

PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE
CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NTHAGHABO BLOCK (BLOCK 7)
M'MBELWA DISTRICT COUNCIL



PREPARED BY:

**GVH BOKOSI HUNGA, GVH MSENJERE CHIUMIA AND GVH MUWERU, WIDER
COMMUNITIES AND MZUZU UNIVERSITY**

SUPPORTED BY:

**GoM/EU IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME
(IFMSLP)**



JANUARY 2014

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	II
ACRONYMS.....	IV
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	V
1.....	I
INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. NTHAGHABO FOREST BLOCK AREA.....	3
2.1 Location/Boundary.....	3
2.2 Forest Description.....	3
2.3 Forest users and uses.....	3
2.4 Social Description.....	3
2.5 Institutional Environment.....	4
Name of NGO.....	5
Services offered to the Communities.....	5
REDCROSS.....	5
- Providing relief aid to the disaster affected victims.....	5
MRFC.....	5
- Provide loans.....	5
NASFAM.....	5
- Agricultural and marketing services.....	5
TAMA.....	5
- Transporting tobacco to the Auction Floors.....	5
ARET.....	5
- Advisory on tobacco growing and tree planting.....	5
Tovwirane.....	5
- Provide advice and counseling on HIV and AIDS.....	5
NICE.....	5
- Provide leadership trainings.....	5
PLEM.....	5
-Supply of piped water to the communities.....	5
2. CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	6
3.1 General Objectives.....	6

3.2	Specific Objectives.....	6
3.3	Map of Perekezi	6
3.4	Forest Management Units.....	7
3.5	Resource rules	8
3.6	Available Forest Resources.....	9
3.7	Management Plans for Each Use	18
3.8	Activity Plan	20
3.9	Patrolling	22
3.10	Monitoring.....	22
4	MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND TIME FRAME.....	22
	Annex 1 Nthaghabo Block Constitution.....	28
	Annex 2 Committee for Nthaghabo Block	33
	Annex 3 Wealth Ranking Classification	35
	Annex 4: Roles and responsibilities for implementation of Nthaghabo Block.....	36

Acronyms

ADC	Area Development Committee
BMC	Block Management Committee
CBO	Community Based Organisation
DFO	District Forestry Office(r)
DoF	Director of Forestry
EPA	Extension Plan Area
EU	European Union
FD	Department of Forestry
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FLS	Front Line Staff
FR	Forest Reserve
GoM	Government of Malawi
GVH	Group Village Headman
HH	Household
IFMSLP	Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme
LFMB	Local Forest Management Board
LFO	Local Forestry Organisation
PCU	Programme Coordination Unit
PIU	Programme Implementation Unit
PFMP	Participatory Forestry Management Plan
PMU	Programme Management Unit
SFAP	Strategic Forest Area Plan
TA	Traditional Authority
VDC	Village Development Committee

VFA	Village Forest Area
VH	Village Headman
VNRMC	Village Natural Resources Management Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GVH Bokosi Hunga, GVH Msenjere Chiumia and GVH Muweru and wider communities would like to thank the Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (IFMSLP) for funding the development of Perekezi Forest Reserve Co-Management Plan for Nthaghabo Block. We also thank staff and students of Department of Forestry at Mzuzu University and Mzimba District Forestry Office (DFO) staff for the facilitation and technical input into all processes leading to the development of this plan.

Lastly, the commitment and untiring efforts by the Nthaghabo block management committee are also acknowledged throughout the development of the plan

1. INTRODUCTION

Perekezi Forest Reserve was created in 1933 for the main purpose of protecting the water catchment for agricultural activities and to conserve the forest with its flora and fauna biodiversity.

The present management methods and benefits of the reserve are failing to satisfy the increasing demands of people and institutions with different needs and perceptions. As a strategy to increase its productivity and at the same time reduce unsanctioned (and hence unmanaged) pressure from the surrounding communities, co-management is the viable option. This however, requires that management objectives of the reserve are defined and overall management plan developed as enshrined in the nation's forest policy framework.

The Forestry Department with funding from European Union (EU/GoM) is facilitating the implementation of Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihood Programme (IFMSLP). The Programme aims at contributing to increasing household income and improving food security of communities in selected impact areas through sustainable management of natural resources. In Mzimba, the Programme is being implemented in the Perekezi Impact Area.

The Strategic Forest Area Plan (SFAP) for Perekezi Impact Area is a long term plan with a broad perspective to bring about sustainable management of forest goods and services in and around Perekezi Forest Reserve for improved and equitable livelihoods of the surrounding communities. The SFAP provides the vision, and set of management objectives and strategic actions carefully developed and defined with regard to the reserve's wider environmental significance rather than to the demand of products and services it might yield.

This document describes the Co-management Plan for Nthaghabo Block in Perekezi Forest Reserve which is in line with Perekezi Strategic Forest Area Plan. The main objectives of the SFAP are:

1. To increase forest cover on customary land adjacent to the forest reserve.

2. To engage communities in sustainable land use management on customary land adjacent to the forest reserve.
1. To manage the forest resource in Perekezi for catchment and biodiversity protection and use.
2. To increase the economic contribution of the forest products to sustainable livelihood for forest dependent communities.
3. To regularize access to extraction of first products from Perekezi Forest Reserve.

Nthaghabo Co-Management Plan is based on objectives 2 and 3 in the Perekezi Strategic Forest Area Plan. The strategic plan divides the forest reserve into 10 blocks.

2. NTHAGHABO FOREST BLOCK AREA

2.1 Location/Boundary

Nthaghabo block has a total area of 2,200 hectares situated to the south east of MzimbaBoma. It is located within Kazomba Extension Planning Area (E.P.A), under Traditional Authority InkosiMzikubola, along Mzimba to Mzuzu road.

2.2 Forest Description

The forest is typical of miombo woodland composed of different age classes and sizes. Timber trees are available but with small diameter class, trees for firewood and poles are abundant. The dominant trees in the block are Chiyombo, Kapale, Msenga, Katope and Muula among others. The soils are sandy-loamy mostly on the upper areas with some alluvial soils on the river banks of the streams running through the block. The streams that are present in the block are, Kamwamphimbi to the southern part of the block, Mathuli ,Mwangololo and Muzumwanda dam which has a continuous flow of water throughout the year.

2.3 Forest users and uses

The community members from G.V.Hs BokosiHunga, Msenjere Chiumia and Muwelu are the primary users of the Nthaghabo block. All users must have the authority from the block management committee to collect/harvest forest products.

Communities collect woody products such as firewood and poles. Non-wood forest products are also collected such as medicine, fruits, mushrooms, honey, caterpillars, game meat, and thatching grass. Other illegal activities include charcoal burning are also done in the block.

2.4 Social Description

G.V.H BokosiHunga, MsenjereChiumia and Muwelu comprises the following 14 villages which are to be involved in the management of Nthaghabo block; BokosiHunga, MbenjeManda, MsenjereChiumia, JowoNyirenda, MlongotiChirwa, Peter Bulukutu, Simon Bulukutu, KajumeBulukutu, JosimuHunga, Simon Chiumia, ZakeyoTembo, KalivineNyika, LazaloMzira and ChilijeBulukutu. The total number of households is 484. The main ethnic groups are the Tumbuka and Ngoni with some minorities of Chewa

and Tonga. Both men and women are engaged in forest and non-forest based economic activities as a means of earning a living. In order of importance, the main sources of income in the area is farming, small scale income generating activities like, mining, and selling of non-timber forest products.

Livelihood analysis that was carried out with the communities indicated that 70% of the communities are well to do of which 30% are the better off and 40% are the middle class families. The remaining 30% of the communities are poor.

2.5 **Institutional Environment**

Apart from Government institutions there are some non-governmental organizations working with the communities. However, service provision is still considered inadequate. None of the NGOs, apart from Forestry Department is actively involved in natural resources management apart from tree planting. Some offer linkages to marketing and income generating activities.

Table 1: NGOs in the Impact Area

Name of NGO	Services offered to the Communities
REDCROSS	- Providing relief aid to the disaster affected victims
MRFC	- Provide loans
NASFAM	- Agricultural and marketing services.
TAMA	- Transporting tobacco to the Auction Floors.
ARET	- Advisory on tobacco growing and tree planting
Tovwirane	- Provide advice and counseling on HIV and AIDS
NICE	- Provide leadership trainings.
PLEM	-Supply of piped water to the communities

3. CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 General Objectives

The main objective is to empower the local communities in the management of natural resources in order to satisfy their many diverse and changing needs especially to the disadvantaged ones.

3.2 Specific Objectives

- To conserve and preserve forest resources for future use.
- To sustainably use products for domestic purposes
- To promote easy accessibility of forest resources.
- To increase the availability of non-timber products for commercial purposes
- To reduce poverty levels

3.3 Map of Perekezi

The following map shows Nthaghabo block in relation to all other blocks in Perekezi Forest Reserve.

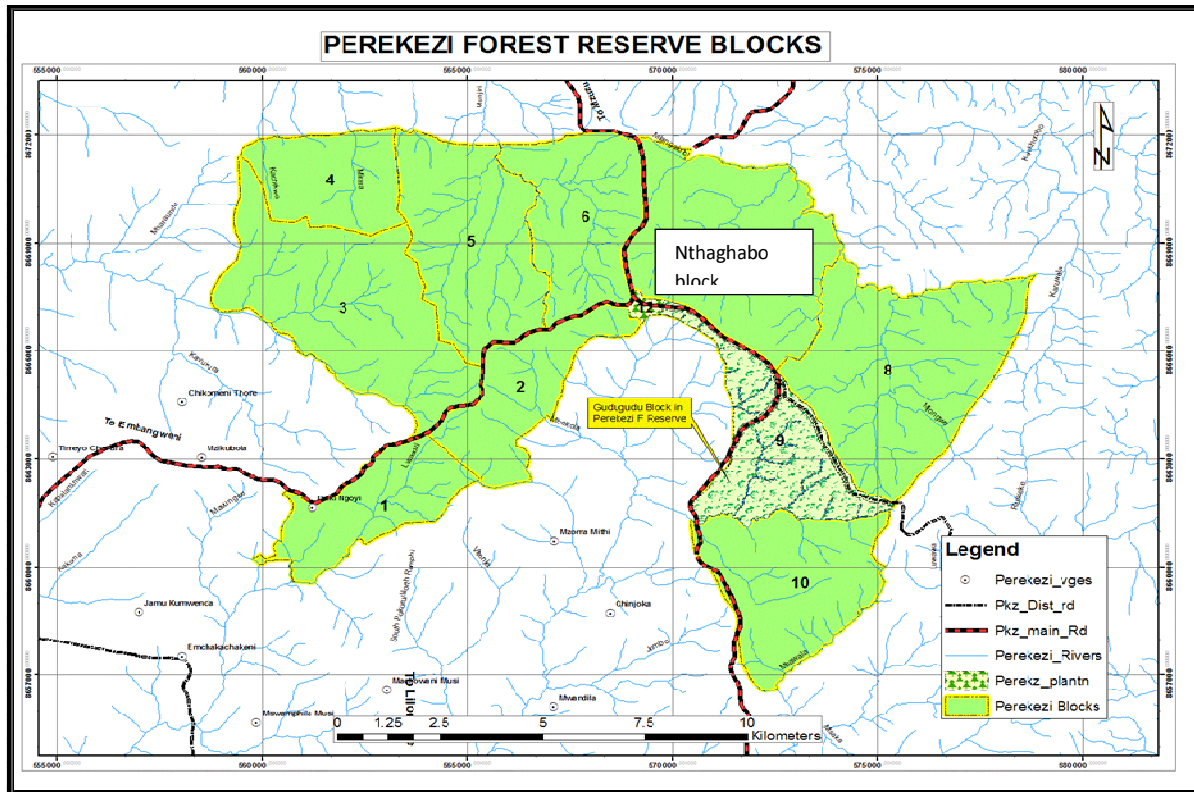


Figure 1. Nthaghabo block in Perekezi Forest Reserve in relation to other blocks

Nthaghabo block has an area of 2,200 hectares of forest land.

3.4 Forest Management Units

The Community decided on having three management units in Nthaghabo block (Figure 2) as follows:

FMU A: Fuel wood production. The area is set aside for fuel wood collection especially dry and dead wood. It is located closer to the communities for easy accessibility. The total estimated area is 440 hectares.

FMU B: Honey production. The unit has been set aside for honey production because it has adequate water supply. It will also be used for collection of other non-timber forest products. Approximately it covers a total of 1034 hectares.

FMU C: Conservation area: The area is situated to the furthest end of the block and covers an approximate total area of 726 hectares. It will be used for conservation and tree planting. Mining of gemstone under license will also take place in the block.

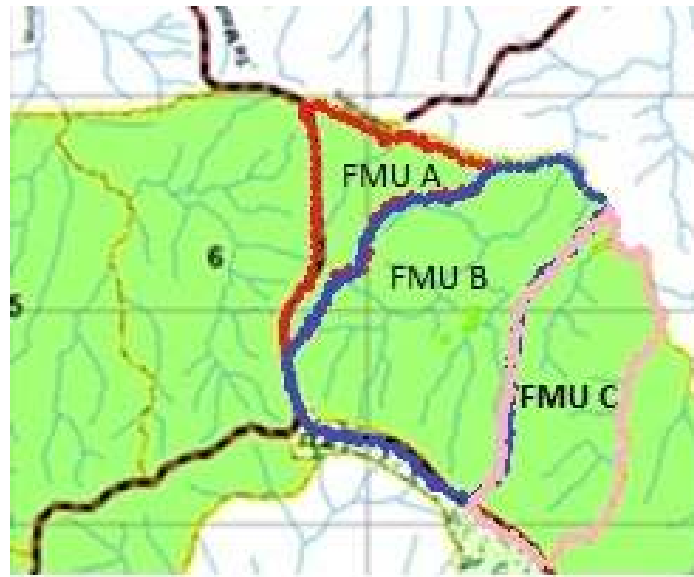


Figure 2: Nthaghabo Forest Management Units

3.5 Resource rules

No	Resource rules	Within Nthaghabo block	Penalty
1	No cutting of live trees in the block	Cutting trees is strictly prohibited	Anyone found guilty of cutting the trees in the block shall pay a fine of k 5,000 per tree
2	No sawing of timber in the block	Timber sawing is prohibited	Anyone found guilty of sawing timber in the block shall pay a fine of k20,000 followed by confiscating the product
3	Dry wood will be collected free by the community members. Outsiders shall pay a fee of K1500 per tonne and K500 on those with the bicycle	Applicable	Anyone found collecting firewood without permit shall pay a fine of K5000 followed by confiscating the product
4	No setting of bush fires	To be fined	Anyone found guilty shall pay a fine of K15,000

5	Hunting is not allowed	To be fined	Anyone found shall pay a fine of K15,000
6	Settling and cultivating is not allowed	To be fined	Anyone found guilty shall pay a fine of K15,000
7	Fruit collection is allowed to the community members	Applicable	Fruit collection is allowed upon permission by the block management committee. Outsiders found shall pay a fee of K500 per basin, K1500 per Pail and K2000 per basket
8	Collection of medicine is allowed to the communities	Applicable	Medicine collection is allowed freely on permission from the block management committee
9	Mushroom collection	Applicable	Mushroom collection is free by the communities surrounding the block. Outsiders found shall pay a fee of K500 per basin, K1500 per Pail and K2000 per basket
10	No hanging of beehives without permit or outside FMU B	To be fined	Anyone found guilty shall pay a fine of K20,000
11	Absenteeism from block forestry activities without valid reasons.	To be fined	Anyone who will not participate in the block activities shall pay a fine of K300 for a committee member and K200 for community members
12	No grazing of livestock in the block.	To be fined	Anyone found grazing shall pay a fine of K2,000

3.6 Available Forest Resources

Available forest resources are presented in the following Tables:

- Harvestable area in Nthaghabo Block (Table 1)
- Estimate of Available Forest Resources (Table 2)
- Domestic forest product requirements (Table 3)
- Forest product availability (Table 4)
- Collection/harvesting Permit Fees For Different Products (Table 5)
- Projected Annual Income from Fees (Table 6)

- Forest Management Costs (Table 7)
- Estimated Annual Cash Flow for Nthaghabo Block (Table 8)

The calculations in the tables are based on interviews conducted with Nthaghabo Block Management Committee members and on data collected from sample plots inside the Blocks. This information is primarily used to determine the total supply of forest resources for domestic and commercial requirements. The information may also be useful in developing an enterprise plan for selected forest resources in Nthaghabo block.

Harvestable area of the Nthaghabo management unit block

Forest resources shall be harvested according to the block co-management plan and their estimated availability in the management unit. Collection of dry and dead wood will be applied in FMU A. Dry and dead wood will be harvested based on selective method. Table 2 indicates the estimate total area of the available forest resources in the management units of Nthaghabo block.

Table 2: Harvestable area of the blocks

	Area in hectares	Comments
Block area	2200	
Harvestable area (FMU A)	440	This is the area from which fuel wood will be collected
Unharvestable area (FMU B)	1034	This area is for honey production.
Un harvestable area (FMU C)	726	This block is for conservation purposes

The estimated availability of different forest products based on sample plot data for harvesting, carried out in a 2200 hectares block is indicated in the table 3 below.

Table 3: Resource availability in the forest and their use

Product Name	Use
Fuel wood	For household energy (cooking and heating)
Vyaka	Handles for simple hand tools (hoes, axes, knives)
Mthiko	For cooking wooden sticks
Sito	Construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals
Nyozi	Supports the construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals
Phaso	For roofing
Mgololo	To support the roof
Nkhowani	Food and income
Medicine	Treating people

Then resources available in each forest management unit are as in the tables below:

Forest management unit A

Table: 4 Resources available in FMU A

Product Name	Use	Total number of stems in the block	Length (m)	Diameter (cm)	Available volume per tree in 440 hectares	Total available volume resources (m ³)
Fuel wood	For household energy (cooking and heating)	6600	8	30	0.56556	3732.696

Vyaka	Handles for simple hand tools (hoes, axes, knives)	200	1.5	20	6.284	1256.8
Mthiko	For cooking wooden sticks	50	1	10	0.39275	19.6375
Sito	Construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals	22000	2	2	6.9124	152072.8
Nyozi	Supports the construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals	154000			0	0
Phaso	For roofing	33000	10	10	259.215	8554095
Mgololo	To support the roof		13	10	0	0
Nkhowa ni	Food and income				0	0
Medicine	Treating people	44000			0	0
Fruits	Food and income	77000			0	0
Mphanda	Surpotingpillar	22000	11	4	27.6496	608291.2
Dazibo	Ox- cart	72600	15	7	279.434	2028689

mu						2
Musi	Meal	22000	2.5	12	248.846	5474621

Table: 4 Resources available in FMU B

Product Name	Use	Total number of stems in the block	Length (m)	Diameter (cm)	Available volume per tree in 1760 hectares	Total available volume resources (m ³)
Fuel wood	For household energy (cooking and heating)	352000	8	30	0.56556	199077.1
Vyaka	Handles for simple hand tools (hoes, axes, knives)	15000	1.5	20	471.3	7069500
Mthiko	For cooking wooden sticks	200	1	10	1.571	314.2

Sito	Construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals	132000	2	2	41.4744	5474621
Nyozi	Supports the construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals	176000			0	0
Phaso	For roofing	176000	10	10	1382.48	2.43E+08
Mgololo	To support the roof	88000	13	10	691.24	60829120
Nkhowani					0	0
Medicine		44000			0	0
Fruits	Food	77000			0	0
mphanda	for construction	22000	11	4	27.6496	608291.2
Dazibomu	ox cart	132000	15	7	508.061	67064105
Musi	mealing	30000	2.5	12	339.336	10180080

Table: 5 Resources available in FMU C

Product Name	Use	Total number of stems in	Length (m)	Diameter (cm)	Available volume per tree in 726 hectors	Total available volume resources
--------------	-----	--------------------------	------------	---------------	--	----------------------------------

		the block				(m ³)
Fuel wood	For household energy (cooking and heating)	290400	8	50	1.571	456218.4
Vyaka	Handles for simple hand tools (hoes, axes, knives)				0	0
Mthiko	For cooking wooden sticks				0	0
Sito	Construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals				0	0
Nyozi	Supports the construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals	54450			0	0

Phaso	For roofing	36300	10	10	285.137	10350455
Mgololo	To support the roof		13	10	0	0
Nkhowani					0	0
					0	0
Medicine		54450			0	0
Fruits		36300			0	0
mphanda		90750	11	4	114.055	10350455
Dazibomu		72600	15	7	279.434	20286892
					0	0

Table 6: domestic forest product requirements

Product Name	Use	Annual requirement per household	Annual requirement for 484 households
Fuel wood	For household energy (cooking and heating)	104 head loads	50336 head loads
Vyaka	Handles for simple hand tools (hoes, axes, knives)	6 pieces	2904 pieces
Mthiko	For cooking wooden sticks	3 pieces	1452 pieces
Sito	Construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals	8 head loads, 30 kg each	3872 head loads
Nyozi	Supports the construction of granaries, fences and for livestock kraals	6 bundles	2904 bundles

Phaso	For roofing	30 poles	14520 poles
Mgololo	To support the roof	2 poles	968 poles
Misi	For pounding	2 pieces	968
Thuli	For pounding	2 pieces	968
Medicine in powder form	Treating ailments	12 hand full	5808

Having determined the resource available in the forest and communities requirements in form of volumes, the table below shows the forest product availability (supply) in relation to domestic requirements (demand). Any product surplus to domestic need will be available for sale.

Table 7: Forest product availability

Product Name	Quantity per household	Diameter in cm	Length in m	Number of house hold	Domestic requirements for 484 households per year (m ³)	Amount available from FMU A	Surplus shortage (
Fuel wood		50	3	484	14827.1	3732	11095.1
Vyaka	6	5	1.5	484	8.6	1256	-1247.4
Mthiko	2	10	1	484	7.5988	19	-11.4012
Sito	500	2	2	484	152	152072	-1512072
Nyozi				484	0		
Mapaso	2	10	10	484	75.988	8554095	-8554019.0
Mphanda	4	11	4	484	73.55	608291	-608217.45
Misi	2	7	2	484	3.725784	5474621	-5474617.2
Thuli	2	25	1	484	23.76138		

Note: *The volume was based on length, width and thickness

According to the table above it shows that there is shortage of fuel wood and total shortage of thuli wood. At the same time there is enough wood for Mthiko, sito, nyozi,

mapaso, mphanda and missi. The results show that there is need for an extra source of fuel wood, this can be by introducing woodlots in the households or agroforestry practices. The communities also should not be carried away by the excess resources of which takes many years for them to reach that level of which there is need to introduce measures that will help to replace the acquired forest resources.

3.7 Management Plans for Each Use

FMU A

	Fuelwood
Key Species	Kapale, Chiyombo and Msenga.
Demand	High
Supply	Low
Problems/issues	There is no readily available dry wood. Wanton cutting down of trees is on a large scale such that most of these species are regenerants.
Management Practices	Collection of firewood will be done especially from the dry branches of the standing trees. Enrichment planting on bare lands and also tending of the regenerants.
Allowable quantity per year	This will depend on the dry wood present since harvesting will be selective.
Fees royalties	No fees required.

FMU B

Forest Product	Honey production.
Key Species	Msenga, Katope and Muula
Demand	Very High

Potential	High since there is available water resources and flowering species
Problems/Issues	Grazing of livestock that disturbs the establishment of bees
Management Practices	No grazing of livestock in the area Beehives shall use modern technology and no trees shall be cut for making hives or harvesting honey
Allowable area and quantity per year	Given the permission the bee keeper will be allowed to keep as many beehives as possible in the block The production of honey will be owned by the beekeeper who shall determine what to eat or sell
Permits	No fees.

FMU C Conservation area

Forest Product	None
Key Species	Mtondo, Msenga and Chendamitala
Problems/Issues	Theft Mining which is not beneficial to the community and is detrimental to conservation
Management Practices	Patrolling

ALL FMUs

Forest products Mushroom, Medicinal plants, fruits, Matondo

Key species all types of edible mushroom, medicinal plants and fruits

Demand High

Supply will depend on the seasonal availability of the products
in all management units

Problems/ issues when collecting the non-timber products there is illegal
extraction of other forest products

Management practices Anyone collecting the non-timber products shall
collect permit from the Block Management
Committee

Harvesting of mushroom, medicinal plants, fruits and
Matondobe done sustainably to prevent deterioration
of the ecosystem

Fees royalties Outsiders shall be required to pay a minimum fee of
MK 500 depending on the quantity collected for fruits
and mushroom

3.8 Activity Plan

ACTIVITY	TASKS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TIME	RESOURCES	MONITORING INDICATOR
Tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify	Committee,	Jan -	A hoe	-Area planted

	<p>bare land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitting • Planting • Weeding 	community and extension worker	April	Panga knife String Peak Seedlings	-Number of seedlings planted
Reducing illegal activities in the block	Conducting patrols	Committee and community	Jan - Dec	Axe Panga knife Register	-Report -Conservation
Nursery establishment and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site identification • Tilling • Nursery bed preparation • Pot filling • Fencing • Transplanting into pots 	Community members and extension staff	Aug - Dec	Watering canes, Polythene tubes, Seedlings, Wheel barrows, Hoes, Rake, Seeds and Shovel	-Number of seedlings raised
Forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing • Controll 	Community	May -	Sickle Slash	Area protected

	ed burning		June	Hoe Axe	
Seed collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of trees • Seed collection 	Community members and extension staff	Jul - Aug.	Sacks Baskets Winnow	Number of seedlings

3.9 Patrolling

The block committee will be conducting patrols on a weekly basis while the wider community will be divided in groups and carry out patrols once in every month. The main essence of the patrol is to identify malpractices in the management units.

3.10 Monitoring

Transect walks will be conducted once per month to observe the status of the resources in the management units by the committee members.

4 MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND TIME FRAME

According to the management plan developed, resources in Nthaghabo (block 7) will be managed by the committee in conjunction with G.V.Hs Bokosi Hunga, Msenjere Chiumia and Muwelu and the Forestry Department under Traditional Authority Mzikubola. The block Management committee is an official body which started to execute its duties from day the plan has been endorsed by the Director of Forestry and reviewing period will be after 3 years.

5: Co-Management Agreement

(Forestry Act, 1997 Section 25)

THIS AGREEMENT is made the day of

BETWEEN Director of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management, hereafter referred to as the Government, and local residents of **Bokosi Hunga, Mbenje Manda, Msenjere Chiumia, Jowo Nyirenda, Mlongoti Chirwa, Peter Bulukutu, Simon Bulukutu, Kajume Bulukutu, Josimu Hunga, Simon Chiumia, ZakeyoTembo, Kalivine Nyika, Lazalo Mzira** and **Chilije Bulukutu** of Traditional Authority Mzikubola in Mzimba District represented by **NTHAGHALO BLOCK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** As the Local Forest Organization (herewith described as LFO) and known also as the Block Management Committee.

The Government, hereby, wishes to make an agreement with the LFO to provide for the transfer of management authority and ownership of forest resource of

PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE – BLOCK 7, in order to promote forest management and the enhancement of livelihoods of the forest adjacent communities.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows

1. The Government shall upon satisfied with transitional arrangements recognize the joint authority of the LFO to protect, manage, control and utilize sustainably the forest resource for the benefit of the local communities of **Bokosi Hunga, Mbenje Manda, Msenjere Chiumia, Jowo Nyirenda, Mlongoti Chirwa, Peter Bulukutu, Simon Bulukutu, Kajume Bulukutu, Josimu Hunga, Simon Chiumia, ZakeyoTembo, Kalivine Nyika, Lazalo Mzira and Chilije Bulukutu** villages.
2. The LFO accepts and undertakes to protect, manage, control and utilize sustainably the forest resource in accordance with terms and conditions stipulated in this agreement and the Co- Management Plan.

LFO OBLIGATION

3. In particular the Government gives authority to the LFO subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Forest resources shall be properly maintained and managed according to approved management techniques as set out in the annexed Management Plan.
 - b) The LFO shall enforce the powers that have been devolved to them by the Government in the Forest Rules 2001 – Part III Village Forest Areas (6), and as agreed in the LFO Registration Agreement.
 - c) The LFO shall protect, manage, control and utilize in a manner that maintains productivity, the forest resources within their jurisdiction and to issue permits and Licenses for forest produce for the benefit of the local community forest resource – rights holders of the aforementioned village(s) as set out in the annexed management plan.
 - d) To assist the District Forestry Officer with the issuing of conveyance certificate from the District Forestry Officer.
 - e) Benefits accruing from the forest resource shall be equitably utilized by the community in accordance with the benefit sharing arrangements set out in the annexed management plan.
 - f) Revenue accruing from the forest resource shall be equitably utilised by the community in accordance with the LFO Constitution and as per agreements reached at General Assembly of the LFO.
 - g) 10% of the share of revenue accruing from the issue of commercial harvesting permits and licenses (i.e. those permits and licenses not issued for domestic or subsistence purposes) shall be deposited into the accounts of the Local Forest Management Board of PEREKEZI Forest Reserve, with transfers being made on a quarterly basis.
 - h) 30% of the share of revenue accruing from the issue of commercial harvesting permits and licenses (i.e. those permits and licenses not issued for domestic or subsistence purposes) shall be deposited into the accounts of the Forest Development and Management Fund Account Number 1 with such transfers being made on a quarterly basis.
 - i) It is expected that 60% of the funds available to the LFO after sharing the proportions specified in (g) and (h) will be utilized by the LFO for the purposes of forest development, management and operating costs. This includes utilization of the funds inside and outside the area of co-management block.
 - j) The LFO shall make accessible records of accounts and licenses issued to the Director of Forestry or his/her representative, the District Commissioner or his/her representative upon receiving notification from the Director of Forestry or District Commissioner.
 - k) The LFO shall represent and be accountable to the community and operate in accordance with the agreed constitution.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OBLIGATION

4. In particular the District Forestry Officer and her/his delegated representatives shall;
- a) Provide technical expertise to support the joint implementation with the LFO and the timely revision of the co – management plan.
 - b) Advise and assist with monitoring local accountability mechanisms including, conduct of meetings, elections, by – elections, record keeping, financial accounting and reporting.
 - c) Provide a basic set of office resources for the LFO (on signature of this agreement) comprising of cashbooks, minute books, duplicate license forms, headed paper and an official LFO stamp or unique mark, plus other necessary items in order to support the set – up of a transparent and well documented forest management and local licensing system. it is anticipated that the LFO will take over purchasing these items after collecting revenue.
 - d) Assist the coordination of forest law enforcement activities between the LFO, traditional leaders, Local community policing forums, Local police officers and the District magistrate in accordance with the co – management plan.
 - e) With the LFO jointly monitor the block demarcated in the co – management plan to ensure management is in accordance with this agreement and in accordance with Standards & Guidelines for participatory Forestry in Malawi.
 - f) Jointly with the LFO countersigning any permits and licenses being for the commercial utilization and harvesting of forest products (non – domestic use) in accordance with block co – management plan.
 - g) In line with licensing procedures issue conveyance certificates against verified documentation to ensure legal transportation of forest products.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS

5. In particular the Forest department shall;
- g) Provide technical expertise to support the joint implementation with the LFO and the timely revision of the Co-Management Plan.
 - h) Advice and assist with monitoring local accountability mechanisms including, conduct of meetings, elections, by-elections, record keeping, financial accounting and reporting.
 - c) Provide a basis set of office resources for the LFO (on signature of this agreement) comprising cash books, minute books, duplicate license forms, headed paper and an official LFO stamp or unique mark, plus other necessary items in order to support the set-up of a transparent and well documented forest management and local licensing system. It is anticipated that the LFO will take over purchasing these item after collecting revenue.
 - d) Assist the coordination of forest law enforcement activities between the LFO, traditional Leaders, Local community policing forums, local police officers and the District Magistrate in accordance with the Co-Management Plans.
 - e) With the LFO jointly monitor the Block demarcated in the Co-Management plan to ensure management is in accordance with this agreement and in accordance with Standards & Guidelines for Participatory Forestry in Malawi.

- f) Jointly with the LFO countersign any permits and licenses being for the commercial utilization and harvesting of forest products (non-domestic use) in accordance with Block Co-Management Plan.
- g) In line with licensing procedures issue conveyance certificates against verified documentation to ensure legal transportation of forest products.
- h) Provide in collaboration with other partners, legal, organization, marketing and other forms of support to the LFO as appropriate.
- i) Organize in collaboration with other partners, relevant training courses to enhance organizational, technical and management capacity of Local Forest Boards, LFO, traditional authorities and other members of the community.
- j) Recognize and actively support the protection and policing measures taken by the FMB, LFO and the community in accordance with the Act 1997, Forest Rules 2001, and Local Forest Organisation Registration Agreement.

COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

- 5. This Agreement shall come into effect when signed by Director of Forestry, representatives of the parties, and shall be binding indefinitely subject to clause 6 and 9 below.
- 6. The Director of Forestry shall have the right to terminate this agreement and revoke authority to protect, manage, control and utilize forest resources, in any of the following events;
 - a. Negligence or failure to protect, manage and control the co-management block.
 - b. If the LFO commits any serious breach of the agreement.
- 7. The powers stipulated in clause 6 above, shall not be exercised unless the Government has tried all efforts to resolve or correct the situation amicably.
- 8. In cautioning the local community the Director of Forestry shall cite the shortcoming and remedies giving the period within which they should be addressed.
- 9. The LFO may terminate this agreement at any time by giving notice of not less than 8 weeks, in any of the following events;
 - a. If there is serious breach of this agreement.
 - b. If for any reason the community finds itself unable or unwilling to continue with the activities of the designated forest area.
- 10. In the event of notice of termination, LFO shall be under obligation to ensure that the forest area is protected until a Caretaker Committee or Government has assumed authority over Block.

DEMARCATON AND BOUNDARY

- 11. Division or delineation of forest areas shall be as displayed on the map contained in the Co-management Plan

DISPUTES

12. In the event of any dispute arising under the Forest Management Agreement, the matter shall be referred to the Minister responsible. If any party is dissatisfied with the decision passed by the Minister he/she may apply for a judicial review to the High Court.

13. SIGNED

[Handwritten Signature]

DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY

Dated: 14-2-14

AND



CHAIRPERSON LOCAL FOREST ORGANISATION (NTHAGHABO BLOCK)

Dated: 21/2/2014

WITNESS: Harry Chinwa

Peter bulukutu

VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN

[Handwritten Signature]

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Dated: 21st Feb 2014

Dated: 21st feb. 2014

[Handwritten Signature]
DISTRICT COMMISSIOER

T. Gausi
CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dated: 21/02/2014

Dated: 21/02/2014

NAME : NTHAGHABO BLOCK CONSTITUTION

ADDRESS: C/O MACHECHETA F.P. SCHOOL

P.O. BOX 52

MZIMBA

Purpose /Objectives of the constitution:

- To ensure sustainable management of forest resources in Nthaghabo block which is under Perekezi forest reserve.
- To empower the committee for effective management and sustainable use of resources.
- To empower communities to have access to resources from Nthaghabo block for subsistence use and livelihood improvement.

Structure of the committee:

The committee shall be composed of:

- Chairperson
- Vice chairperson
- Secretary and
- Vice secretary
- Treasure
- Committee members

Functions of the managing committee:

- Leading and assigning work to the communities regarding the management of natural resources.
- Organising meetings
- Bridging the communication gap between the Forestry Department and the communities regarding forest resource management.

- Planning activities and presenting them to communities for implementation of natural resource management
- Creating income generating activities for rural livelihood improvement
- Disseminating information among community members.
- Issuing permits regarding the sales of forest resources from the block

Eligibility of membership:

- Citizen of the area
- All citizens aged 18 years and above
- Non-citizens should have stayed for more than 5 years and must be well behaved.

Term of office for committee members:

Elected committee members shall serve for two years only and shall serve for two consecutive terms.

Disqualification of office bearer:

Committee members shall be removed from office when proved a failure in discharging his/her assigned duties accordingly. In some cases those who are uncooperative shall be removed from office. Warnings shall be issued 3 times before disqualification.

Leaving the office before expiry date:

Anyone who intends to do so shall be required to give a one month notice and shall be required to make proper arrangements for handovers.

Dissolution of the committee:

In case a committee fails to carry out its duties according to the needs of the local communities, the communities shall have a mandate to call for a meeting to dissolve and re-elect other office bearers.

Meetings:

- committee members to meet 2 times per month
- Communities to meet once every month.

Quorum:

- When the executive committee is meeting there has to be 2/3 of the members
- Community members should be not less than 50% present for voting and decision making to take place.

Penalties:

- Failure to attend meeting with valid reason attracts no fine.
- Failure to attend meetings without valid reasons shall attract fines in different amounts; committee members shall pay k300, whilst ordinary members shall pay k200 per meeting day.

Record keeping:

- Sells of forest resources shall be accompanied by receipts for transparency and accountability.
- All transactions shall be recorded by the treasurer.
- Minutes of every meeting shall be recorded and kept by the secretary.
- The committee shall authorize and give permits to resource users for the utilization of natural resources.

Products to be collected from the forest resource:

Products allowed to be collected from the block include;

- Fuel wood, mushroom, construction poles, sito(twigs), fruits, thatch grass, uchani, medicinal plants, honey, implements, strings, reeds, chinaka, ulimbo.

Prohibited activities

- Charcoal burning

- Uncontrolled fires
- Timber production
- Hanging bee hives in the block without permission from the block committee
- Cutting trees in the block without permission from the block committee
- Gemstone mining without permit from the block committee.

Offences and Penalties

- Illegal charcoal burning to attract a fine of k15,000 or 2goats and confiscating the charcoal or the offender shall be taken to court
- Uncontrolled fires to pay a fine of k15,000 or 2goats
- Timber sawing to pay a fine of k20,000 and also confiscating timber or paying 3goats
- Poaching to attract a penalty of k15,000 or offender to pay 2 goats
- Illegal hanging of bee hives in the block to attract a fine of k20,000
- Harvesting green wood attracts a fine of k10, 000 per tree.

Benefit sharing

- Proceeds from fines, penalties will be used for development activities in the area.
- For use in functions that involves the whole communities like receiving visitors
- Assisting the vulnerable (chronically sick, orphans, disabled and the elderly)
- Pay piece workers when undertaking some activities in the management of the block.

Sources of income

- Through fines and penalties
- Sales of proceeds from the block;

-Mushroom and fruits collection by non-members: K500/basin, K1, 500/pail, K2, 000/ basket.

- Fuel wood: K1, 500/tonne flat with the body

Saving of proceeds from the block

The money shall be kept in the bank and 3 signatories will be allowed to carry out the transaction process.

Annex 2 Committee for Nthaghabo Block

Chairperson : Mestus Gausi (from Mbenje village)
Vice chairperson : Livivson Bulukutu (from Muwelu village)
Secretary : Harry Chirwa-male (from Mlongoti village)
Vice secretary : Gracia Chiumia-female (from Msenjere village)
Treasurer : Rosemary Lupeska-female (from Peter village)
Committee members : Paul Hunga-male (from Hunga village)
 KenaniMwase-male (from Jowo village)
 LonessChirwa-female (from Lazalo village)
 LexinaChipeta-female (from Simon village)
 Benson Nyika- male (Kalivume village)

The block is in Mzimba district, Kazomba Extension Planning Area, in machecheta section under the Traditional Authority Nzikubola. There are three Group Village Headmen that are in close proximity with the forest resource (Nthaghabo block) and these are;

Group Village Headman BokosiHunga.

Group Village Headman Msenjere Chiumia.

Group Village headman Muwelu

Table 8 Total number of households for the block.

VILLAGE	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS
BokosiHunga	26
MbenjeManda	52
MusenjereChiumia	22
JowoNyirenda	26
MulongotiChirwa	48
Peter Bulukutu	23
KajumeBulukutu	29
JosimuHunga	32
Simon Chiumia	36
ZakeyoTembo	32
KalivineNyika	48
LazaloMzira	27
ChilijeBulukutu	27
Simon Bulukutu	26
TOTAL	484

Annex 3 Wealth Ranking Classification

Better-off

- Have an ox-cart.
- Have enough food throughout the year.
- Have iron roofed house with cement.
- Have good furniture.

Middle class

- Have few herds of cattle.
- Bricked house with grass thatched roof.
- Have a bicycle.
- Have a radio.
- Food lasts in December.

Poor

- Food last within 3 months and usually takes one or two meals a day.
- Have one worn out blanket.
- Spend more time at piece work.
- Have moulded house with grass thatch.
- Beggars for food most of the time.
- Children wear rags.
- Cooks on broken pots.

Annex 4: Roles and responsibilities for implementation of Nthaghabo Block

STAKEHOLDER	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY
Village headman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arranging for community gathering on development issues • Settling conflicts among communities • Receiving village developments • Receiving visitors
Nthaghabo Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the block according to management plan • Coordinating forestry matters to the community • Receiving forestry visitors • Patrolling in the block
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling meetings • Organising committee meetings • Opening and closing meetings • Monitoring forest related activities
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording and reading minutes • Keeping records of the block • Receiving and responding to correspondences • Acting as a spokesperson
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping funds raised and items

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping records of cash flows
Committee member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing in all discussions • Doing all the work which is available together with the committee and the community
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in silvicultural activities • Helping in fire management • Committee election • Participating in patrolling in the block • Formulating and following the constitution
VDC/ADC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing village development programs • Formulating village rules • Intermediate between village and Assembly
TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming developmental programs • Making rules for the village

Annex 5 Benefit Sharing Arrangement:

A Community Development Fund shall be established for sharing the benefits (accruing from the Reserve) within the fourteen (14) Villages. Details of the benefit sharing arrangements are described below.

- a. **7%** will be a contribution to community development initiatives like schools, bridges etc.
- b. **14%** will be for supporting orphans, the elderly, people with disabilities, widows/widowers, and other disadvantaged groups.
- c. **43%** will be a contribution towards the Green Belt Initiatives to support food security.
- d. **14%** will be for a Revolving Programme to be agreed. Households will be identified and supported with a start-up package. Proceeds will then be passed on to other Households until all benefit under the Programme.
- e. **10%** will be allocated to buy livestock ie chickens as a pass on programme.
- f. **10%** will be operational costs to enable the BMC and Community Members perform their functions under the Co-Management Agreement, constitution and Registration Agreement.
- g. **2%** shall be retained in the BMC Bank Account.