee the process, Terms of Reference (TORs) for the development of the management plan have been finalized, and hotspot areas within the reserve have been successfully mapped. These foundational steps demonstrate concrete progress towards achieving the targeted improvement in management effectiveness.	MS
The management of Mchinji forest and supporting local government institutions and communities to enhance conservation and sustainable use of forest resource s to	Objective indicator 2: Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored	Up to 3,000 ha of communal lands around Mchinji FR are currently degraded	1,000 ha of communal lands and community forests restored through	3,000 ha of communal lands and community forests restored through reforestation	50%	The identification of 11 villages to participate in the management of community forest activities marks a critical milestone towards achieving this indicator. Currently, capacity-building efforts are underway,	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in community forests and community land		(Baseline = 0 ha restored)	reforestation			with community members undergoing targeted training to equip them with the necessary skills for effective forest management. Additionally, a detailed map delineating the specific community areas where project activities will be implemented has been developed, providing a clear framework for coordinated action on the ground.	
The management of Mchinji forest and supporting local government institutions and communities to enhance conservation and sustainable use of forest resource s to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in community forests and community land	Objective indicator 3: Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)	Landscapes around the Mchinji CFR are not under improved practices. (Baseline = 0 ha	6,000 ha of communal lands under improved practices and actively providing biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services	13,730 ha communal lands in the Mchinji forest system restored and actively providing biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services	50%	A comprehensive map has been developed to delineate the specific areas targeted for restoration interventions. The map categorizes the landscape into three distinct zones: (i) intact areas where management activities will be intensified to sustain the provision of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services, (ii) moderately degraded areas where moderate restoration efforts will be implemented to rehabilitate ecosystem functionality, and (iii) heavily degraded areas where severe encroachment has occurred, necessitating critical and intensive restoration interventions. This mapping exercise provides a strategic foundation for prioritizing and tailoring restoration actions to the specific conditions of each area, ensuring effective resource allocation	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						and measurable progress towards the project's restoration targets.	
The management of Mchinji forest and supporting local government institutions and communities to enhance conservation and sustainable use of forest resource s to maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in community forests and community land	Objective indicator 4: Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated	The current GHG emissions avoided within the Mchinji forest are currently indeterminate (unknown)	-600,000 tCO2e sequestered or avoided through effective management of the Mchinji forest	-1,046,590 tCO2e sequestered or avoided through effective management of the Mchinji forest	40%	While the quantification of current GHG emissions avoided within the Mchinji Forest Reserve remains indeterminate at this early stage, foundational activities critical to achieving the emission reduction targets have commenced. The development of the Mchinji Forest Management Plan is underway, with hotspot areas mapped and categorized based on degradation levels to guide targeted restoration and management interventions. These preparatory steps are essential precursors to improving forest carbon stocks and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Additionally, the Management plan will include options for Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework for future assessment of GHG mitigation impacts.	MU
The management of Mchinji forest and supporting local government institutions and communities to enhance conservation and sustainable use of forest resource s to	Objective indicator 4: Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	0	25,000 (Female = 15,000 Male = 10,000) directly benefit from the GEF investment in	50,000 (Female = 25,000, Male = 25,000) directly benefit from the GEF investment in the project	50%	The gender strategy has guided on how beneficiaries will be identified in a gender responsive way. At the moment, the project has identified 11 villages for participation in community forest management activities. Community	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
maintain and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in community forests and community land			the project			sensitization and capacity-building activities are ongoing. A gender-disaggregated beneficiary mapping exercise is in progress to establish a baseline for tracking direct beneficiaries.	
Outcome 1: Effective management of Mchinji forest reserve strengthened through development management frameworks and improving capacity in enforcement for protection of forest reserve.	Indicator 1 of outcome1: Mchinji forest reserve as a Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	Use the METT to get the baseline METT scores	To be determined using the METT during the first year	To be determined using the METT in year 1	50%	A Task Team has been formed; planning for METT assessment is ongoing as part of Management Plan development	MS
Outcome 1: Effective management of Mchinji forest reserve strengthened through development management frameworks and improving capacity in enforcement for protection of forest reserve.	Indicator 2 of outcome1: Area of Mchinji FR mapped and demarcated for boundary opening	The area and boundaries of all 19,166 ha of Mchinji FR do not have updated maps and not effectively protected	19,166 ha for Mchinji FR mapped and demarcated for boundary opening	19,166 ha for Mchinji FR clearly mapped and all boundaries delineated for effective management	50%	A detailed map of Mchinji FR has been developed, identifying intact, moderately degraded, and heavily degraded areas for targeted management interventions	MS
Outcome 1: Effective management of Mchinji forest reserve strengthened through development management frameworks and improving capacity in	Indicator 3 of outcome1: A management plan for Mchinji FR developed and operational	Mchinji forest is faced with degradation and loss of biological diversity due to	Forest inventory, description and prescriptions developed into a draft	An approved gender responsive management plan for Mchinji FR in place and operational	50%	Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Management Plan finalized; inventory and hotspot mapping completed; the gender strategy will guide development of a gender responsive Forest Management Plan	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
enforcement for protection of forest reserve.		lack of a management plan	Management Plan				
Outcome 1: Effective management of Mchinji forest reserve strengthened through development management frameworks and improving capacity in enforcement for protection of forest reserve.	Indicator 4 of outcome1:The capacity of forestry extension officers is built to actively implement the forest management plan and provide forest extension services, to enhance management	Forestry extension officers have only basic capacity and not proficient in forest management and extension	At least 40% of forestry extension officers are proficient and actively implementing forest management plan and providing forest extension services	At least 80% of forestry extension officers are proficient and actively implementing forest management plan and providing forest extension services, enhancing management effectiveness to a METT score of ≥	50%	Initial training of forest rangers to orient them on the project and their role in the Management plan development, surveillance and law enforcement was conducted. Detailed Capacity needs assessment for extension officers is being conducted; training modules under development for roll-out in Year 1.	MS
Outcome 2. improved conservation and sustainable use of forest resources so as to maintain and restore biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services through supporting local government institutions and communities	Indicator 1 of outcome 2:Area of customary forests restored through afforestation/reforestation and natural regeneration	No area of customary forests (0 ha) has been restored through afforestation and/or reforestation	1,000 ha of customary forests restored through afforestation /reforestation	3,000 ha of customary forests restored through afforestation/reforestation and natural regeneration	50%	Restoration zones have been mapped and categorized (intact, moderate, heavily degraded) to guide afforestation/reforestation efforts.	MS
Outcome 2. improved conservation and sustainable use of forest resources so as to maintain and restore	Indicator 2 of outcome 2:Area of new village forests under improved management to benefit	No area of communal lands (0 ha) managed as	6,000 ha of new village forests under improved	11,730 ha of new village forests under improved management to benefit biodiversity	40%	Village-level land use mapping in progress to delineate new village forests	MU

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services through supporting local government institutions and communities	biodiversity	new village forests to benefit biodiversity	management to benefit biodiversity				
Outcome 2. improved conservation and sustainable use of forest resources so as to maintain and restore biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services through supporting local government institutions and communities	Indicator 3 of outcome 2:Area of community land under agroforestry and permaculture	The area of community land under agroforestry and permaculture is currently 0 ha	1000 ha of community land under improved management for agroforestry, beekeeping and permaculture	2,000 ha of community land under improved management for agroforestry, beekeeping and permaculture	40%	Site were already identified and Identification and selection of target households is ongoing.	MU
Outcome 2. improved conservation and sustainable use of forest resources so as to maintain and restore biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services through supporting local government institutions and communities	Indicator 4 of outcome 2:% of households with additional income from ecosystem based IGAs	There are no households yet with additional income from ecosystem based IGAs	At least 30% of target household realize additional income from ecosystem based IGAs promoted by the project	At least 100% of target households realize additional income from ecosystem based IGAs promoted by the project	40%	Identification of sustainable IGAs (e.g., beekeeping, agroforestry) to be implemented was already conducted	MU
Outcome 3. An effective knowledge management system in place	Indicator 1 of outcome 3:Strategies for improving communication and awareness amongst the community on the importance of forests and	Awareness and communication strategy is not in place	Awareness and communication strategy developed and in operation	Awareness and communication strategy developed and in operation	40%	An MOU has been developed with Wildlife and Environment Society of Malawi who will champion development of a communication and awareness strategy including its implementation.	MU

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	species habitats						
Outcome 3. An effective knowledge management system in place	Indicator 2 of outcome 3:Number of knowledge products and lessons learned shared and disseminated widely with equal participation of stakeholders	No knowledge products and lessons learned have been developed yet. These will be available during and after project implementation	At least five (5) knowledge products and lessons learned are developed with equal participation of stakeholders	At least five (5) knowledge products and lessons learned are shared and disseminated widely with equal participation of stakeholders	40%	WESM was identified as the institution to support communication and development of knowledge products. They already submitted the work areas and proposed activities to be implemented. A draft communication strategy is being developed and Stakeholder to be engaged have been identified.	MU
Outcome 4 An effective project monitoring and evaluation system in place	Indicator 1 of outcome 4:Project gender-disaggregated M&E system enables tracking of project progress	Current forest management and conservation practices and not tracked and monitored effectively using an organized M&E system	A draft gender responsive project M&E system in place and piloted in tracking the implementation of forestry management and conservation approaches	Gender responsive project M&E system in place and actively being utilized to track and implement forestry management and conservation approaches	100%	A gender responsive M&E strategy have been developed and are operational. A Gender mainstreaming strategy has also been developed.	HS
Outcome 4 An effective project monitoring and evaluation system in place	Indicator 2 of outcome 4:The project exit strategy developed and implemented	An exit strategy has been prepared as part of PPG for this project	An exit strategy developed defining options for further upscaling of	An exit strategy developed defining options for further upscaling of best practices	40%	The structure of the project exit strategy has been developed and elements to go into it has been identified	MU

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			best practices				
Outcome 4 An effective project monitoring and evaluation system in place	Indicator 3 of outcome 4:Project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation is conducted	Project management strategies have been developed as part of PPG	Project mid-term targets are achieved at a scale of 100%	Project end targets are achieved at a scale of 100%	40%	Project monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed. In addition, the first implementation review meeting was conducted in November and a report was submitted to UNEP. The second review meeting was conducted in May. Half yearly report was submitted to UNEP.	MU

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

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Output 1.1: Forest management plan for Mchinji forest reserve is developed and implemented	2026-12-31	0	50	Process for recruitment a consultant to draft the management plan is underway. TORs have been developed and validated. Core planning team to act as advisory body for the development of the management plan is in place.	MS
1 Component 1. Development	Activity 1.1.1. Form an inclusive inter-disciplinary Core Planning Team	2024-12-31	0	100%	Core planning team formed and MOU between Executing agency and Forestry	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement					department signed. The Core Planning Team is made up of experts from Forestry Department, Environmental Affairs Department and Mchinji District council among others.	
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity 1.1.2: Review existing legal instruments of gazettement and other documents	2026-12-31	0	50%	This activity has been included in the Terms of Reference of the consultant that will lead the process of developing the Forest Management Plan.	MS
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law	Activity 1.1.3: Review the past and current status, management, biodiversity and ecosystem services	2026-09-12	0	30%	The activity has been included in the terms of reference of the consultant that will lead the development of the Forest Management Plan.	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
enforcement						
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity 1.1.4 Conduct stakeholder engagement on management and protection of the forest reserve	2026-08-31	0	50%	This activity will be done jointly by the Mchinji District Council, Forestry Department and the consultant who will lead the process of Developing the Forest Management Plan.It has been included in the terms of reference and its implementation will be jointly done with the development of the management plan. However, the Mchinji Forestry Office has already conducted engagements with Forest Rangers, sorronding communities and council officials on the activities to enhance forest management in the reserve.	MU
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity 1.1.5: Conduct forest inventory, biodiversity and socio-economic assessment	2026-10-31	0	50%	This activity is part of the Terms of Reference for a consulted to be recruited who will lead the process of developing the Forest Management Plan to be done by the consultant who will be recruited. Since an inventory was done some years back, the consultant will need to update it based on the current situation.	MU
1 Component 1. Development and implementation	Activity 1.1.6. Draft a future proof and gender responsive Forest Management Plan	2026-08-31	0	50%	This activity is part of the Terms of Reference for a consulted to be recruited who will lead the process of developing the Forest Management Plan to	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement					be done by the consultant who will be recruited. The gender strategy already developed will inform the gender responsiveness aspect of the forest management plan.	
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity 1.1.7. Conduct an inclusive stakeholder validation of the draft Forest Management Plan	2025-09-31	0	30%	Validation of the Terms of Reference has been conducted as an initial step. Validation of the actual Management Plan will be done after submission of the draft Forest Management Plan by the consultant as per Terms of Reference.	MU
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity 1.1.8. Facilitate approval and signing by the Director of Forestry	2026-01-31	0	30%	The Director of Forestry has been engaged as one of the critical stakeholders to support the development of the Management Plan. Upon validation of the Forest Management Plan and submission of the final draft by the consultant he will be required to sign and endorse it.	MU
1 Component 1.	Output 1.2: Law enforcement and collaboration among law	2027-06-31	0	50%	This output will be led by the	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	enforcement agencies strengthened for Mchinji Forest Reserve				Department of Forestry and Mchinji District Council. A Memorandum of Understanding between Environmental Affairs Department and each of the two institutions have been signed.	
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity1.2. 1: Establish forest surveillance systems, including forest patrols	2027-12-31	0	50%	Mchinji District Council through its forest office is documenting information on degraded areas and areas that are under encroachment which will be a target for patrols. It has also conducted training of Forest Rangers in that regard. An initial map has been developed to support identification of critical degraded areas	MS
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for	Activity 1.2.2: Sensitize magistrates and judges on benefits from Mchinji Forest Reserve, Forestry policy, Act and the associated charges	2027-03-30	0	35%	This activity will be implemented by the Forestry in collaboration with the Environmental Affairs Department. At the moment there is collection of materials and information from similar activities to identify focus areas and mode of delivery of the program.	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
forest law enforcement						
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity 1.2.3: Demarcate and open up forest boundaries	2026-12-30	0	50%	This activity will be implemented by the Forestry Department and the District Council in collaboration with Environmental Affairs Department. At the moment, a GIS expert was engaged to develop a map of Mchinji District and Surrounding areas which will be used for future programming of the activities. The map indicates critical boundary areas and where encroachment hotspots are.	MS
1 Component 1. Development and implementation of forest management frameworks and capacity building for forest law enforcement	Activity 1.2.4: Build capacity of law enforcement staff to upscale and sustain forest law enforcement performance system	2027-03-30	0	50%	This activity will be implemented by the Forestry and the District Council. At the moment a list of law enforcement officers has being compiled to identify target personnel to undergo training on various aspects of law enforcement. An initial training of rangers has been conducted to create awareness on project activities and law enforcement issues.	MS
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-	Output 2.1: Ecosystem based IGAs and livelihoods of forest dependent communities promoted	2027-12-31	0	30%	This output will be implemented by a local NGO whose selection exercise is being undertaken and its Terms of References have been developed	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation						
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Activity2.1. 1: Conduct sensitization meetings about IGAs and livelihoods around the reserve and get community buy-in.	2027-12-20	0	55%	Mchinji District Council is in the processes of identifying beneficiaries for this activity. At the moment, 11 villages have been earmarked to be part of the activities under this component and they are being sensitized.	MS
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Activity 2.1.2: Promote bee-keeping	2025-10-12	0	10%	This activity will be implemented by a local NGO to be identified above. At the moment beneficiaries are being identified.	HU
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-	Activity 2.1.3: Promote fruit tree grafting and commercial tree nurseries and Activity and Promote Agroforestry Practices	2027-12-20	0	30	This activity will be implemented by a local NGO to be identified. At the moment beneficiaries are being identified.	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation						
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Activity 2.1.4: Build marketing capacity of target communities	2027-12-20	0	30%	As a Local NGO is being identified, the project document already proposed some of the marketing needs. These are being compiled to be included in the TORs of the local NGO.	MU
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Activity 2.1.5: Promote permaculture and food forests	2027-12-20	0	30%	This activity will be implemented by a local NGO. The Steering Committee however had a chance to visit Paradise Permaculture institute to benchmark on some of the permaculture activities that can be carried out under the project. This has helped to form the terms of reference of the NGO.	MU
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-	Activity 2.1.6: Establish a champion of extension workers to upscale and sustain IGAs	2025-12-20	0	50%	Extension workers to be involved in implementation of project activities have been identified and trained.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation						
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Output 2.2 New village forest areas are created and natural tree regeneration is promoted in community forests	2027-06-20	0	30%	This output is being implemented by the district council in collaboration with the Forestry Department and the local NGO to be identified under output 2.1	MU
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Activity 2.2.1: Identify a local NGO to spearhead establishment of village forest area in selected communities.	2025-12-20	0	50%	Terms of reference for identification of a local NGO have been developed and the process for recruiting a local NGO is underway.	MS
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-	Activity 2.2.2: Adopt/designate the new village forest area, including its boundaries, conservation objectives, detailed management and monitoring plan	2025-11-20	0	40%	A mapping exercise is underway to map the areas that have been identified for community interventions.	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation						
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Activity 2.2.3: Facilitate establishment of an all-inclusive VFA committees	2026-09-20	0	40%	Since the areas have been identified and beneficiaries are been identified, this will be completed once those two processes are finalized.	MU
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation	Activity 2.2.4: Conduct training and capacity building of community representatives on forest management	2025-09-20	0	40%	The Community beneficiaries have are under identification and those identified are being trained	MU
2 Component 2. Strengthening local government and community-	Activity 2.2.5: Procure and distribute start-up materials	2025-12-20	0	40%	A procurement plan has been developed and materials to be procured will be confirmed upon community engagement.	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
level capacity for forest and biodiversity conservation						
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices						HSMU
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	Output 3.1: A gender-responsive communication strategy to facilitate better understanding of project activities amongst all stakeholders developed and implemented	2027-12-20	0	70%	A gender strategy has been developed and MOU has been developed with Malawi Environment	S
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	Activity 3.1.1. Conduct stakeholder consultations to capture and document views, perceptions and recommendations for effective project implementation	2026-06-20	0	40%	This output will be done by Wildlife and Environmental society of Malawi, a local organization that was identified during the project development phase. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WESM and EAD has been developed. A work plan has also been developed highlighting areas of focus.	MU
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	Activity 3.1.2. Develop a project communication strategy	2025-10-20	0	40%	This activity will be done by Wildlife and Environmental society of Malawi (WESM). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WESM and EAD has been developed. A work plan has also been developed highlighting areas of focus	MU
3 Component 3.	Activity 3.1.3. Disseminate the communication strategy to all project	2025-12-20	0	30		MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	stakeholders (government and non-government).					
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	Activity 3.1.4. Document best practices and lessons in a collaborative process through structured and unstructured processes	2026-08-20	0	30%	This activity will be done after completion of activity 3.1.3 above. A work plan on how this will be undertaken has been developed	MU
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	Activity 3.1.5. Establish a database using appropriate hardware and software for storage and processing of the experiences and knowledge gained from project implementation	2027-12-20	0	30%	This activity will be done by WESM. Brainstorming for this activity has been conducted and it is highly being planned to also utilize the clearing house mechanism of the CBD for storage and dissemination of information.	MU
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	Activity 3.1.6. Disseminate or share the selected best practices and lessons to relevant stakeholders in various platforms	2027-12-20	0	30%	The activity will be done by WESM. A plan on development of case studies and how to disseminate them is underway. A communication specialist from WESM has been identified to be supporting this work.	MU
3 Component 3. Generation and sharing of knowledge and best practices	Activity 3.1.7. Conduct hands on training for key stakeholder staff in the use of the hardware and software for storage and processing of the experiences and knowledge gained from project implementation	2027-12-20	0	30%	A training plan is being developed and a trainer has been identified.	MU
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust						HSMU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.						
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Output 4.1 Project gender-responsive Monitoring and Evaluation system developed to track project progress	2027-12-20	0	70%	A gender mainstreaming strategy and a monitoring and evaluation strategy have all been developed and approved by the Project Steering Committee. What remains is implementation together with other project components.	S
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.1.1. Develop an interactive gender responsive Monitoring and Evaluation system	2024-12-20	0	100%	A gender responsive monitoring and evaluation system was developed and adopted	HS
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.1.2. Develop a gender responsive dissemination plan to support operationalization and scaling up of the M&E system	2025-02-24	0	100%	A gender responsive operation plan was developed and adopted	HS
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project	Activity 4.1.3. Develop a gender and targeting Strategy	2025-02-20	0	100%	A gender targeting strategy was developed. A few comments were made at the steering committee and they have since being incorporated in the	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.					document.	
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.1.4. Conduct annual and bi-annual project (PMU, PSC and Technical Committee) meetings	2027-12-20	0	50%	2 Technical committee meetings have been conducted including 1 PSC meeting. It is planned that PSC meetings will take place annually and technical meetings will take place biannually whilst PMU meetings are ongoing on a need's basis.	MS
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.1.5. Conduct project implementation and performance reviews	2027-12-20	0	50%	The first implementation review meeting was conducted in November and a report was submitted to UNEP. The second review meeting was conducted in May. Half yearly report was submitted to UNEP and this PIR report	MS
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Output 4.2: The project exit strategy developed and implemented	2026-12-30	0	40%	The structure of the project exit strategy has been developed and elements to go into it has been identified	MU
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and	Activity 4.2.1: Conduct consultations with staff, local communities, beneficiaries and other relevant stakeholders on which outcomes are to be sustained after project closure	2026-12-20	0	40%	Consultations are yet to commence and will be based on the just identified communities and beneficiaries. Stakeholders important for the strategy have been identified and mapped.	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
evaluation (M&E) system.						
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.2.2: Using a participatory approach, develop a project exit strategy	2026-12-20	0	40%	This activity will be implemented towards midterm. However, relevant stakeholders have already been identified.	MU
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.2.3: Implement the exit strategy (at the earliest outset of project implementation)	2028-05-20	0	20	This activity was done led by the PMU together with all project stakeholders including the communities	U
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Output 4.3: Project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation is conducted	2028-12-20	0	60%	The project has seconded a project coordinator from Environmental Affairs Department, A project Officer is also identified, a Project Site Coordinator, a project Director, a Finance and Administration officer has been recruited. The project has also subcontracted Mchinji District Council Forestry Department, WESM to implement some of the components.	S
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust	Activity 4.3.1. Recruit Project management unit	2025-09-12	0	80%	The project has seconded a project coordinator from Environmental Affairs Department, A project Officer is also	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.					identified, a Project Site Coordinator, a project Director. a Finance and Administration officer has been identified and processes for recruitment are being finalised. At the moment a finance officer from EAD has been seconded to the project. The project has also subcontracted Mchinji District Council Forestry Department, WESM to implement some of the components	
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.3.2. Conduct a project inception workshop	2024-05-20	0	100%	A project inception meeting was conducted with participation of various stakeholders on 5TH July, 2024.	HS
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.3.3. Procure project equipment	2026-06-12	0	60%	A project procurement plan was developed and Some Project equipment has already been procured other equipment will be procured on needs basis as per procurement plan.	MS
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation	Activity 4.3.4. Conduct Audits and Financial Monitoring	2027-12-20	0	50%	Financial reports for the project have been developed and submitted for 5 quarters	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
(M&E) system.						
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.3.5. Conduct mid-term and terminal review assessments¬¬¬¬	2026-06-20	0	0	To be done at Mid Term	HU
4 Component 4 Establishment of a robust project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.	Activity 4.3.6. Conduct final project closure workshop	2027-12-29	0	0	To be done at closure	HU

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

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

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

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

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

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

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Agriculture which is the most representative land use in the area continues pressure on land and other natural resources	All outcomes	L	L					L	=	
Rapid Changes in climate conditions and	All outcomes	L	L					L	=	

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
related extreme weather events can outstrip the ability of the project to successfully contributing sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable to agriculture production which can translate into food insecurity and increasing of vulnerability										
Lack of interest and support from Key national stakeholders' groups and communities in Ecosystem Restoration and activities of the project	All outcomes	L	L					L	=	
Insufficient fundingand Governmentsupport to continueimplementation of activities afterthe project ends	All outcomes	L	L					L	=	
Some ecosystem services as income generating options poorly understood by communities		L	L					L	=	
Lack of adoption or engagement by local communities	All outcomes	L	L					L	=	
Risks of health related emergencies	All outcomes	L	L					L	=	
	All outcomes	L	L					L	=	

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

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

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

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

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

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

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

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

Minor amendments

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

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

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

GEO Location Information:

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Mchinji Forest Reserve	-13.67557	32.85732		Mchinji forest reserve protected area	Development and implementation of Forest Management Plan
Chinjira	-13.760833	32.912482		Community area for restoration	
Malizani	-13.738148	32.9122		Community area for restoration	
Kachinjiri	-13.632317	32.90636		Community area for restoration	
Lazaro	-13.615412	32.872088		Community area for restoration	
Chiwoko	-13.61563	32.874302		Community area for restoration	
Chikwawe	-13.591643	32.848988		Community area for restoration	
Chikuta	-13.560912	32.810153		Community area for restoration	
Kapunula	-13.587553	32.780937		Community area for	

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
				restoration	

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]