

Climate Smart Agriculture Policy Review – Malawi – draft

Policy & Implementation Arrangements	Malawi National Forest Policy (1996)
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Natural Resources; Forestry Department in Malawi
Description	<p>Overall objective: To promote a sustainable quality of life through the conservation of national forestry resources</p> <p>Key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an enabling framework for promoting the participation of communities and the private sector in forest conservation and management • Eliminate restricted utilization of essential forest products by local communities • Promotes sustainable resource management through the establishment of Village Natural Resources Committees (VNRCs) <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Natural Resources – leading government body • Forest Department – providing community extension support • VNRCs – mobilise the community; develop and implement community natural resource plans • Environmental NGOs with natural resources agenda (e.g. Green Belt Movement) – information dissemination, advocacy and support to local communities to carry out their roles <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Act passed in 1997 • Introduction of Community Based Forest Management (a supplement to the National Forest Policy) – essentially local implementation plans of government policy agreed with the state – from 2003 • Increased capabilities of village institutions to manage their resources <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of understanding of policies, standards and guidelines by field staff and communities • Lack of funding for implementation • District forest offices have inadequate technical and financial resources • Devolved functions often still executed in practice by the Department of Forestry • Ambiguity around division of district- and central-level decision making responsibility • Unclear benefits sharing mechanisms between forest dependent communities, district and central government authorities
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The promotion of sustainable management of forest resources at village level can support the restoration of community watersheds – a key CSA practice.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firewood and charcoal production are key drivers of deforestation in Malawi. Promoting the adoption of integrated food and energy systems (IFES) under the National Forest Policy, can help achieve the overall policy objective
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	National Land Policy
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Lands and Housing
Description	<p>Overall objective: To ensure land security and equal opportunities for access to and use of land; to promote social cohesion and economic development through the optimum and ecologically balanced use of land and land-based resources.</p> <p>Key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates a community approach to resource management • Emphasis on customary land as the property and responsibility of the traditional authorities • Recommendations focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land tenure, acquisition and disposal ○ Land administration ○ Land use planning ○ Registration and protection of property rights ○ Adjudication and dispute settlement procedures ○ Environmental management <p>Key stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries and departments such as the Forestry department and the environmental affairs departments – leading bodies – monitoring and enforcement of policy measures • Local citizens – beneficiaries • Civil society groups – advocacy and information dissemination <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Policy revised in 2002 • Establishment of the Community Based Rural Land Development Project: provides grants for community acquisition and distribution of land in support of rural poor <p>Key barriers / challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple institutions and statutory agencies dealing with land, resulting in confusion over jurisdiction and inadequate policy intervention
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure land tenure at individual and community level a critical success factor to the adoption of CSA, providing incentive for investment in farm resources
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	National Irrigation Policy
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; Department of Irrigation

Description	<p>Overall objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to poverty alleviation by targeting irrigation development resources at poor small holder farmers to improve income • To increase agricultural production and enhance food security through irrigation practices that will support cultivation during droughts and the dry season • To expand cropping opportunities and provide a wider variety of crops in both wet and dry seasons • To encourage communities to manage irrigation projects <p>Key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and facilitation of irrigation development to increase income generation • Prioritises the development of smallholder agriculture • Planning, design and implementation of irrigation schemes will be undertaken through a participatory process to ensure potential beneficiaries have full ownership of the developed systems <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government institutions such as Department of Irrigation and Water Resources Board, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Water Development – leading bodies: management and coordination of localised policy implementation • Local communities especially the ones living near water resources which may be tapped for irrigation purposes, and other community-based organisations • Development partners and NGOs with a focus on food security through irrigation – also active in rural water supply management initiatives <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Water Resources Act and the Water Works Act; the Water Resources Act provided a legal framework for the establishment of water related institutions such as the Water Resources Board • Contributed to increased food security in Malawi through irrigation and improved water management <p>Key barriers / challenges faced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrepancy between policy emphasis on efficiency in water use and reality on the ground: high dependency on level of education of the users as well as the amount of water available • Related legislature aimed at facilitating the implementation of the policy does not provide for adequate stakeholder participation and has inadequate provisions concerning water rights, water harvesting, water saving and water transfer
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of irrigation provides key adaptation benefits to smallholder farmers, including drought resistance and extended growing season
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	Food and nutrition security policy, 1994
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture
Description	Overall objective: Create an integrated programme to promote food and nutrition security and support food security programmes and interventions

	<p>Key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated approach: cooperation at executive and policy level • Emphasis on small farmers • Increasing agricultural input uptake and capabilities of farmers • Focus on two northern districts <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various NGOs and other institutions (e.g. FAO, Government of Flanders) – funding for interventions under the policy <p>Progress in implementation: Various reforms, plans, policies and programmes have been designed and adopted that have a bearing on food security, e.g. Poverty Alleviation Programme – increased spending on education, health, and food security</p> <p>Key barriers / challenges faced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of the various different initiatives has been difficult and fragmented
Relevance to CSA	Provide policy framework for adoption of CSA practices that enhance food security
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	Malawi National Environmental Policy
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs; Environmental Affairs Department
Description	<p>Overall objective: The promotion of sustainable social and economic development through the sound management of the environment and natural resources</p> <p>Key policy aims: Some of the specific objectives of the policy which have a direct correlation to CSA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of sustainable utilization and management of the country’s natural resources and endorsement, where appropriate, of long-term self-sufficiency in food, fuel wood and other energy requirements. • Facilitate the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of essential ecosystems and ecological processes and advocate prudent use of renewable resources • Integrate sustainable environmental and natural resources management into Malawi’s decentralized governance systems and reinforce the institutional framework for the management of the environment and natural resources • Promote local community, NGO and private sector participation in environmental and natural resource management • Minimise the adverse impact of climate change and variability to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions • Promote environmentally sustainable agricultural development by ensuring sustainable crop and livestock production as well as sustainable management of forestry resources <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government through the Environmental Affairs Department and local government authorities – leading bodies: advising on environmental protection, management and necessary measures for integration of environmental considerations into planning and development • Local communities through community based natural resource management activities and CBOs – implementers and beneficiaries • NGOs – information dissemination, advocacy and logistical support for the mobilization of local communities <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in some economic policy areas e.g. alleviation of poverty, introduction of economic incentives for sustainable environmental, air quality and climate change management • Led to the establishment of the National Environmental Action Plan <p>Key barriers / challenges faced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental management policy requires the co-operation, coordination and participation of numerous stakeholders from all sectors, which may not necessarily be forthcoming • Need to develop the capacity for natural resource management in all public sector institutions • Lack of funding for sustainable utilization of natural resources
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of tax benefits to land/property owners linked to implementation of: soil and water conservation methods, agro-forestry techniques, good husbandry practices, development and maintenance of tree plantations or woodlots, or use of appropriate livestock stocking rates • The policy contains a specific strategy to promote development and dissemination of agro-forestry practices
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	Malawi National Adaptation Programmes of Action Plan (NAPA)
Lead Institutions	UNDP Malawi
Description	<p>Overall objective: To enable Malawi to address the urgent and immediate adaptation needs caused by climate change and extreme weather events.</p> <p>Key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a list of priority activities • Prepare priority adaptation options • Build capacity for adapting to longer-term climate change and variability • Raise public awareness on the urgency of adaptation needs <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Forest Department, Department of Meteorological Services and Fisheries Department – development of individual project concepts • Ministry of Lands, Physical Planning and Surveys – baseline resource mapping • Department of Relief and Disaster Preparedness • Ministry of Health and Population - provide information on population trends to enable sustainable planning

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Water Development – promotion of water management activities • Academic and research institutions, (e.g. Bunda College of Agriculture and University of Mzuzu) – capacity building, monitoring and evaluation • Donor Agencies – provide funding • District Assemblies – coordination at district level • NGOs – provide additional human and financial resources • Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM) – to tap into water related activities for enhanced power generation and supply • Wood Industries Corporation <p>Progress in implementation: Project concepts and/or activities developed for 5 urgent areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving community resilience to climate change through the development of sustainable rural livelihoods • Restoring forests in the Upper, Middle and Lower Shire valley catchments to reduce siltation and associated water flow problems • Improving Malawi’s preparedness to cope with droughts and floods • Improving climate monitoring to enhance early warning capability and decision making • Sustainable use of Lake Malawi and lakeshore areas resources <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited internal capacity to fund adaptation activities • Illiteracy among the most vulnerable groups impedes long term planning • Poor infrastructure obstructs accessibility of rural areas and markets • Limited credit opportunities • Lack of coordination • Insufficient funding
Relevance to CSA	The programme has targeted 5 priority projects which will enhance Malawi’s adaptation capacity to climate change. This is relevant to CSA practices which will lead to improved food security and livelihoods. In addition implementers are likely to benefit through carbon financing.
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	Malawi Agricultural Input Subsidy
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Description	Overall objective: Poverty reduction through: improved access to agricultural inputs for resource-poor smallholder farmers to

	<p>enable food self-sufficiency and increased income through cash crop production; facilitating economic growth</p> <p>Key programme aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure over half of Malawi's smallholder farmers receive coupons enabling them to buy subsidised maize seed and inorganic fertiliser (approx. 25% normal market price) <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security – leading body – allocation of coupons to other bodies Extension Planning Areas – allocation of coupons District Traditional Authorities – allocation of coupons Local Governments – working with government to develop further innovations and improve programme Village Development Committees – allocation of coupons Fertiliser and seed industry – working with government to develop further innovations and improve programme Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation – provide a channel for farmers to sell their produce Agricultural Development Division Small Farmers' Fertilizer Revolving Fund of Malawi <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2005/6 programme was politically very popular and widely considered to have been successful, and was consequently continued in subsequent years, with a number of changes in design, scale and implementation between years <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicts during allocation of coupons International price inflation on materials such as fertilisers - difficult for the government to sustain certain aspects of the programme
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated soil fertility management practices such as use of organic manure, residue management, use of nitrogen fixing tree crops (e.g. <i>Faidherbia Albida</i>) can provide alternative and more sustainable means of meeting objectives of programmes in the long term
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	Community Based Rural Land Development project
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Lands, Housing, Physical Planning and Surveys
Description	<p>Overall objective: To implement a decentralised, community-based and voluntary approach to land reform that will increase the income of poor rural families</p> <p>Implemented in 4 pilot districts in southern Malawi. The pilot approach includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary community acquisition of land sold by willing estate owners, transferred to communities by government, or donated by private individuals On-farm development, including the establishment of shelter, and the purchase of basic inputs and necessary advisory services; Land administration and execution of property rights

	<p>Key project aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the government in designing an efficient and effective approach to land reform based on voluntary transactions • Apply the community-driven development approach • Support on-going decentralization of key government functions in a cost effective and fiscally affordable manner • Assist in the piloting of decentralized land administration systems appropriate for the Malawian context <p>The expected project outputs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to resources for land acquisition and farm development for 15,000 beneficiary families • Property titles to land acquired for beneficiary families • Building capacity at community, district and national levels to implement a community-driven and market-assisted approach to land reform • Implementation a monitoring and evaluation system to assess project inputs, outputs and outcomes <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Lands, Physical Planning and Surveys, District Lands Committees – leading bodies • District Executive Committees – coordinating units • National Technical Advisory Committee – project review and approval by representatives from all government ministries • Regional Land Survey Office and Land Registry – administration services for land registration • Local communities - beneficiaries <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall project relocation target of 15,000 households has been achieved. As of November 2010, about 33,428 hectares were procured and distributed to 15,142 households. Preliminary results from the impact evaluation survey of 400 households relocated in the year of 2006/07, indicate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maize productivity has more than tripled (from 450kg/ha to 1800kg/ha) ○ Tobacco productivity has more than doubled (from 300kg/ha to 800kg/ha) ○ Average household annual income has increased by about 60% (from MK18,700 to MK30,500) <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landless do not get information on the availability of land and do not have the resources to allow them emigrate to such areas • Where farmers have acquired land through the programme, lack of viable markets threatens to plunge farmers into a vicious poverty trap • Internal conflicts e.g. regarding the selection of Community oversight Committees (CoC), that play a key role in identification of beneficiaries
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project shares the objective of increased incomes with the various CSA practices. In addition both have a particular focus on small holder farmers; this illustrates that secure land tenure is an enabling factor to achieve increased agricultural yields and can underpin the adoption of CSA practices
Policy & Implementation	Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihood Programme (IFMSLP)

Arrangements	
Lead Institutions	Forestry Department
Description	<p>Overall objective: To address forest degradation and poverty through promotion of greater community involvement in forest management.</p> <p>Key programme aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the governance and management of forest resources • Improve service delivery of extension services to forest-adjacent communities • Encourage multi-stakeholder involvement at district and national levels • Develop viable and sustainable small- and medium-sized forest-based enterprises <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTS International / Cardno Agrisystems – technical advisors • Forest Department – leading government agency; provision of extension services • Local communities – beneficiaries and implementers of community forest management plans <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of management plans for village forestry areas in 12 districts in Malawi • Training of local communities in alternative livelihood activities • Delivery of community livelihood analysis and forest resource assessments <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved forest management is key to achieving restoration of watershed areas
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	<p>Malawi National Environmental Action Plan 1994</p> <p>(Operational tool for the implementation of Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit)</p>
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment (MNREE)
Description	<p>Overall objective: To integrate environmental concerns into the sustainable socio-economic development of the country.</p> <p>9 priority areas: soil erosion/fertility; deforestation; water resource degradation; high population growth; biological diversity; human habitat degradation; air pollution; climate change; depletion of fish resources.</p> <p>Key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the framework for integrating environmental protection and management into all national development programmes • Document and analyse all major environmental issues and identify measures to alleviate them • Promote sustainable use of natural resources

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an environmental protection and management plan <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Council for the Environment – leading advisory body on implementation of measures aligned with NEAP • Environmental Affairs Department – administration, implementation & monitoring of EIA • Districts – District Environmental Action Plans drawn up every 5 years in conformance with the NEAP <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used as a reference document to guide planners, developers and donors • Various policies/programmes developed to implement NEAP, e.g. Environmental Support Programme (1998), National Environmental Policy • Millennium Declaration signed (2000) <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the ground, environmental degradation has shown little improvement • Second NEAP now under preparation
Relevance to CSA	Provides high-level structure and direction for environmental action in Malawi; priority areas give scope for CSA practices to be implemented
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	<p>Malawi Growth and Development Strategy 2006-2011</p> <p>Builds on Malawi Economic Growth Strategy (focus on role of private sector investment in stimulating economic growth) and Poverty Reduction Strategy</p>
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
Description	<p>Overall objective: To reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development</p> <p>Key policy aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as a single reference document/ framework for policy makers in Government, the private sector, civil society, donors and partners, and the public • Over-arching medium-term operational strategy for Malawi • Sets out priorities for development whose successful implementation is expected to enable Malawi to move out of poverty; 6 main priorities: agriculture and food security; irrigation and water development; transport infrastructure development; energy generation and supply; integrated rural development; prevention and management of nutrition disorders, HIV and AIDS. • Accelerate attainment of Millennium Development Goals – translate into local context <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government & departments – provide regulatory framework and incentivize private sector • Parliament – budget/resource prioritisation • Private sector – investment in economic & social sectors: “take up opportunities outlined in MGDS”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society – implementation of activities <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises agriculture as most important sector of economy; priority areas of food security and integrated rural development indicate significant synergy with CSA aims • Policy also highlights importance of sustainable development and management of forestry resources; CSA practices that reduce pressure on existing woodland as a result of providing alternative sources of fuelwood would be particularly relevant here • Emphasis on increased smallholder agricultural productivity gives scope for CSA practices to be adopted, including agroforestry systems that enable diversified farmer income and increase soil fertility (e.g. through nitrogen-fixing dispersed interplanting)
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	Agroforestry Food Security Programme, 2007
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Resources
Description	<p>Overall objective: Poverty alleviation through food security: increasing food production and enhancing nutrition of the poorest Malawians</p> <p>Key programme aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale up the use of four types of agroforestry systems in Malawi: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the fertilizer trees system for food security ○ the fruit tree system for improved nutrition, health and income ○ the fodder tree system for improved livestock to provide food security and income ○ the fuelwood tree system to provide biomass energy for cooking • Address knowledge gaps to enable success <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Agroforestry Centre – coordinator and scientific advisor • Consortium of national institutions – 7 national partners • Department of Agricultural Extension Services / Land Resources Conservation – key delivery partners of services to farmers <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 1st year the programme reached c. 90,000 farming households • Strong emphasis on training <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension staff knowledge of agroforestry and agribusiness weak • Initially over 60% of farmers canvassed for programme lacked knowledge or skills for implementation
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme specifically focused on agroforestry, which is itself a CSA practice. • Emphasis on training to eventually allow farmers to operate without the support of the programme demonstrates commitment to the sustainability of practices that are being introduced • Will significantly decrease reliance on inorganic fertiliser and enhance long-term food security
Policy & Implementation Arrangements	<p>Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, 2003</p> <p>Malawi entered the CAADP compact in 2010</p>
Lead Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; Ministry for Local Government and Rural Development
Description	<p>Overall objective: Promote agriculture as cornerstone of sustained growth and poverty reduction</p> <p>Key programme aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public investment in agriculture to a minimum of 10% of national budget with the aim of raising agricultural productivity by at least 6% annually • Sets out commitments & framework to align, scale-up and improve the quality of long-term sector investment • Alignment with MGDS (above), which has targeted agriculture as a driver of economic growth by recognising that food security is a pre-requisite for economic growth and poverty reduction • Malawi focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food security & risk management ○ Commercial agriculture, agro-processing and market development ○ Sustainable agricultural land and water management <p>Key stakeholders and their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Union – programme support and mobilisation of international political, financial & technical support • Regional Economic Communities – coordinate implementation in different regions • Malawi government departments <p>Progress in implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far Malawi is one of only 2 countries to have met and beaten the 10% budget allocation <p>Key barriers / challenges faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining investment in light of rising agricultural input prices
Relevance to CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased investment in the agricultural sector could allow for increased funding for CSA practices • Clear parallels between Malawi’s focus areas and environmental/sustainability objectives of Climate Smart Agriculture

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