

CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LIPONGO BLOCK
IN
LIWONDE FOREST RESERVE
MACHINGA DISTRICT



DECEMBER, 2013

This plan was produced by the community of G.V.H. Lipongo of TA Nkula with assistance from Machinga District Forestry Office. It is a five year plan (2013 to 2018)

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Summary

Lipongo community of T/A Nkula in Machinga district is one of the beneficiary communities under the Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihood Programme (IFMSLP). The community comprises of six villages with a total number of 792 households. The villages includes Lipongo, Maoni, Dini, M'balaka, Msusa (Misola), and Chimwayi. The villages are working collaboratively with the Department of Forestry on management and utilization of natural resources found in Lipongo Forest Co-Management Block which is within Liwonde Forest Reserve. The block is also well known for its ten perennial rivers namely; Bububu, Mangale, Matolatola, Malangalanga, Mandimba, Mberezi, Milala, Kajomboka, Chiwale and Matengo

Under the Co-management arrangement, Lipongo shall have a regulated access to forestry products (both woody & non-woody). Besides, environmental services shall be sustained through protection of the catchment and other fragile areas within the Co-management block.

In view of the above, the communities with technical assistance from the District Forestry Office have developed a Participatory Forest Co-management plan which encompasses management practices that will guide the management and utilization of forest products in the block. In addition, management plans for each product, patrolling, harvesting activities and monitoring plans, resource user rules and corresponding penalties to ensure regulated access of forest products by all forest user groups have been put in place.

The management plan also gives detailed annual cash flow and financial projections as shown in the annexe 1.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is a Participatory Forest Co-management plan for Lipongo Forest Block in Liwonde Forest Reserve which is between Lipongo communities and Malawi government through the Department of Forestry. The block is 1805.37 ha and is located to the south of Liwonde Forest Reserve which is 24,351.87 ha.

The plan has been developed in line with the Liwonde Strategic Forest Area Plan (SFAP) whose main objectives are as follows:-

- To rehabilitate and protect fragile areas within and outside the forest reserve.
- To increase forest cover, productivity and value, to ensure continuous provision of local and national services.
- To improve livelihoods of forest dependants through sustainable forest management and utilization.
- To improve governance of forest resources through local institutions.

2.0 MANAGING AUTHORITY

Management of Lipongo Forest Co-management block shall be done by an officially registered Block Management Committee known as Lipongo Block Management Committee from G.V.H. Lipongo in the area of Traditional Authority Nkula and the Department of Forestry through Machinga District Council. The block committee has 24 members; two representatives from each village. Details on roles and responsibilities of the managing authority refer to Annex 10.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE BLOCK

3.1 General Description

Lipongo Block is found in Liwonde Forest Reserve and is located to the North of Machinga Boma at a distance of about 900m away from the Zomba-Lilongwe road. The Block has a total area of **1,804.37** hectares, with gentle to steep slopes. The block has ten perennial rivers namely: Bububu, Mangale, Matolatola, Malangalanga, Milala, Kajomboka, Chiwale, Matengo, Mberezi and Mandimba.

The Block is generally characterized by red stony (Katondo) and black soils. In terms of forest cover and stocking, it can be described as partly good as it is dominated by Miombo woodland tree species as: Mombo, Nchenga, Chitimbe, Naphini, Lungwe, Muwanga, Nsolo, Thombozi, Ntwana, Mlombwa and Mpandula, Mbawa. The bigger part of the block (about 75%) is on steep slopes and the rest is on gentle slope and a small part is with harvestable trees.

The Block has a small good managed forest cover and a portion of Eucalyptus plantation known as Milala and around M'balaka, Msusa and Chimwayi villages where there are serious human interferences caused by charcoal producers.

3.2 Boundary

The block borders with Matandika block to the South and Bububu River separates the two blocks. To the East it is bordered by Mpango Block and these blocks are separated by Milala River and also Eucalyptus plantation separates it from M'balaka, Msusa and Chimwayi customary land. To the South-east, Lipongo Village borders with Ndaje Village.

The map below shows the block boundaries:

Map Showing Block Location and Boundaries

3.3 Tenure

This block is in the custody of the government since 1924 when it was gazetted, however, the management authority shall be shared according to Co-management agreement between the community of G.V.H. Lipongo and Forestry Department (FD).

3.4 Forest users

The users of this Block are the community of G.V.H. Lipongo which has a total of 792 household that will benefit from the Block. The forest user groups include: Firewood, Mushroom, Fruits, Honey, Poles, Fibre, Bamboo, Ziwale, Herbal and Grass collectors. Curio makers and also pit Sawyers inclusive. Other users include neighbouring communities, travellers, and people from urban centres who shall have access after obtaining permission from the Block Management Committee.

3.5 Uses

The block provides woody and non-woody forest products such as curios, timber, firewood, poles, cooking sticks, wooden spoons, mortars and pestles, medicine, grass, Ziwale, fruits, mushroom, bamboos, honey, herbs, soil, stones and game meat. It also offers environmental services like the protection of catchment and fragile areas and on top of that water that flows through the above mentioned Rivers.

4.0 FOREST MANAGEMENT UNITS

There are four Forest Management Units (FMUs) as described below and depicted on the map overleaf.

4.1 FMU 1

This comprises of coppices of Eucalyptus tree species of *terectonis* and *camaldulensis* with a total area of 312.0 hectares. It is located beneath the Forest Block bordering the customary land of M'balaka, Msusa and Chimwayi villages. This was previously a Department of Forestry industrial plantation. The sizes of poles found in this area are between 6cm to 8cm butt diameter.

4.2 FMU 2

This is an area that is heavily deforested by charcoal producers and is composed of grass and some regenerants of indigenous tree species like Mombo, Nchenga, Naphini, Muwanga, Solo, Thombozi and this area needs a total full protection from any damage. This portion has got a total area of -----hectares.

4.3 FMU 3

This is the smallest area which comprises of big indigenous harvestable tree species such as Mombo, Nchenga, Chitimbe, Naphini, Muwanga, Nsolo, Thombozi and Mpandula, Ntwana, Mlombwa, Mbawa. This portion starts from Dini Village up to Mr. Jeke's settlement around Lipongo Village. This part has a total area of ----- Hectares.

Map of Lipongo Block showing the FMUs

5.0 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

5.1 General objective

The main objective is “To improve the livelihoods of the community living in G.V.H. Lipongo through sustainable management and utilization of forest resources and services”.

5.2 Specific objectives

1. To sustainably provide fuel wood, timber and poles for both domestic and commercial purposes.
2. To protect regenerants after harvesting so as to improve forest cover.
3. To protect rivers and stream banks and other fragile areas.
4. To sustainably utilize Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as mushroom, honey, medicine, fruits thatch grass, game meat, soil, fibre and bamboos

The specific objective 1 is applicable to FMU 1; objective 2 is applicable to FMU 1 and 2 while objective 3 is applicable to FMU3 and objective 4 is applicable to all FMUs.

6.0 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following are the appropriate management practices that have been developed in order to guide the harvesting system and management in determined coupes according to type of uses.

PRACTICE	DESCRIPTION
Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●All fragile areas in the block shall be protected from harvesting activities like stream banks, sources of streams and very steep slopes.
Fire protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Fire protection shall be a priority in the freshly felled coupes for the first 3-5 years to avoid damaging the regenerates.
Harvesting with Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●A considerable number of trees to act as standards shall be left in each coupe in order to allow them grows into large sizes and support other uses e.g. timber, medicine, fruits and act as mother trees. ●20 trees per hectare at spacing of 20m from each tree shall be left giving a maximum number of 200 trees, one tree every 7m with fully stocked large tree.
Timber standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Timber trees shall be reserved for standards and included in the management practices. ●These trees can be harvested in the next rotation
Thinning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Thinning shall be done 7 – 10 years after harvesting or when the coupe becomes dense. ●Thinning shall be done after 3 years in the FMU 1. ●Tree density shall be reduced to about one third up to half. ●Thinned products shall be used for different purposes e.g. fibres, small poles and fuel wood. ●Thinning records shall be kept for reference purposes.
Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Regeneration shall be by coppicing, root shoots and planting.
Cutting (Harvesting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Harvesting shall be done during the dry season, (May – September) ●Trees shall be cut close to the ground (15cm) to enhance coppicing.
Controlled early burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Early burning shall be done soon after rainy season to prevent bush fires and stimulate regeneration.
Seed trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The standards shall produce seed sufficient to support genetic variation.
Fruit trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Fruit trees shall used for other woody products when they become unproductive .

7.0 RESOURCE USE RULES

No.	Resource rules	Specification	Penalty
1	No cutting of trees is allowed within 50m on either side along the stream banks	Cutting will only be done 50 m away from the stream bank on both sides.	Anyone found guilty of cutting trees along the stream banks shall pay a fine of K15, 000 for each felled tree. The tools and felled tree shall be confiscated.
2	No one is allowed to open a garden or settle in the block	Settling or opening a garden shall be done outside the block.	Anyone found guilty shall pay a fine of K100, 000 and the crops and structures shall be destroyed.
3	(a)- No setting of bush fires shall be allowed in the block (reserve)	Setting of fire in the block shall be carried out by BMC during controlled early burning operation.	Anyone found guilty of the offence shall pay a fine of K5, 000. If she/he fails to pay shall be given a piece of work to do in the block or taken to court for trials.
	(b)- Everyone shall participate in fire fighting in the block	-Fire fighting is compulsory to every member except under valid reasons.	Every person found guilty of refusing to participate in fire fighting in the block without genuine reason shall be taken to court which will give a fine of K3, 000.00. Failure to pay the fine shall lead the culprit to be given a piece of work to do in the block.
4	No one shall produce charcoal in the block	Charcoal production shall take place with permission from the Director of Forestry	Any person found guilty of such an offence shall pay a fine of K100, 000 for each felled tree. Charcoal and tools shall be confiscated and the suspect be taken to court if she/he fails to pay the fine.
5	No unauthorised pit-sawing shall be allowed in the block	Pit sawing shall only take place in demarcated coupes under permission from the Block Committee	Any person found guilty of an offence shall pay fine of K30, 000 per felled tree. The plunks and tools shall be confiscated. If she/he fails to pay the stipulated fine, shall be dragged to court for trials.
6	No unauthorised collection of firewood shall be allowed	Firewood collection shall be allowed upon getting a permission/permit from the Block Committee	Anyone found guilty of an offence shall pay a fine of K100/head load, K200/ per bicycle. The firewood shall be confiscated and sold. 1M3 of indigenous firewood shall be K4, 000. 1M3 of Blue gum firewood shall be K3,500 The tools used in firewood collection shall be claimed at fine of K200 per tool.
7	No one shall be allowed to cut trees	Cutting of trees for any purpose shall be done	Anyone found guilty of the offence shall pay a fine of K30, 000 per tree

	without permission and no one shall be allowed to cut regenerants.	in demarcated coupes only upon getting permission from the Block Committee. A 15 cm stump height shall be accepted when felling trees in the coupes.	and for each regenerant.
8	No unauthorised collection of immature thatch grass shall be done in the block.	- Only mature thatch grass shall be allowed to be collected.	Any person found guilty of an offence shall be stopped and the excess number of bundles shall be confiscated and sold to someone.
9	No unauthorised hunting shall be allowed	Hunting shall be allowed upon obtaining permission from the block committee.	Anyone found hunting animals shall pay a fine of K5, 000 and that found hunting birds shall pay a fine of K200 and the tools shall be confiscated.
10	No unauthorised collection of stones and soil shall be allowed from the block	Collection of stones and soil shall only take place with permission from the block management committee	Anyone found guilty of an offence shall pay a fine of K10,000 per tonne of stones 1 bag of soil shall cost K500 if done without permission.
11	No unauthorised cutting of bamboos shall be allowed in the block.	Cutting of bamboos shall be regulated by the block management committee	Anyone found cutting bamboos without permission shall be fined K200 per bundle of bamboos.
12	No unauthorised disposal of pollutants of any kind in the block shall be allowed.	-The block management committee needs to be consulted before disposing any kind of pollutants in the block	Any found guilty of an offence shall pay a fine of K20, 000.00. Failure to pay the fine shall lead the culprit to be dragged to court for trials.
13	No unauthorised grazing of animals shall be allowed in the block.	Grazing shall only be done in areas set aside by the BMC upon getting permission from it.	Anyone found guilty of an offence shall pay a fine of K500 per animal.
14	No unauthorised installation of any kind of shrine, initiation camps in the block.	Permission shall be obtained before installation of the shrine/initiation camp from the BMC.	Any person /group found guilty of an offence shall be charged to pay K5,000
15	No unauthorised visitors shall be allowed in the block.	Visitors shall obtain permission from the BMC.	Any visitor found guilty of an offence shall pay a fine of K1,000
16	No unauthorised cutting of Ziwale in the block.	Permission shall be obtained from the BMC before harvesting the product.	A fine of K5, 000 shall be charged if found cutting Ziwale without permission from the BMC.
17	No unauthorised hanging of	Hanging of standard beehives shall be allowed	Any person/group found guilty shall pay a fine of K500 per each hive and

	beehives shall be allowed in the block.	with permission from the BMC	the hives shall be confiscated. Beehives made from barks of trees shall be confiscated and destroyed.
18	No unauthorised harvesting of honey using fire shall be allowed in the block.	Harvesting of honey shall be done using smoker.	Anyone found guilty of an offence shall pay a fine of K800.
19	No unauthorised collection of herbs shall be allowed in the block.	Collection of herbs shall be done using good harvesting practices upon obtaining permission from the BMC.	Any person within Lipongo Village found guilty of an offence shall pay a fine of K1, 000 and an outsider shall pay a fine of K3, 000.
20	All outsiders and communities within Lipongo shall collect mushrooms free of charge from the block.	Communities from the surrounding villages and those living in Lipongo shall collect one basket per day.	Anyone found collecting more than one basket, the excess shall be confiscated.
21	No unauthorised felling of fruit trees and harvesting of unripe fruits shall be allowed in the block.	All fruit trees are protected and only dead or dry ones shall be felled and ripe fruits are allowed to be collected.	Anyone found guilty of an offence shall be charged to pay a fine of K15, 000 and failure to pay the fine shall lead the culprit to pay two chickens to the Group village headman.
22	No unauthorised cutting of trees for curio making shall be allowed in the block.	Cutting of trees for curio making shall be allowed in demarcated coupes after obtaining permission from the BMC.	Anyone found guilty of an offence shall be charged to pay a fine of K20, 000 per tree.
23	No unauthorised cutting of trees for the production of mortars, pestles, canoes, cooking sticks and wooden spoons shall be allowed in the block.	Cutting of trees for the production of mortars, pestles, canoes, cooking sticks and wooden sticks shall be done in the demarcated coupes after obtaining permission from the BMC.	Anyone found guilty of an offence shall lead to the confiscation of the items and be charged to pay a fine of K200 for pestles and K20, 000 for mortars, wooden spoons, canoes and cooking sticks.

8.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EACH PRODUCT

8.1 Woody Products

Name of product:	Firewood
Key species:	<i>Mchenga, Mtwana, Ntatasika, Lungwe, Thombozi, Mpapa and M'banga.</i>
Demand:	High
Supply:	High

Problems/Issues:

Illegal harvesting

Bush fires

Charcoal burning/ Brick burning

Management practices:

- Harvesting of firewood for sale and domestic purposes shall be done in demarcated coupes. The leftovers from other products such as timber, poles and curios shall be collected as firewood.
- Collection of firewood in demarcated coupes shall be monitored by the BMC.
- 15cm stump height shall be strictly observed when cutting trees.
- Controlled fire shall be used as a management tool in the harvested coupes in-order to promote regenerants.
- Firewood shall be either stacked in mendles or collected as head loads at a fee stipulated under fees and royalties.
- All dry wood shall be collected as firewood in both harvestable and non harvestable areas.

Allowable Quantity in two coupes per year:

- 41,184 Head loads of indigenous fuel wood per year for domestic purpose and 12,480 head loads per year for commercial purposes. Total number of head loads per year is 53,664.
- 28,392 head loads of Blue gum fuel wood per household per year for domestic purposes and 1,040 head loads per household per year for commercial purposes. Total number of head loads per year is 29,432.
- 120 Cubic metres of indigenous per year for domestic uses while 1,200 cubic metres of indigenous per year for commercial purpose. Total number of cubic metres per year is 1,320.
- 168 cubic metres of Blue gum fuel wood for domestic uses while 360 cubic metres of Blue gum fuel wood per year for commercial purposes. Total number of cubic metres per year is 528

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to firewood collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial Use: K150 per head load and K2500 per cubic metre for indigenous tree species whilst for exotic tree species the permit shall be K30 per head load and K1, 000 per cubic metre.
- Domestic Use: The permit shall be K50 per head load and K1, 500 per cubic metre for indigenous and K20 per head load and K 500 per cubic metre for exotic tree species.

Name of product: Poles (Big or Small)

Key species: Mlombwa, Masuku, Nkalati, Mchonya, Msopa, *Mtwana Thombozi, Lungwe and Eucalyptus*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Bush fire

Poor harvesting practices,

Illegal harvesting

Management practices:

- Harvesting of blue gum shall follow the rotational period of 10 years while for indigenous 30 years.
- Harvesting of poles for sale and domestic purposes shall be done in demarcated coupes only. The leftovers from poles shall be collected as firewood.
- Collection of poles in demarcated coupes shall be monitored by the BMC. Otherwise, penalties shall follow those doing illegal harvesting.
- 15cm stump height shall be strictly observed
- Fire shall be used as a management tool in the harvested coupes in-order to promote regeneration.
- Dead, diseased, deformed trees and those not suitable for poles shall be used as firewood in order to provide growing space to small trees.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 1,584 indigenous big poles shall be allowed per year for domestic use and 75 big poles per year for commercial per year. Total number of big poles per year is 1,659.
- 40 exotic big poles for domestic for households per year and 225 exotic big poles for commercial per year.
- 39,600 indigenous small poles shall be allowed for households per year for domestic use and 1,500 small poles for commercial per year. Total number of indigenous small poles is 41,100.
- 40 exotic small poles for domestic for households per year and 225 small poles for commercial per year. Total number of exotic small poles is 265.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to pole collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial users shall pay K500 per big pole of indigenous and K300 for exotic.
- Domestic users shall pay K200 per big pole for indigenous and K100 for exotic.
- Commercial users shall pay K50 per small pole of indigenous and K100 for exotic.
- Domestic users shall pay K20 per small indigenous pole and K50 for exotic pole.

Name of product: Timber

Key species: *Mbawa, Mlombwa, Masuku, Mtwana, Mkalati, Nsopa, Nchonya, Mnyowe*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Burning of charcoal which has led to decrease of large trees
- Unlawful harvesting which hampered the growth of regenerants.
- Bush fires which has also hampered the growth of regenerants.
- Illegal harvesting.

Management practices:

- Harvesting of timber for sale and domestic purposes shall be done in demarcated coupes only after 30 years period of rotation. The leftovers from timber shall be collected as firewood.
- Collection of timber in demarcated coupes shall be monitored by the BMC.
- 15cm stump height shall be strictly recommended when cutting timber trees above the ground level in the harvestable coupes.
- Only trees whose diameter at breast height of more than 20 cm shall be harvested in the coupes.
- Fire shall be used as a management tool in the harvested coupes in patches in-order to promote regeneration.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 10 trees shall be allowed per year for domestic use and 18 trees per year for commercial from demarcated coupes only giving a total number of 28 trees.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to Pit-sawyers from within and outside the community.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial users shall pay K10, 000 per tree.
- Domestic users shall pay K5, 000 per tree as a buying price.

Name of product: Curios
Key species: Mbanga, Mtwana, Nkalati, Mlombwa and Masuku
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Scarcity of recommended tree species
Poor harvesting practices
Illegal harvesting

Management practices:

- Harvesting of trees for curio production for sale shall be done in demarcated coupes only. The leftovers from timber shall be collected as firewood or shall be used to produce charcoal.
- Harvesting of trees for curio making in demarcated coupes shall be monitored by the LFO.
- 15cm stump height shall be strictly recommended when cutting trees for curio production above the ground level in the harvestable coupes.
- Use of other parts of the trees for curio making such as branches and root parts shall be encouraged
- A minimum of 15 trees for curio making shall be left standing in each 2 hectares coupe.
- Trees whose diameter at breast height is not less than 30 cm shall be harvested in the coupes.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 2 trees for curio making (especially for candle sticks) for domestic uses while 15 trees for commercial purposes giving a total number of 17 trees shall be harvested per year.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to curio makers.

Fees/royalties:

Commercial users shall pay K10, 000 per tree and domestic producers shall pay K5, 000 per tree.

8.2 Non-Woody Products

Name of product: Mushroom
Key species: *Utenga, Utale, Kungolokwaititi, Nakasache, Nakajongolo, Chipatwe and Usinda.*
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Poor harvesting practices

Bush fires

Management practices:

- Harvesting of mushroom shall be done in all places where it is available in the block through authorization from the BMC.
- Monitoring of mushroom harvesting shall be done by the block committee.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 71,280 baskets per season for domestic and 2,700 baskets for commercial uses giving a total number of 73,980 baskets.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to mushroom collectors from within and outsiders.

Fees/royalties:

Commercial shall pay an entry fee of K50.00 and domestic mushroom collectors shall collect free of charge.

Name of Product: Stones

Key types: *Nagaga, quarry stone, Lumbwe.*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Increased soil erosion

Unregulated collection of stones

Management practices:

- Stones shall be collected in gentle slope areas.
- Collection of such products shall be monitored by the BMC

Allowable Quantity per year:

10 tonnes per year shall be allowed for domestic use while 2515 tonnes per year for commercial uses giving a total of tonnes.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to stone collectors for domestic and commercial purposes.

Fees/royalties:

For domestic purposes, it will be free of charge while commercial users shall pay a fee of K5,000 per tonne.

Name of product: Soils/Gravel
Key Soil types: Red soils (Katondo), and Dambo sand.
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Soil erosion which affects the quality of soil.

Management practices:

- Forest conservation and protection in all fragile areas (stream banks and steep slopes) shall be strictly observed.
- Rotational grazing of animals shall be encouraged to avoid soil erosion.
- Fragile areas shall be protected from bush fires.
- Soil and stone collection shall be strictly regulated and monitored jointly by the block committee and Forestry Department.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 900kg (0.9tonne) of soil shall be allowed to be collected per year for domestic uses while 15 tonnes of soil shall be allowed to be collected per year for commercial purposes giving a total number of 15.9 tonnes.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to organizations, companies and groups who may wish to collect soil for development or commercial purposes.

Fees/royalties:

Domestic collectors shall collect soil free of charge while commercial collectors shall pay a fee of K3, 000 per tonne.

Name of product: Honey
Key species: Not applicable
Demand: High
Supply: Low

Problems/Issues:

Lack of modern bee keeping materials
Lack of technical knowledge in bee keeping
Bush fires.

Management practices:

- Hanging of bee hives for both commercial and domestic purposes shall be done in non-harvestable areas mainly along river banks.
- Hanging and harvesting of honey shall be monitored by the LFO.

- Remaining products from harvested honey shall be processed into Candle wax and floor polish.
- Weeding shall be carried out in all areas where bee hives have been hanged in order to reduce fire hazard
- All bee hives shall have identities such as number and name of owner.
- In areas where bee hives are hanging, fire shall be strictly excluded to avoid damages.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 40 bee-hives shall be allowed to be hanged per year for domestic and for commercial users, any number of hives as the capacity permits. A maximum of 20 bee hives for outsiders per year

Who can be issued with permits?

Permits shall be issued to groups or individuals interested in beekeeping industries

Fees/royalties

- For communities within Lipongo Village, they shall pay a fee of K200 per hive while outsiders shall pay a fee of K500 per hive.

Name of product: Fruits

Key species: *Nthema, Masuku, Ndundira, Mbulukututu, Mapoza, Mpembu, Matowo, Matonga, Mangulungulu Mpinjipinji,*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Bush fires

Poor harvesting practices

Poor Soil

Illegal harvesting

Management practices:

- Only matured and ripen fruits shall be harvested.
- Fruit tree growing areas shall be protected from fires.
- Harvesting of fruits shall be done using recommended harvesting methods (collection of fallen fruits, climbing up the tree and using long hooked sticks).
- Collection of fruits in the block shall be monitored by the block committee.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 71,280 baskets of fruits shall be collected for domestic purposes and 4,500 baskets for commercial uses thereby giving a total number of 75,780 baskets.

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to fruit collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- For free for both domestic while commercial users shall pay an entry fee.

Name of product: Fibres

Key species: *Mombo, Mchenga, Chitimbe and Ntwana.*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Bush fires

Poor harvesting practices

Management practices:

- Fibres shall be collected from big tree branches.
- Bush fires shall be controlled and regulated in areas where regenerants are growing.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 9,008 bundles of fibres shall be allowed per year for domestic and 720 bundles for commercial uses per year giving a total number of 9,728 bundles.

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to fibre collectors from within and outsiders.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial fibre collectors shall pay a fee of K500 per 3 bundles while domestic users shall pay K100 per 2 bundles.

Name of product: Thatch grass

Key species: *Kamphe (tsekera), Nsenjere and, Gowoche*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Bush fires

Management practices:

- Thatch grass collection shall be done between April and June.
- Only matured grass shall be recommended to be harvested.
- Bush fires shall be prohibited in areas where thatch grasses grow in the block.
- Awareness meeting shall be intensified to the communities adjacent to the block before controlled early burning operation starts.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- The Block committee shall monitor the selling of grass both for commercial and domestic.

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to thatch grass collectors for domestic and commercial uses.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial users shall pay an entry fee of K 50.00 and domestic users shall collect thatch grass free of charge.

Name of product: Bamboos
Key species: Local Species (Zachikuda)
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Careless cutting of trees.
- Poor harvesting practices.
- Bush fires.

Management practices:

- Only matured bamboos shall be recommended to be harvested.
- Bush fires shall be prohibited in areas where there are bamboos in the block.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 7,920 bundles of bamboos shall be harvested per year for domestic uses and 150 bundles of bamboos shall be harvested per year for commercial uses giving a total number of 8,070 bundles.

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to bamboo collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial bamboo collectors shall pay a fee of K150 per bundle of bamboos while domestic users shall pay a fee of K100 per bundle.

Name of product: Ziwale
Key species: Local Species
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Careless cutting of Ziwale
- Poor harvesting practices.

- Bush fires

Management practices:

- Only matured Ziwale shall be recommended to be harvested.
- Bush fires shall be prohibited in areas where there are bamboos in the block.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 240 bundles of Ziwale shall be harvested per year for domestic uses and 120 bundles of Ziwale shall be harvested per year for commercial uses giving a total number of 360 bundles.

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to Ziwale collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial Ziwale collectors shall pay a fee of K150 per bundle of Ziwale while domestic users shall pay a fee of K100 per bundle.

Name of product: Reeds
Key species: Local Species
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Careless cutting of Reeds
 Poor harvesting practices
 Bush fires

Management practices:

- Only matured reeds shall be recommended to be harvested.
- Bush fires shall be prohibited in areas where there are bamboos in the block.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 540 bundles of reeds shall be harvested per year for domestic uses and 288 bundles of reeds shall be harvested per year for commercial uses giving a total number of 828 bundles.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to reeds collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial reeds collectors shall pay a fee of K150 per bundle of reeds while domestic users shall pay a fee of K100 per bundle.

Name of product: Game animals
Key species: *Kalulu, Gwape, Pusi, Nguluwe Nyani, Nangoma, Ndandala, Mbira, Chiwalama*
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

Bush fires
Illegal hunting
Bad hunting practices

Management practices:

- Hunting of animals shall be regulated by the BMC.
- Controlled early burning shall be encouraged to prevent bush fires
- Nets shall not be allowed when hunting birds.
- Natural regeneration shall be promoted in-order to increase forest cover.
- Use of pollutants for fishing shall be prohibited and is punishable.
- Use of un-recommended tools for hunting shall be prohibited

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 90 permits shall be issued per year for domestic and 60 permits shall be issued per year for commercial game hunters respectively thereby giving a total number of 150 permits.

Who can permits be issued to?

Permits shall be issued to game hunters.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial hunters shall pay a fee of K5000 as a permit per entry while domestic hunters shall obtain a permit of K2, 000 per entry.

Name of product: Medicine
Key species: *Chinama, Chiumbu, Mlombwa, Thombozi, Mpoza and Mdimu.*
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fires
- Poor harvesting practices
- Illegal tree cutting

Management practices:

- Harvesting of medicine shall be done in all parts of the block.
- The Block Management committee and members of the community shall monitor the harvesting of herbs in the block.

- Removal of roots, barks and leaves shall be done with minimal damage.
- Medicinal trees shall be protected from fires by the block committee.
- Burying of removed side of harvested roots shall be encouraged to avoid drying of the whole tree.
- Use of branches and leaves of medicinal plants instead of roots shall be encouraged

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 120 bags of medicine domestic use and 72 bags for commercial.

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to herbalists.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial herb collectors from outside the three villages shall pay a fee of K1, 500.00 per entry and a fee of K100.00 per entry for herb collectors within the three villages for domestic uses.

9.0 ACTIVITY PLAN

Activity	When	Who will do it	Requirement
Patrolling	January –December (twice a week)	Committee members, all communities and Extension worker.	Panga knives, exercise books, pens
Fire break screefing	April – May	Committee members and all communities Extension worker	Hoes, slashers and panga knives
Controlled early burning	April – June	Committee members and all communities Extension worker	Box of matches
Thinning(Singling)	April – August	Committee members and all communities Extension worker	Panga knives
Nursery establishment	March- August	Committee members and all communities	Hoes, Watering cans, Shovels, Rakes, Wheelbarrows, Pails, Ropes, Axes, Panga knives, Slashers,
Ground preparation (in Eucs plantation)	October – November	Committee members and all communities	Hoes, picks, axes, panga knives and ropes
Tree planting	December – March	Committee members and all communities Extension worker	Hoes, slashers, pangas and planting trowels
Weeding	As soon as the weeds appear	Committee members and all communities	Hoes, slashers and pangas knives
Seed collection	July – September	Committee members and all communities	Sacks
Committee meetings	Once every month	Committee members	Exercise books, pens
General meetings	Once in every 3 months (Quarterly)	Committee members and all communities	Exercise books, pens
Issuing of permits	January to December	Committee	Permits, pens and exercise books

NB. All activities are to be done participatory by community members. It will be the responsibility of the block committee to decide the number of individuals to be involved in every activity

10.0 PATROLLING PLAN

1. Block management committee shall conduct patrols twice a month
2. Selected members of the block committee shall conduct patrols twice a week
3. Joint patrols between the BMC and FD staff shall be done quarterly

NB: All confiscated materials shall be disposed by the Block Management Committee

11.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN:

This shall be done in order to assess the progress on all the activities being implemented.

No	What will be monitored	Who will do the monitoring	What will be the indicators	What are the methods	When will the monitoring be conducted
1	Patrolling	Committee and community members	Reduced number of malpractices	Written progress reports (records)	Throughout the year
2	Firebreak maintenance	Committee and community members	Area/Distance screefed	Site visits and reports	April- May
3	Controlled early burning	Committee and community members	Number of hectares burnt	Site visit and reports	May-July
4	Thinning (Singling)	Committee and community members	Number of hectares thinned	Site visit and reports	April – August
5	Nursery construction	Committee and community members	Number of nurseries constructed	Site visit and reports	May- July
6	Ground preparation	Committee and community members	Area prepared (hectares)	Site visit, reports and supervision	Oct- November
7	Tree planting	Committee and community members	Number of trees planted Hectares planted	Field visit, reports and supervision	December- April
8	Weeding	Committee and community members	Hectares weeded	Site visit and reports	April- May
9	Seed collection	Committee members	Amount of seed collected/Species	Supervision and records.	July – September
10	Committee meetings	Committee	Minutes	Checking of minute books Interview members	Every–three months
11	General meetings	Committee and community members	Minutes	Checking of minute books Interview members	Every two months

NB. All activities are to be done participatory by community members. It will be the responsibility of the block committee to decide the number of individuals to be involved in every activity

12.0 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

12.1 Annual Cash Flow

In accordance with the data collected, estimated annual cash flow for Lipongo Block is tabulated below. Under the Co-Management model, it is proposed that 60% of the gross income accrued from commercial permit fees will go to the communities. 10 % will be transferred to the Local Forest Management Board account while 30% will be deposited in the Forest Development Fund account held at national level through Machinga District Forestry Office. All the money (100%) obtained from domestic permits will be deposited in the Block Forest Management Committee account.

Refer to annex 1 and 2 for the estimated annual cash flow and financial projections on activity

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Total Households and Population

Total households and population for GVH Lipongo:

NO	NAME OF VILLAGES	NO OF H/Hs	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL POPULATION
1	Lipongo	195	249	446	198	106	999
2	Maoni	300	200	250	400	350	1,200
3	Dini	24	12	24	40	31	107
4	M'balaka	69	69	79	200	250	598
5	Msusa (Misola)	126	200	350	65	50	665
6	Chimwayi	78	46	62	49	76	233
	TOTALS	792	776	1,211	952	863	3,802

Annex 2: Estimated Management Cost

No	Activity	No of people involved	Number/ area	Daily wage/ rate	Total Amount Required
1	Boundary screefing	30	5,000m	K300/100mx4m	K15,000.00
2	Thinning	10	100 ha	K 2,000/ha	K 200,000.00
3	Seedlings raising	30,000 tubes for 6 nurseries	6 nurseries	K2,500x30,000 tubes	K 75,000.00
4	Ground preparation	25	10 ha	K2,000/ha	K50,000.00
5	Tree planting	25	10 ha	K1,500/ha	K15,000.00
6	Weeding	25	10 ha	2,000/ha	K20,000.00
TOTAL					K375,000.00

The estimates are in line with specific conditions where communities may not be coming forward to undertake certain activities; a condition which will leave the committee with no option but to employ casual workers

Annex 3: Estimated Annual Cash Flow

Benefit sharing will be based on calculations on commercial permits. All money collected from domestic permits shall be deposited into Block Forest Management Committee Account as shown below:

Estimated Annual Cash Flow For Lipongo Block		
ACCOUNT:	AMOUNT (Mk)	PERCENTAGE (%)
INCOME		
(a) Domestic permits	K6,138,200.00	
(b) Commercial permits	K 3,688,900.00	
Gross Income	K9,827,100.00	100
Money into Local Forest Management Board (LFMB) Account from Commercial permits	K368,890.00	10
Money into Forest Development Fund (FDF) Account from Commercial permits	K1,106,670.00	30
Block Forest Management Committee Account from Commercial permits	K2,213,340.00	60
Money into Block Committee Account (Domestic & 60% of Commercial permits)	K8,351,540.00	
Money to be used for the management of the block	K 2,505,462.00	
Average income per household (792 households)	K10,544.87	
Estimated management costs	K375,000.00	

Annex 4: Estimates of Available Forest Resources

This estimate is based on three sample plots data.

Product Name	Use	Total no. of trees/0.04 ha	Total/ha	Trees Available in 2 ha
Firewood	For fuel wood	40 trees	1000	2000
Timber	For construction	3 trees	75	150
Rafters	For roofing	13 trees	325	650
Ridge pole	For roofing	3trees	75	150
Curios	For decoration	3 trees	75	150
Fruits	For eating	3 trees	75	150
Medicine	For curing diseases	8 trees	200	400

Estimates are based on three 20m x 20m sample plots inside the block. A 2 ha coupe is the suggested annual harvesting area. Fruit trees shall be reserved until they become unproductive when they shall be used for other woody products. Main fruit tree species is Masuku (*Uapaca kirkiana*)

Annex 5: Requirements for Forest Product for Domestic Use

The total number of households in GVH Lipongo is 792. Therefore, the table below calculates the annual domestic forest product requirements of these households:

No	Product Name	Use	Per H/H/yr (Mean)	Annual requirements for the 792 H/Hs
1	Firewood	For fuel wood	52 head-loads/hh/yr	61,620 head-loads
2	Rafters	For roofing	51 poles/hh/yr	19,750
3	Ridge pole	For roofing	2 big poles/hh/year	1,924 big poles
4	Bamboos	For construction and craft making	10 bundles/hh/yr	7,920 bamboos
5	Fruits	For eating	90 baskets/hh/yr	71,280 baskets
6	Fibres	For construction	24 bundles/hh/yr	19,008 bundles
7	Thatch grass	For roofing and fencing	30 bundles/hh/yr	23,760 bundles
8	Mushroom	For relish	90 baskets/hh/yr	71,280 baskets
9	Game animals	For relish	6 permits/hh/yr	90 permits for game
10	Soil	Building houses	0.15 tonne/hh/yr	0.9 tonne
11	Stones	For various activities	0.5 tonne/hh/yr	10 tonnes
12	Birds	For relish	6 permits	90 permits
13	Ziwale	For construction and craft making	24 bundles	240 bundles
14	Medicine	For curing diseases	12 permits	120 permits

Annex 6: Harvesting Plan for Woody Products

Product	Available in Harvestable Coupe/year (Block)	Domestic Demand for the whole community	Available in VFA	Total Products Available (Block + VFA)	Surplus Available for Commercial Harvesting
Firewood	53,664 headloads	41,184 headloads	1,556	55,220	+12,480
Timber	28	10	8	36	+18
Poles/rafters	44,350	40,600	74	44,424	+3,750
Ridge poles	1,924	1,624	15	1,939	+300
Curios	17	2	0	17	+15
Cooking sticks	804	792	2	806	+12

Note:

The calculations for the harvesting plan were found basing on:

Total number of households in Lipongo of 792

Total harvestable area in the block which is 1,804.37 ha

Rotational period of 10 years following two coupes per year.

Annex 7: Revenue Projection from Woody Products

Product Name	Domestic requirement		Commercial requirement		Frequency	Quantity/ year	Annual Calculations	
	hh	Permit	hh	Permit			Domestic	Commercial
Firewood	792	K50/ head load of indigenous	50	K150/ head load	1 head load/hh/wk for domestic use and 2 head loads/hh/wk	41,184 head loads for domestic. 12,480 head loads for commercial. Total head loads=53,664	K2,059,200.00	K1,872,000.00
	273	K20/head load of blue gum	10	K30/head load of blue gum	3headloads/hh/wk for domestic use and 3headloads/hh/wk for commercial use.	28,392 head loads for domestic purposes. 1,040headloads for commercial. Total head loads=29,432	K567,800.00	K31,200.00
	10	K1,500/M3 of indigenous	20	K2, 500/M3 of indigenous.	1M3/hh/month for domestic use and 5M3/hh/month for commercial.	120M3 of indigenous firewood for domestic use. 1,200M3 of indigenous firewood for commercial. Total cubic metres of firewood =1,320	K180,000.00	K3,000,00.00
	7	K500/M3 of blue gum	10	K1,000/M3 of blue gum	2M3/hh/month for domestic use and 3M3/hh/month for commercial.	168M3 of blue gum firewood for domestic uses and 360M3 of blue gum firewood for commercial. Total cubic metres of firewood=528	K84,000.00	K60,000.00
Poles-Indigenous (a)big poles	792	K200/big pole (indigenous)	20	K500/big pole (indigenous)	2 big poles/hh/year for domestic and 15 big poles/ yr for commercial use	1,584 big poles (indigenous) for domestic use and 75 big poles (indigenous) for commercial use. Total no. of poles=1,659	K316,800.00	K7,500.00

Big poles (blue gum)	20	K100/big pole (exotic)	20	K300/big pole (exotic)	2 big poles/hh/year for domestic and 15 big poles/ yr for commercial use	40 big poles (exotic)/year for domestic use 225 big poles (exotic) for commercial. Total no. of big poles 265	K4,000	K67,500.00
(b)small poles (indigenous)	792	K20/small pole (indigenous)	10	K50/small pole (indigenous)	50 small poles /hh/year for domestic	39,600 small poles/year for domestic use (indigenous)	K792,000.00	K75,000.00
					150 small poles/hh/yr for commercial use	1,500 small poles/yr for commercial use (indigenous). Total no. of poles= 41,100		
Small poles (blue gum)	20	K50/ small pole (exotic)	15	K100/ small pole (exotic)	50 poles/hh/yr for domestic	1,000 small poles for domestic use	K50,000.00	K225,000.00
					150 poles/hh/yr commercial use	2,250 small poles for commercial. Total no. of poles = 3,250		
Timber	5	K5,000/tree	6	K10,000/tree	2trees/hh/yr for domestic use and 3 trees/hh/yr for commercial	10 trees for domestic use/year 18 trees for commercial use/year Total no. of trees= 28	K50,000.00	K180,000.00
Curios	1	K5,000/tree	5	K10,000/tree	2trees/hh/year for domestic use and 3trees/hh/yr for commercial purposes	2 trees/year for domestic 15 trees/yr for commercial Total no. of trees= 17	K10,000.00	K150,000.00
TOTAL FOR WOODY PRODUCTS							K 4,113,800.00	K2,668,200.00

Annex 8: Revenue Projection from Non Woody Products

Product Name	Domestic requirement		Commercial requirement		Frequency	Quantity/ year	Annual calculations	
	hh	Permit	hh	Permit			Domestic	Commercial
Mushroom	792	Free access	30	Free access	1 basket /hh/day for 3 months for domestic use	71,280 baskets/yr for domestic use	-----	-----
					1 basket /hh/day for 3 months for commercial use	2,700 baskets/ yr for commercial use Total no. of baskets= 73,980		
Medicine	10	K100 permit/bag/trip	6	K1,500 permit/bag/trip	1 permit per (bag)/hh/month for domestic	120 permits/hh/year for domestic	K 12,000.00	K 108,000.00
					1 permit per /hh/month for commercial	72 permits /hh/year Total no. of bags= 192		
Fibres	792	K100/2bundles/trip	10	K500/3bundles/trip	8 bundles(4trips) /hh/month for domestic use and 6 bundles(2trips)/hh/month for commercial use	19,008 bundles for domestic use per year and 720 bundles for commercial Total no. of bundles= 19,728	K950,400.00	K120,000.00
Fruits	792	Free access	50	Free access	1 permit(basket)/hh/day for 3 months for both domestic and commercial purposes	71,280 baskets for domestic use and 4,500 baskets for commercial Total no. of baskets= 75,780	-----	-----
Honey	5	K200/hive	2	K500/hive	3hive/hh/yr for domestic and 5hives/hh/yr for commercial purpose	15 hives for domestic 10 hives for commercial	K3,000.00	K5,000.00
Reeds	15	K100/bundle	8	K150/bundle	3bundles/hh/month for both domestic and commercial purposes	540bundles for domestic 288bundles for commercial purposes Total no of bundles= 828	K54,000.00	K42,200.00

Thatch grass	792	Free access	50	Free access	30 bundles/hh/yr for domestic use and 35 bundles/hh/yr for commercial use	23,760 bundles for domestic use and 1,750 for commercial Total no. of bundles= 25,510	-----	-----
Ziwale	10	K100/bundle	5	K150/bundle	2 bundles/hh/month for both domestic and commercial purposes	240 bundles for domestic purposes 120 bundles for commercial purposes Total bundles=360	K24,000.00	K18,000.00
Soil	6	Free access	5	K3,000/tonne	0.15tonne(150 kg)/ hh/yr for domestic and 3 tonnes/hh/yr for commercial users	0.9 tonne for domestic users 15tonnes/hh/yr for Commercial users Total tonnes= 15.9	-----	K45,000.00
Stones	20	Free access	10	K5,000/ per tonne	1/2 tonne/hh/yr for domestic and 10tonnes/hh/yr for commercial use	10 tonnes for domestic users and 100 tonnes for commercial use per year	-----	K500,000.00
Game animals	15	K2,000/ permit(trip)	10	K2,500/per mit(trip)	1 permit/hh/month for 6 months for domestic use and 1 permit/hh/month for 6 months for commercial users	60 permits for domestic hunters and 60 permits for commercial hunters	K180,000.00	K150,000.00
Birds	15	K100/ permit(trip)	10	K150/per mit(trip)	1 permit/hh/month for 6 months for domestic users and 1 permits/hh/month for 6 months for commercial users	60 permits for domestic hunters and 60 permits for commercial hunters Total no. of permits= 150	K9,000.00	K9,000.00
Bamboos	792	K100/bundle of bamboos	5	K150/bundle of bamboos	10bundles of bamboos/hh/yr for domestic use and 30 bundles of bamboos/yr for commercial	7,920 bundles of bamboos for domestic use and 150bundles of bamboos for commercial Total no. of bundles= 8,070	K792,000.00	K22,500.00
TOTAL FOR NON WOODY PRODUCTS							K2,024,400.00	K1,020,700.00

Annex 9: Lipongo Block Management Committee Constitution

Name of LFO: Lipongo Block Management Committee
Name of the Block: Lipongo
Address: C/O Machinga L.E.A School,
P.O. Box 17,
Machinga
Contact numbers: Cell: Mr Saidi Rabana- 0999221028
Mrs. Mary Ugeniyo - 0993280653
Mr. Medson Maliwa- 0882742972

1.0. OBJECTIVE

- To satisfy Lipongo wider community's (especially those from Lipongo, Maoni, Dini, M'balaka, Msusa and Chimwayi villages) needs of forest based products such as firewood, poles, curio wood, timber, charcoal, thatch grass, honey, fruits, Ziwale and mushrooms through collaborative management and sustainable utilization of forest resources within Lipongo Block and promote conservation of fragile areas.

2.0. STRUCTURE

- There shall be an elected managing committee comprising office bearers (24 members) such as Chairperson and vice, Secretary and vice, Treasurer and other 19 members.
- These members shall be elected proportionately from the four (6) villages mentioned in the 1.0.
- Community members from the above 6 villages shall be automatic members of Lipongo wider community. To this effect, elected members shall be representatives of different interested user groups of the Block from the above four villages.
- All Village Heads in the stated villages and the Group village Headman Lipongo shall be ex-officials of the Block Management committee.
- The wider community members shall be automatic members of the Block Management Committee.

3.0. ELECTIONS

- Elections shall take place in a free and fair manner in consultation with the six village heads and the Group Village Head. Four (4) chosen community members (representatives) from each of the six (6) villages shall contest for executive membership of the Block Management Committee. Village heads shall accompany their contestants to the elections as observers.
- Elections shall take place every three years except when the whole committee is dissolved or some members are disqualified, dismissed or have resigned.

- Elected office bearers shall run a term of three years and will be eligible to stand for another one term basing on efficiency and effectiveness.
- The entire Block Management committee shall be dissolved after conniving and committing a serious crime or conducting business not in a transparent manner. Since Community members have a stake in the management of the Block, they have the right to summon the Block Committee to the Group Village head as BMC advisor to clarify issues pertaining to management of their block.

4.0. ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS

- Eligible members shall only be:-
- Citizens from the stated 6 villages
- Committed & dedicated members from the 6 villages
- People with no record of conviction after committing an offence
- Non-drunkard(s)
- Visionary

4.1 Termination of Membership

Members shall be eliminated only if:-

- A member commits a serious crime such as theft, corruption, mismanagement of forest products
- A member has rebelled against the Block Committee
- If the term of office has expired
- A member has passed away
- A member goes mad

4.2 Disqualification/Dismissal of Members

A member shall be disqualified/ dismissed if:-

- He/she fails to attend meetings for three consecutive times without apparent reasons
- A member commits a serious crime such as theft, corruption, mismanagement of forest products, misappropriation of Block Management Committee funds and equipment.

4.3 Substitution of Members

Substitution of a member shall take place only if:-

- A committee member dies
- A committee member has gone elsewhere (transfer) outside the stated villages
- A committee member has voluntarily stopped to be a member
- A committee member has gone mad
- A committee member has been dismissed after committing an offence

4.4 Rights & Responsibilities of Members

All Block Committee members shall have the following rights & responsibilities/duties.

Rights/Freedoms of Members

- Right of Association
- Freedom of Speech in giving suggestions at meetings of the Committee
- Right to be elected to any position of the Block Management Committee
- Right to know anything concerning the Block Management Committee
- Right to benefits accrued from Block or any other sources

Responsibilities/Duties

- Participate in all Committee undertakings
- Lead the Committee in different aspects
- Taking care of Committee property
- Represent the Block Management Committee in other forums

5.0. SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 The Chairperson shall:

- Call meetings of management and preside over deliberations of such meetings.
- In consultation with local leaders call meetings for wider community.
- Be signatory of Institution's account

5.2 The Secretary shall:

- Record all minutes of meetings and events of the Block.
- Welcome guests during events
- Deal with all correspondences of the committee.
- Record fines, finances and penalties.
- Be signatory of Institution's account

5.3 The Treasurer shall

- Keep custody of the entire Block's equipment.
- Keep custody of all the Block's finances.
- Be signatory of Institution's account
- Issue licenses for forest products and operations

5.4 Committee members shall

- Be delegated to represent any member of the executive in meetings
- Participate in committee deliberations
- Be chosen to be a signatory of the institution's account
- Manage conflicts of the committee

5.5 The Group Village Headman and village headmen shall:

- Mobilise their subjects on development activities of the Block.
- Assist to settle disputes which the Block Management committee has failed to settle.
- Advise the Block Management committee where necessary.

5.6 The Forestry Department shall:

- Provide technical support on all activities of the Block Management Committee.
- Assist the Block committee in solving disputes that are beyond capacity of Group Village Level.
- Observe elections of office bearers of the Block Management Committee.
- Assist in resource use regulation and law enforcement.

5.7 General members shall:

- Be required to take part in tree planting, early burning, thinning, fire break maintenance of the Block and any other activity as may be determined by the managing committee.
- Elect their representatives into the Block committee.
- Call for dissolution of the committee or disqualification of an elected member in the case of corruption.

6.0. FUNCTIONS OF THE BLOCK COMMITTEE

- Managing Body (Block Management Committee) shall meet once every month to discuss management issues.
- Managing body shall meet once in a quarter with a wider committee for information giving, feedback or consensus.
- Quorum of management meeting shall be half the number of Block Committee members i.e. 12 Members.
- Decision shall be reached by voting.
- Block Committee, GVH, VHs shall develop resource use rules, penalties and sanctions.
- Review of the constitution shall be made after two years.
- The block committee shall be registered at the DFO as a Local Forestry Organization.
- The managing committee shall steer all activities of the Block in collaboration with the Forestry Department and with consultations with all the five village heads and the group village headman.
- Block Management committee shall with consultations with Forestry Officers issue permits and licenses to people for the purpose of accessing products in the Block.
- The Block Management Committee shall upon thorough consultations with the wider community review the Block Management Plan after five years. The reviewed versions shall be presented to the local leadership, other interested stakeholders and the wider community.

7.0. BLOCK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FINANCES

Sources of Finances

Finances for the Block Management Committee shall come from the following main sources:-

- Licenses from Forest User groups/Clubs
- Loans from lending institutions such as SACCO, MARDEF, NATIONAL BANK & MRFC
- Sales of Forest Products & services

Other Sources

- Tree seedling raising & sales
- Other feasible businesses

8.0. BENEFIT SHARING

100% of monetary benefits arising from sales of forest products for commercial use will be shared as follows: 60% into Block Management Committee Account, 30% into Forestry Department Account and 10% into Local Forestry Management Board (LFMB) Account. All money realised from domestic sales will go straight into BMC account.

All the money accumulated into Mgwirizano Block Management Committee Account shall be used as follows:

1. Forestry management activities of the Block- 30 %.
2. Administration costs of the Block Committee-25%.
3. Micro-Credit scheme-15%.
4. Community Development (bridges, welfare, orphans etc.)-30%.

NOTE:

Forest Management activities shall include Block boundary screening, Slashing, Controlled early burning, Monitoring activity implementation, conduct forest patrols, Plot and coupes' demarcation, licensing of forest produce, maintenance of road network adjacent to the block and others.

Micro-Credit scheme shall provide soft loans to Lipongo wider community to start small-scale businesses with an intention of increasing household income levels. The loan will attract an interest of 20% per return. There will be a subcommittee headed by the BMC treasurer to manage the loans. The loans will only be given to organized groups (10 members per group) to ease repayment.

Names of Mgwirizano Block Management Committee of GVH Lipongo

No.	Name	Title	Sex	Village
1	Lameck Abudu	Chairperson	Male	Lipongo
2	Mwanaisha Misomali	Vice chairperson	Female	M'balaka
3	Vailet Jafali	Secretary	Female	Dini
4	January Salisbury	Vice Secretary	Male	Maoni
5	Medson Maliwa	Treasurer	Male	Msusa (Misola)
6	Asabi Saidi	Committee member	Male	Lipongo
7	Cecilia Thomasi	Committee member	female	Lipongo
8	Aida Lemani	Committee member	Female	Lipongo
9	Mavuto Malinje	Committee member	Male	Maoni
10	Cathreine Jali	Committee member	Female	Maoni
11	Mary Wanki	Committee member	Female	Maoni
12	Elida Amidu	Committee member	Female	M;balaka
13	Milaji Amadu	Committee member	Male	M'balaka
14	Michael Saidi	Committee member	Male	M'balaka
15	Chikondi Uka	Committee member	Female	Dini
16	Themba Chilomo	Committee member	Male	Dini
17	Mary Ugeni	Committee member	Female	Dini
18	Esnart Malidadi	Committee member	Female	Msusa (Misola)
19	Magret Sanjika	Committee member	Female	Msusa (Misola)
20	George Chiundu	Committee member	Male	Msusa (Misola)
21	Steve Chakalamba	Committee member	Male	Chimwayi
22	Magret Lifa	Committee member	Female	Chimwayi
23	White Malidadi	Committee member	Male	Chimwayi
24	Eliza Kanjinga	Committee member	Female	Chimwayi

NB: 12 Female members and 12 Male members

Annex 10: CO MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

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 herein after referred to as the Government, and local residents of Lipongo village of Traditional Authority Nkula and District Machinga represented by Lipongo Block Management Committee as the Local Forest Organisation (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 co-management, in partnership with the Department of Forestry, of the forest resources of Lipongo Forest Block of Liwonde forest reserve, in order to promote sustainable forest management and the enhancement of the livelihoods of the forest adjacent communities.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:

1. The Government shall upon being 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 community of GVH Lipongo village.
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 annexed block co-management plan.

LFO OBLIGATIONS

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 block Co-management Plan.
 - (b.) The LFO shall enforce the powers that have been devolved to them by the Government in the Forest Rules 2001, and in any subsequent rules, 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 will issue permits and licences for forest produce primarily for the benefit of the local community and (in the event of surplus products becoming available) for their commercial sale under a license system, as set out in the annexed management plan.
 - (d.) To assist the District Forest Officer with the issuing of conveyance certificates, the local forest organisation may provide the necessary supporting documentation (ownership certificate) to verify source and ownership of wood products under its control. It may also assist local private individuals with wood products in their locality verify ownership for applying for a conveyance certificate from the District Forest 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 and LFO constitution

- (f.) Revenue accruing from the forest resource shall be equitably utilized by the community in accordance with the LFO Constitution and as per agreements reached at general assemblies 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 account of the Local Forest Management Board of **Liwonde 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 Forest Development 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 the 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.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS

4. In particular the District Forestry Officer and his delegated representatives, shall;
 - (a.) Provide technical expertise to support the joint implementation with the LFO and the timely revision of the attached block 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 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 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 annexed 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 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, organizational, marketing and other forms of support to the LFO as appropriate.
 - (i.) Organizes 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 Forest Act, 1997, Forest Rules 2001, and Local Forest Organization Registration Agreement.

COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

5. This Agreement shall come into effect when signed by the Director of Forestry, representatives of the parties, and shall be binding indefinitely subject to clauses 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;
 - Negligence or failure to protect, manage and control the co-management block.
 - if the LFO commits any serious breach of this agreement.
7. The powers stipulated in clause 6 above, shall not be exercised unless the Director of Forestry has tried all efforts to resolve or correct the situation amicably.
8. In cautioning the local community the Director of Forestry shall cite the shortcomings 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;
 - if there is serious breach of this agreement.
 - if for any reason the community finds itself unable or unwilling to continue with the activities of the designated co-management block.
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 the block.

DEMARCATON AND BOUNDARY

11. Division or delineation of forest areas shall be as displayed on the sketch map forming part of the Management Plan annexed to this Co-management Agreement.

DISPUTES

12. In the event of any dispute arising under the Forestry 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:

[Signature]

DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY



Dated... 09-08-13

AND

[Signature]

CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST ORGANISATION

Dated... 19/2/14

WITNESSES:

[Signature]

VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN

TIA MKWA

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Dated... 19/02/14

Dated... 19/02/14



Dated... 19/02/2014