

CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR M'DERE/MLELEMBA FOREST BLOCK
IN
LIWONDE FOREST RESERVE
MACHINGA DISTRICT



January, 2014

Cover Pictures clock wise: *Afforested part of the block, Tree seedling raising, part of the Mdera-Mlelemba block and wider community feedback meeting*

This plan has been produced by community of GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba with assistance of Machinga District Forestry Office. It is a five year plan.

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ACRONYMS

ADFO	Assistant District Forestry Officer
ADFO- P	Assistant District Forestry Officer- Plantations
DFO	District Forestry Office (r)
FD	Forestry Department
FDF	Forest Development Fund
FG	Forest Guard
FMU	Forest Management Unit
GPS	Geographical Positioning System
GIS	Geographical Information System
GVH	Group Village Headman
H/Hs	Households
Ha	Hectares
IFMSLP	Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme
LFMB	Local Forest Management Board
LFO	Local Forest Organization
NTFP	Non- Timber Forest Product
P/ MAN	Patrolman
SFAP	Strategic Forest Area Plan
T/A	Traditional Authority
VFA	Village Forest Area
V H	Village headman

Summary

M'dere/ Mlelemba Co-Management Plan is a document that reflects all participatory processes of discussions, analysis, consultations and planning that were carried out by both Community members of Group Village heads M'dere and Mlelemba of Traditional Authority Nkula and Forestry Department through Machinga District Forestry Office. The entire process was intended to empower local communities in GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba area so that they are able to make informed decision jointly with the Forestry Department and take the responsibility over the forest resources around their area both on customary land and state-owned forest reserve or part of it, in this case forest block. This is in line with the National Forestry Policy, 1996 which advocates for co-management of protected areas such as forest reserves.

The co-management plan shall guide both M'dere/Mlelemba community and Forestry Department (Machinga District Forestry Office in particular) in sustainable management and utilization of the forest reserve block. As such, the document outlines management objectives, forest management units, management practices for each product, resource user rules, patrolling plan, participatory monitoring and evaluation plan, financial projections and other important aspects which will assist to conserve and regulate access of forest products.

The villages have a total number of 516 households with a total population of 3,484.

The block has two perennial rivers namely Chigwandembo and Chagwa. It has got one main objective and four specific objectives. The block shall provide the communities of M'dere and Mlelemba with woody and non woody products as well as environmental services (protection of catchments and fragile areas).

The plan has ten management practices in order to guide the harvesting system in the designated coupes according to the types of uses. In addition, twenty-two resource use rules and penalties including detailed management plan for each product have been formulated.

Apart from the resource use rules, management plan and practices, the communities also managed to develop an Activity, Patrolling, Harvesting, Monitoring and Evaluation Plans for woody and non-woody products. The management plan also gives detailed financial projections as shown in the annexes 2 and 3

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is the co-management plan for M'dere/ Mlelemba Forest Block. The block is **1,446.26** hectares and is located to the South-west of Liwonde Forest Reserve which is 24,351.87 hectares .This plan derives its objectives from Zomba- Malosa / Liwonde Strategic Forest Area Plan (SFAP) whose main objectives include:

- Rehabilitation and protection of fragile areas within and outside the forest reserves.
- Increasing forest cover, productivity and value, to ensure continuous provision of local and national Services.
- Improvement of livelihoods of forest dependent communities through sustainable forest management and utilization.
- Improvement of forest governance issues through local institutions.

2.0 MANAGING AUTHORITY

This management plan shall be managed by a Local Forest Organization known as M'dere/ Mlelemba Block Management Committee from Group Village headmen M'dere and Mlelemba of Traditional Authority Nkula in collaboration with Department of Forestry through Machinga District Forestry Office. The Block Committee shall be officially registered by the District Forestry Office.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE BLOCK

3.1 General Description

M'dere/ Mlelemba Forest Co-management Block is found in Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserve. It is located to the south -west of Machinga district about 7 km away from the Boma and about 6 km away from Chingale Turn- Off.

The Block has a total area of 1,446.26 hectares with very steep slopes and some streams. These streams include; Chigwandembo and Chagwa. Both of them are perennial rivers.

The Block is characterized by red stony soils (katondo) and black sandy soils. It is dominated by dry- Miombo woodland tree species such as *Ntwana*, *Mchenga*, *Thombozi*, *Msolo*, *Mlombwa*, *Chiumbu*, *Njombo*, *Masuku*, *Mbwabwa*, *Mkalati*, *Mapoza* and *Mpembu (Maula)*. The bigger part of the block (about 80%) is on steep slopes and the rest is on gentle and a small part is with harvestable trees.

The block is in good condition with different sizes of forest cover .There is visible human interferences like charcoal burning and illegal timber sawing for both domestic and commercial purposes that is leading to deforestation.

3.2 Boundary

The block shares a common boundary with Mtuluma Block in Howe village in Zomba District to the South and this boundary is defined by Chigwandembo River. To the South-west, there are Michongwe, Chinkwenzule and Mziliri villages which are under GVH Mlelemba. Mwamadi, Alani, Milepa, Mpasuka, Misoya villages under GVH M'dere lie to the North-west whereas Ndaje/Nkula Block borders it to the North which is separated by Chagwa river. To the East lies Nkalo Block. The boundaries were demarcated using Geographical Positioning System (GPS). The map showing the block boundaries is on page 7.

3.3 Land Tenure

Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserve was gazetted in 1924 and still remains in the hands of the Malawi Government. Therefore, the co-management agreement gives the communities a chance to participate in the management, protection and utilization of the forest products in the block.

3.4 Forest Users

The primary user groups of the block are the people from the two Group Village Headmen namely: M'dere and Mlelemba. In total, the two Group Village Headmen have 516 households (H/Hs) with a total population of 3,484 people that benefit from the block. There are also secondary users from the neighboring communities outside M'dere/Mlelemba Block and these user groups include: firewood collectors, mushroom collectors, fiber collectors, fruit collectors, timber sawyers, hunters, herbalists, curio makers, bamboo collectors, grass collectors, honey collectors. There are customers from urban centres like Liwonde, Zomba and Blantyre who are privileged to buy some of the forest products like timber and firewood from the block.

3.5 Uses

The uses of the block are three and these are:

- Provision of products for human consumption, construction of human structures like houses, bridges, furniture.
- Provision of environmental services like protection of catchment and fragile areas such as steep slopes and rivers.
- Provision of tourism attraction.

NB: The block provides non-woody forest products like: - mushrooms, fiber ropes, medicine, fruits, bamboos, honey, bamboos, chewo, game meat and thatching grass while woody products include firewood, timber, poles, curios and mortars.

Map showing boundaries of M'dere / Mlelemba Forest Co-management Block

4.0 FOREST MANAGEMENT UNITS:

M'dere/Mlelemba Block has two Forest Management Units (FMUs). These are described below:-

4.1 FMU 1

This portion shares boundary with the customary land and due to its proximity to the communities there is notable human interference like illegal timber sawing as well as tree cutting for firewood hence some regenerants are observed. There also big trees that can be used for firewood and timber. Many communities collect grass and bamboos in this unit Fruit trees like *Masuku* are found abundantly. The type of soil found in this area is sandy black soil. Therefore, this portion needs total fire protection in order to protect the regenerants. This unit has an area of -----hectares.

4.3 FMU 2

This is a non-harvestable area with steep slopes and a catchment area for most of the rivers that originate from the block. This is the area that is mostly affected by charcoal burning. The type of soil found in this unit is red stony soil (Katondo). This portion covers an area of about ----- hectares.

Map showing FMUs in M'dere / Mlelemba Forest Co-management Block

5.0 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

5.1 General Objective

To improve the livelihoods of M'dere/Mlelemba community through sustainable management and utilization of forest resources and services.

5.2 Specific objectives

1. To provide fuel wood, timber and poles for both domestic and commercial purposes. This objective is applicable to FMUs 1 and 2.
2. To protect the regenerants so as to improve forest cover and increase the wood base, applicable to FMU 1.
3. To protect the stream banks and other fragile areas and applies to FMU 3.
4. To sustainably utilize Non -Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as mushroom, honey, medicine, fruits, thatch grass, game meat, soil, stones, fibres and bamboos. This objective is applicable to FMUs 1, 2 and 3.

6.0 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following are the appropriate management practices that have been developed in order to guide the harvesting system and management of the forest resource in the entire block.

NO	PRACTICES	DESCRIPTION
1	Protected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All catchment areas, stream banks and steep slopes will not be harvested.
2	Fire protection in coupes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fire protection shall be a priority in the whole block to avoid damaging the regenerants.
3	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 grow into large sizes and support other uses e.g. timber, medicine and act as mother trees.• 25 trees per hectare (ha) at a spacing of 20m from each tree shall be left giving a maximum number of 200 trees.• The coppices shall be managed together with the standards.
4	Thinning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In all harvestable coupes thinning shall be done after 7-10 years of regeneration.• Thinned products shall be used for different purposes e.g. fibres, small poles and firewood.• Thinning records shall be kept
5	Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regeneration shall be by coppicing, root suckering and planting.
6	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.
7	Controlled early burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early burning shall be done soon after rainy season to prevent fierce bush fires and stimulate regeneration.
8	Seed trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The standards shall produce seed sufficient to support genetic variation.
9	Fruit trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fruit trees shall be reserved until they become unproductive when they shall be used for other woody products.
10	Timber standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timber trees shall be reserved for standards and these trees can be harvested in the next rotation.

7.0 RESOURCE USE RULES

NO	RESOURCE RULES	SPECIFICATION	PENALTY
1	No cutting of trees along the stream banks (50m on either side)	Cutting of trees will be only done 50m away from the stream banks on both sides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of cutting trees along the stream banks shall pay a fine of K15, 000.00 for each felled tree. The tools and felled trees shall be confiscated and handed over to BMC. Failure to pay the fine, the offender shall be given a piece of work in the block equivalent to the stipulated fine. If he/she fails to comply with, then he/she shall be taken to court for trials.
2	No charcoal burning	Charcoal burning shall be done outside the block after obtaining permission from the Director of Forestry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of burning charcoal in and outside the block shall pay a fine of K50, 000.00 and failure to do so will be taken to court. Charcoal bags and tools used shall be confiscated and handed over to BMC for disposal.
3	(a)No setting of bush fires in the block.	Any fires that occur in the block other than one set during controlled early burning is unauthorized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of setting fire in the block shall pay a fine of K25, 000.00 and failure to pay shall be taken to court.
	(b)Everyone shall participate in fire fighting in the block.	All community members in the two GVHs shall participate including men, women, boys and girls residing in these villages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of refusing to participate in fire fighting in the block without genuine reason shall pay a fine of K1, 000.00.
4	No unauthorized collection of mushrooms.	Collection of mushrooms shall only be done after getting permission from BMC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of collecting mushrooms without permission shall pay a fine of K150.00.
5	No unauthorized pit-sawing in the block.	-Pit-sawing shall only take place in the demarcated coupes under permission from the block committee (LFO).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of an offence related to pit-sawing in the block shall pay a fine of K15, 000.00 per felled tree. The planks and tools shall be confiscated and handed over to BMC. If he/she fails to pay the stipulated fine shall be taken to court for prosecution.
6	No unauthorized harvesting of medicine in the block.	Debarking, root cutting and plucking of leaves from the branches shall only be allowed after getting permission from the BMC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of serious debarking, cutting all roots from the tree and plucking all leaves from the branches shall pay a fine of K5,000.00 and failure to do so shall be given a piece of work to do in the block equivalent to the fine.
7	No unauthorized hunting of animals/birds.	Hunting shall be allowed to take place at the right time of the season and with permission from the LFO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of hunting without permission shall pay a fine of K6, 000.00 for animals and K250 for birds.

8	No disposal of pollutants of any kind in the block.	-Rivers and forests shall be totally protected from being polluted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any person found guilty of an offence related to pollution of the water and forest shall pay a fine of K40,000.00 and failure to do so shall be taken to court for prosecution.
9	(a) No unauthorized collection of free firewood.	<p>Collection of free firewood shall be done after obtaining permission from the LFO.</p> <p>Communities from the two GVHs adjacent to the block shall be permitted to collect firewood freely every Wednesdays and Saturdays.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of collecting free firewood for domestic use shall pay a fine of K200.00 per head load and K2000 per cubic metre. Anyone found guilty of collecting firewood for commercial purposes shall pay a fine of K4, 000.00 per cubic metre. Any outsider found guilty of joining the authorized communities in the collection of firewood on the days set for free collection shall pay a fine of K200.00
	(b) No collection of firewood from live trees in the block	-Only dry firewood shall be allowed to be collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of collecting firewood from live trees shall pay a fine of K5, 000.00.
	(c) No unauthorized entry into the block in possession of tools like panga knives, axes, bow-saws.	<p>Collection of firewood should be done using long poles or bamboos with hooks.</p> <p>Use of panga knives, axes and bow-saws shall be strictly monitored by the LFO.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of the possession of unauthorized tools shall pay a fine of K300.00 and the tools shall be confiscated and be returned after paying K100.00 for each confiscated tool.
10	No unauthorized harvesting of bamboos	Bamboos shall be harvested after obtaining permission from the LFO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of harvesting bamboos without permission shall pay a fine of K300.00 per bundle.
11	No unauthorized collection of fibres from the block.	<p>-Permission shall be obtained from the LFO for domestic use only.</p> <p>-Fibres shall be collected from branches of big trees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of collecting fibres without permission shall pay a fine of K500.00
12	No unauthorized collection of thatch grass.	<p>Collection of thatch grass shall be done after obtaining permission from the LFO.</p> <p>Free collection of thatch grass shall be allowed to community members from the two GVHs only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of collecting thatch grass without permission from the LFO shall pay a fine of K50.00 and the tool used shall be confiscated.
13	No unauthorized grazing of animals is allowed in the block.	Grazing of animals in the block shall be done with permission from the LFO to protect regenerants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of grazing animals in the block without a permit shall pay a fine of K100.00 for each animal.
14	No entry of unauthorized visitor in	Any visitor shall be required to obtain permission from the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors found guilty of trespassing into the block shall pay a fine of K1,

	the block.	LFO.	000.00 each.
15	No unauthorized collection of stones.	Collection of stones shall be done after obtaining permission from the LFO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of collecting quarry stones without permission shall pay a fine of K5, 000.00 per ton.
16	(a)No unauthorized hanging of bee-hives in the block. (b) No harvesting of honey using fire.	Hanging of bee-hives shall be done after obtaining permission from the LFO. Harvesting of honey shall be done using smoker.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of hanging bee-hives without permission shall pay a fine of K 600.00 per bee-hive and the bee-hives shall be confiscated. All traditional hives shall be confiscated and destroyed. Anyone found harvesting honey using fire shall pay a fine of K1, 000.
17	No construction/installation of any kind of structure i.e. shrines, camps in the block.	Construction/installation of structures shall be done upon getting permission from the LFO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of constructing/installing structures in the block shall pay a fine of K50, 000 and the structures shall be demolished. Failure to pay the culprit shall be taken to court for prosecution.
18	No unauthorized harvesting of unripe fruits and felling of fruit trees in the block.	Ripe fruits shall only be collected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of an offence related to the felling of fruit trees shall pay a fine of K15, 000. Anyone found collecting unripe fruits, the fruits shall be confiscated.
19	No unauthorized harvesting of the regenerants.	Regenerants shall be protected from harvesting, grazing and fires.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of harvesting regenerants, grazing and setting fire where regenerants are growing shall pay a fine of K25,000.00 and failure to do so shall be given a piece of work to do in the block equivalent the fine.
20	No unauthorized opening up of gardens or establishing settlement in the block.	People are not allowed to cultivate or build houses in the block.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of opening up a garden or establishing settlements shall pay a fine of K20,000.00 and his/her crops shall be slashed out and settlement be demolished and failure to pay the fine , the offender shall be taken to court to answer charges.
21	No cutting of trees below 15cm stump height in the block.	Cutting of trees shall only be allowed at the stump height of not more than 15cm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of cutting trees above 15cm stump height shall be charged to pay a fine of K1, 000.00 per stump.
22	No unauthorized cutting of trees for curios.	Cutting of trees shall only be allowed in the demarcated coupes upon obtaining permission from the LFO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone found guilty of cutting trees for the production of curios shall pay a fine of K15, 000 and the tools shall be confiscated.

8.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EACH PRODUCT

8.1 Woody Products

Name of Product: Firewood

Key Species: *Mchenga, Ntwana, Mombo, Mbanga and Mthethe*

Demand: High

Supply: Low

Problems/Issues:

- -Wild fires
- -Poor harvesting practices
- -Illegal harvesting.

Management Practices:

- Harvesting of firewood for commercial and domestic purposes shall be done in demarcated coupes only. The leftovers from other products such as timber, poles, shall be collected as firewood.
- Collection of firewood shall be monitored by the LFO.
- 15cm stump height shall be strictly recommended when cutting trees in the harvestable coupes.
- Fire shall be used as a management tool in the block in patches in-order to promote regeneration and reduce fire hazard.
- Firewood shall be cut and stacked in cubic metres or collected as head loads. Large diameter logs which are bulky shall be converted into small pieces that can be easily carried as chopped firewood.
- Dead and fallen branches of trees shall be collected as firewood in both harvestable and un-harvestable areas.
- Trees that are dead, diseased, deformed and whips shall be used as firewood in-order to provide space to other growing small trees.

Allowable Quantity per year (two coupes):

- 53,664 head loads of firewood shall be harvested per year for domestic uses and 8,320 head loads of firewood shall be harvested for commercial per year (giving a total of 61,984 head loads per year for both domestic and commercial purposes).
- 60 cubic metres of firewood shall be harvested per year for domestic uses and 1,200 cubic metres of firewood shall be harvested per year for commercial uses (giving a total of 1,260 cubic metres to be harvested per year for both domestic and commercial purposes).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to firewood collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial users shall pay K150.00 per head load and domestic users shall pay K100.00 per head load of indigenous firewood.
- For indigenous firewood commercial users shall pay K2, 500.00 per cubic metre while domestic users shall pay K1, 500.00 per cubic metre.

N.B: The communities from M'dere/Mlelemba villages shall be allowed to collect head-loads of firewood twice a week (on Wednesdays and Saturdays).

Name of Product: Poles (Big and Small)

Key Species: *Mlombwa, Ntwana, Mombo, Nkalati, Naphini, and Thombozi.*

Demand: High

Supply: Low

Problems/Issues:

- Scarcity of species
- Poor harvesting practices
- Illegal harvesting

Management Practices:

- 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 the demarcated coupes shall be monitored by the LFO.
- 15cm stump height shall be strictly observed in the harvestable coupes.
- Fire shall be used as a management tool in the harvested coupes in patches in-order to promote regenerants.
- Trees which are dead, diseased, deformed and not suitable for poles shall be cut and be used as firewood in-order to provide space to other growing small trees.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 1,548 big indigenous poles shall be harvested per year for domestic and 300 big poles shall be harvested per year for commercial uses (giving a total of 1,848 poles to be harvested per year).
- 30,960 indigenous small poles shall be harvested per year for domestic and 4,800 small indigenous poles shall be harvested per year for commercial uses (giving a total of 35,760 poles per year).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to pole collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial users shall pay K700 per big indigenous pole and domestic users shall pay K500 per indigenous tree.
- Commercial users shall pay K150.00 per small indigenous pole and K50.00 per small indigenous tree shall be paid by domestic users.

Name of Product: Timber

Key Species: *Mbawa, Mlombwa, Ntangatanga, Chinyenye, Ntwana, Nkweranyani.*

Demand: High

Supply: Medium

Problems/Issues:

- Scarcity of big trees
- Poor harvesting practices
- Illegal harvesting

Management Practices:

- Harvesting of timber for sale and domestic purposes shall be done in determined demarcated coupes only. The leftovers from timber shall be collected as firewood.
- Collection of timber in demarcated coupes shall be monitored by the LFO.
- 15cm stump height shall be strictly recommended when cutting timber trees above the ground level in the harvestable coupes.
- A minimum of 15 timber trees in each 2 hectares coupe shall be left standing as mother trees (plus trees).
- Trees whose diameters at breast height s are more than 30 cm shall be selective harvested in the coupes.
- Timber trees less than 30cm diameter shall be marked as retainers in the respective coupes and shall be left untouched.
- Fire shall be used as a management tool in the harvested coup in patches in order to promote regeneration and reduce fire hazard.
- Enrichment planting shall be carried out in areas which have no regenerants.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 20 trees for timber shall be harvested per year for domestic uses and 90 trees per year for commercial uses (giving a total of 110 trees per year for both domestic and commercial purposes).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to Pit-sawyers.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial users shall pay K10,000 per tree
- Domestic users shall pay K7, 000.00 per tree.

8.2 Non Woody Products

Name of product: Mushroom

Key species: *Utenga, Kungolokweititi, Nakasache, Nakajongolo, Chipatwe, Usinda, Nakatomoni.*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Poor harvesting practices

Management practices:

- Harvesting of mushroom shall be done in all places where it is available in the block.
- Management of areas where big trees were felled shall be strictly observed to encourage the growth of regenerants of tree species that promote mushroom growing.
- Monitoring of mushroom harvesting shall be done by the block committee.
- Use of fire shall be regulated to avoid scorching mushroom seed or spores.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 6,440 baskets of mushrooms shall be collected per year for domestic and 5,400 baskets shall be collected per year for commercial purposes (giving a total of 11,840 baskets to be collected per year).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to outsider mushroom collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Communities for the two GVHs shall collect mushrooms at a fee of K50 per basket.
- Outsiders (commercial) shall pay a fee of K100 per basket.

Name of Product: Honey

Key tree species that attract bees: *Chitimbe, Mpandula and Mlungamo.*

Demand: High

Supply: High

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:

- 25 bee-hives shall be allowed to be hanged per year for domestic and 15 bee-hives shall be allowed to be hanged per year for outsiders (giving a total of 40 bee-hives for both domestic and outsiders per year).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to groups or individuals.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial bee keepers (outsiders) shall pay a fee of K500 per bee hive per year, and K200 per bee hive per year for the groups or individuals from M'dere and Mlelemba villages.

Name of product: Stones

Key Soil types: Quarry stones, *Tsakalawe*.

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Soil erosion
- Bush fires.

Management practices:

- Forest conservation and protection in all fragile areas (stream banks and steep slopes) shall be strictly observed.
- Charcoal burning shall be discouraged in the block to avoid erosion.
- Fragile areas shall be protected from bush fires.
- Stone collection shall be strictly regulated and monitored jointly by the block committee and Forestry Department.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 5 tons shall be allowed to be collected per year for domestic and 100 tons shall be allowed to be collected for commercial purposes per year.

Who can permits be issued to?

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

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial users shall pay a fee of K2, 500 per ton and domestic users shall collect the stones free of charge.

Name of product: Fruits

Key species: *Nthema, Masuku, Mphinji, Mapoza, Mateme, Mbulukututu, Ntonongoli, Matowo, mango.*

Demand: High

Supply: Medium

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fires
- Poor harvesting practices
- Illegal felling of fruit trees

Management practices:

- Only matured and ripen fruits shall be harvested.
- Fruit trees 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).
- Fruit trees shall only be used for fruit collection purpose until the tree dies or has stopped bearing fruits.
- Collection of fruits in the block shall be monitored by the block committee.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 1,200 baskets shall be allowed to be collected for domestic and 1,000 baskets shall be collected for commercial purposes per year (giving 2,200 baskets to be collected by both domestic and commercial users per year).

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to fruit collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial fruit collectors shall pay a fee of K100 per basket while domestic fruit collectors shall collect free of charge.

Name of product: Medicine

Key species: *Chinama, Chiumbu, Mlombwa, Thombozi, Mpoza, Mdimu, Mtutumuko, N'joka, Chipembere, Mwanamphepo, Palibekanthu, Chipisyawago, Musiyeapite.*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fires
- Poor harvesting practices

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.
- All pits dug shall be filled.
- Use of branches and leaves of medicinal plants instead of roots shall be encouraged

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 1,200 entries shall be allowed to be taken for herbalists per year for domestic purposes and 96 entries shall be allowed to be taken for herbalists per year for commercial uses (giving a total of 1,296 entries (1,392 bags of herbs) for both domestic and commercial purposes per year).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to herbalists.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial herb collectors shall pay a fee of K2, 500 per entry and a fee of K100 per entry for domestic uses.

Name of product: Fibres
Key species: *Miombo, Chitimbe and Mchenga*
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 protected in areas where there are regenerants of fibre tree species.
- There shall be a limitation to the number of bundles to be collected per year.
- Collection of fibres shall be regulated by the Block Management Committee
- Fibers shall not be collected by commercial users

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 1,664 bundles shall be collected per year for domestic uses.

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to fiber collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Domestic users shall pay a fee of K50 per entry per bag.

Name of product: Thatch grass
Key species: *Kamphe (tsekera), Wandolo, Nansongole, Gonyole, Senjere, Mapyombyo and Nsewe*
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fire.
- Bad grazing practices

Management practices:

- Thatch grass collection shall be done between May and June.
- Only matured grass shall be recommended to be harvested.
- Number of bundles shall be limited per household per year.
- Bush fires shall be protected in areas where there is thatch grass in the block.
- Awareness meetings shall be intensified to the communities adjacent to the block before controlled early burning operation starts.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 15,480 bundles shall be collected for domestic per year and 5, 000 bundles shall be collected for commercial uses per year (thereby giving a total number of 20,480 bundles per year for both domestic and commercial purposes).

Who can be issued with permits?

- No permits shall be issued to thatch grass collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- A fee of K200 per bundle shall be paid for grass collection by commercial sellers and domestic users shall collect grass free of charge.

Name of product: Game

Key species: *Kalulu, Gwape, Nguluwe, Nyani, Pusi, Bwampini, Mbewa, Fisi, Nkhandwe and Mbira.*

Demand: High

Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fires:
- Illegal hunting
- Deforestation

Management practices:

- Hunting of animals shall be allowed after the breeding season.
- Number of animals to be killed shall be limited per year.
- Controlled early burning shall be encouraged.
- Regenerating trees shall be promoted in –order to maintain ground cover.
- Pollution of water in the streams shall be strictly prohibited.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 10 entries shall be allowed to be taken per year for domestic and 20 entries for commercial purposes (giving a total of 30 entries per year).

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to animal hunters.

Fees/ royalties:

- Commercial animal hunters shall pay a fee of K5, 000.00 per animal and K2, 500.00 per animal for domestic use.

Name of product: Birds
Key species: *Nkhwali, Nkhanga, Mphamba and Njiwa.*
Demand: High
Supply: High

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fires
- Illegal hunting
- Deforestation

Management practices:

- Hunting of birds shall be allowed after the breeding season.
- Number of entries to be taken shall be limited per year.
- Controlled early burning shall be encouraged.
- Nets shall not be allowed when hunting birds.
- Regenerating trees shall be promoted in –order to maintain ground cover.
- Pollution of water in the streams shall be strictly prohibited.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 500 birds shall be allowed to be taken per year for domestic and 400 birds for commercial purposes (both giving a total of 900 birds per year).

Who can permits be issued to?

- Permits shall be issued to birds hunters.

Fees/ royalties:

- Both commercial and domestic birds’ hunters shall be free.

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

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fires
- Poor harvesting practices

Management practices:

- Only matured bamboos shall be recommended to be harvested.
- Number of bundles shall be limited per household per year.
- Bush fires shall be protected in areas where there are bamboos in the block.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 7,740 bundles shall be collected per year for domestic uses and 1,250 bundles shall be collected per year for commercial purposes (giving a total of 8,990 bundles per year for both domestic and commercial).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to bamboo collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial bamboo collectors shall pay a fee of K200 per bundle of bamboos and a fee of K100 per bundle for domestic use.

Name of product:	Chewo
Key species:	Not applicable
Demand:	High
Supply:	High

Problems/Issues:

- Bush fires
- Poor harvesting practices

Management practices:

- Only matured Chewo shall be recommended to be harvested.
- Number of bundles shall be limited per household per year.
- Bush fires shall be protected in areas where there are Chewo in the block.

Allowable Quantity per year:

- 20 bundles shall be collected per year for domestic uses and 10 bundles shall be collected per year for commercial purposes (giving a total of 30 bundles per year for both domestic and commercial).

Who can be issued with permits?

- Permits shall be issued to chewo collectors.

Fees/royalties:

- Commercial chewo collectors shall pay a fee of K150 per bundle of chewo and free for domestic use.

9.0 ACTION PLAN

NO	ACTIVITY	WHO WILL DO IT	WHEN	REQUIREMENTS
1	Patrolling the block	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	January-December. (Twice per month).	Panga knives, axes, receipt books, exercise books, pens and catapults.
2	Weeding	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	April-June	Hoes, slashers, panga knives.
3	Tree planting	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	December-April	Hoes, wheelbarrows, shovels, trowels, buckets .
4	Issuing of permits	Committee members.	January-December	Permits/receipts books.
5	Committee meetings	Committee members.	Twice a month (in the middle and at the end of the month)	Exercise books, pens, minerals.
6	General meetings	Committee members and all communities.	Once in every three months(Quarterly)	Exercise books, pens.
7	Controlled early burning	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	May- July	Matches, moppers, fire pack pumps.
8	Thinning (singling)	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	April-August	Panga knives, adze, slashers.
9	Ground preparation	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	October-November	Hoes, picks, axes, ropes, panga knives, tapes.
10	Nursery establishment	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	May-September	Panga knives, hoes, pails, rakes, slashers, shovels, wheelbarrows, watering cans, polythene tubes.
11	Firebreak screefing	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	April- June	Hoes, slashers, panga knives.
12	Seed collection	Committee members, all communities and the Extension worker.	July-September	Sacks, poles with hooks.

10.0 PATROLLING PLAN

1. Block members and communities 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.

All confiscated materials during patrols shall be managed and disposed by the Block Management committee according to the resource use rules.

11.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

NO	WHAT WILL BE MONITORED	WHO WILL DO THE MONITORING	WHAT WILL BE THE INDICATORS	WHAT ARE THE METHODS TO BE USED	WHEN WILL THE MONITORING BE CONDUCTED
1	Patrols carried out in the block.	Committee members and the Extension workers	Reduced malpractices	-Written progress reports (records)	Throughout the year.
2	Weeding	Communities guided by the extension worker	Area (Ha) weeded	-Site visits and reports	April-June
3	Tree planting	Committee members and the Extension workers	Number of trees planted Hectares planted	-Field visits -Supervision	December-March
4	Selling of forest products	Committee members and the Extension workers	Amount of revenue realized No of receipts books used	-Checking receipt books -Checking bank statements	Throughout the year.
5	Issuing of permits	Committee members and the Extension workers	Number of permits used	-Checking records -Counting leaves of the permits used	Throughout the year.
6	Committee meetings	Extension worker and local leaders	Number meetings conducted Reports produced	-Checking minute books	Once every two months.
7	General meetings	Extension worker and local leaders	Number of meetings conducted Reports produced	-Interviewing community members	Once every three months.
8	Thinning (singling)	Committee members and the Extension workers	Number of hectares thinned	-Site visits and reports	April-September
9	Controlled early burning	Committee members and the Extension workers	Number of hectares burnt	-Site visits and reports	April-June

10	Ground preparation	Committee members and the Extension workers	Distance/ area prepared	-Site visits, reports and supervision	October- November
11	Nursery establishment	Committee members and the Extension workers	Number of nurseries established	-Site visits, reports and supervision	June-October
12	Firebreak screefing	Committee members and the Extension workers	Distance screefed	-Site visits and reports	April- July
13	Seed collection	Committee members and the Extension workers	Amount of seed collected Type of species	-Supervision and records	July-September

12.0 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

12.1 Annual Cash Flow

In accordance with the data collected, estimated annual cash flow for M'dere/Mlelemba Block is tabulated below. Under the Co-Management model, it is proposed that **60%** of the gross income accrued from both domestic and commercial permit fees will be retained in the Block Management account while **10 %** shall be transferred to the Local Forest Management Board (LFMB) account and finally **30%** shall be deposited in the Forest Development Fund(FDF) account held at national level.

Refer to annex 2 and 3 for the financial projections on activity and estimated annual cash flow:

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Household and Population Data

Total households and population for GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba

NO	NAME OF VILLAGES	NO OF H/Hs	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL POPULATION
1	M'DERE	339	481	596	480	463	2,020
2	MLELEMBA	177	245	324	451	444	1,464
	TOTALS	516	726	920	931	907	3,484

Annex 2: Estimated Management Cost

NO	ACTIVITY	NO OF PEOPLE INVOLVED	NUMBER/ AREA TO BE COVERED	DAILY WAGE/RATE	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUIRED
1	Boundary screening	35	7,000m	K300.00/20x5m	K105,000.00
2	Nursery establishment (purchasing of tubes)	30,000 tubes required	6 nurseries(5,000 tubes per site)	K2,000.00/1000 tubes	K60,000.00
3	Tree planting	30	12 ha	K2,000.00/ha	K24,000.00
4	Ground preparation i.e. including digging of pits	30	12 ha	K3,000.00/ha	K36,000.00
5	Thinning (singling)	15	90 ha	K2,500.00/ha	K225,000.00
6	Weeding	30	12 ha	K3,000.00	K36,000.00
TOTALS					K486,000.00

Annex 3 Estimated Annual Cash Flow

Estimated Annual Cash Flow for M'dere/Mlelemba Block is as follows:

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT (MK)	%
INCOME		
a) Domestic permits	K9,247,600.00	
b) Commercial permits	K7,667,000.00	
Gross Income	K16,914,600.00	
Money into Local Forest Management Board (LFMB) Account from Commercial permits.	K766,700.00	10
Money into Forest Development Fund (FDF) Account from commercial permits.	K2,300,100.00	30
Block Forest Management Committee Account from Commercial permits.	K4,600,200.00	60
Money into Block Committee Account (Domestic&60 % of Commercial permits)	K13,847,800.00	
Average income per household (516)	K26,836.82	
Estimated management cost	K486,000.00	

Annex 4: Estimates of available Forest Resources

This is based on three sample plots data

No	Product Name	Uses	Total/0.04 ha	Total/ha	Available in 2 ha
1	Firewood	For fuel wood	25	625	1,250
2	Timber	For construction	4	100	200
3	Rafter	For roofing	50	1,250	2,500
4	Ridge pole	For roofing	3	75	150
5	Bamboos	For construction and craft making	40	1,000	2,000
6	Fruits	For food	4	100	200
7	Medicines	For curing diseases	15	375	750
8	Fibres	For construction	3	75	150

Notes:

- Estimates based on three 20m x 20m sample plots inside the block.
- A two hectare 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 Products for Domestic Use

The total number of households represented by the block management committee is 516. Therefore, the table below calculates the annual domestic forest product requirements of these households:

N0	Product Name	Use	Per HH/yr (Mean)	Annual requirements for the 516 HHs
1	Firewood	For fuel wood	104 head loads	49,608 head loads
		For fuel wood	12 cubic metres	60 cubic metres
2	Rafters	For roofing	60 small poles	30,960 poles
3	Timber	For carpentry and joinery	1 tree	20 trees
4	Ridge poles	For roofing	3 big poles	1,548 poles
5	Bamboos	For construction and craft making	15 bundles	7,740 bundles
6	Fruits	For food	4 baskets	1,200 baskets
7	Medicine	For curing diseases	2 bags	1,200 bags
8	Fibres	For construction	2 bundles	1,664 bundles
9	Thatch grass	For roofing and fencing	30 bundles	15,480 bundles
10	Mushrooms	For food	90 baskets	46,440 baskets
11	Game meat	For food	2 entries	10 entries
12	Birds	For food	25 birds	500 birds
13	Stones	For constructions	1 ton	5 tons
14	Honey	For energy of the body	5 bee-hives	25 bee-hives
15	Chewo	For cleaning and sweeping	1 bundle	20 bundles

Annex 6: Harvest Plan for Woody and Non-woody Products

No	Product	Available in harvestable coupe	Domestic demand for the whole community	Available in the vfa	Total products available in block + vfa	Surplus available for commercial harvesting
1	Firewood(H/loads)	61,984	53,664	100	62,084	+8420
2	Timber (trees)	200	20	10	210	+190
3	Big poles	1,848	1,548	450	2,298	+750
4	Small poles	35,760	30,960	1,500	37,260	+6,300
5	Fruits (baskets)	2,200	1,200	650	2,850	+1,650
6	Medicine (bags)	1,392	1,200	40	1,432	+232
7	Fibers (bundles)	56,784	53,664	30	56,814	+3,150

Annex 7: Revenue Projections from Woody Products

NO	Name of Product	Domestic Requirement		Commercial Requirement		Frequency	Quantity per year	Annual Calculations	
		HH	Permit	HH	PERMIT			Domestic	Commercial
1	Firewood	516	K100/Head load(indigenous)	80	K150/Head load(indigenous)	2headloads/hh/wk for domestic uses 2headloads/hh/wk for commercial	53,664 head loads/yr for domestic 8,320 head loads/yr for commercial. Total head loads/yr= 61,984.	K5,366,400.00	K1,248,000.00
		5	K1,500/m3 indigenous	20	K2,500/m3(indigenous)	1m3/hh/month for domestic use. 5m3/hh/month for commercial purposes.	60m3/yr for domestic uses. 1,200m3/yr for commercial. Total cubic metres/yr = 1,260.	K90,000.00	K3,000,000.00
2	Poles-Indigenous (a)Big poles (b)Small poles	516	K500/big pole	15	K700/big pole	3big poles/hh/yr for domestic uses. 20big poles /hh/yr for commercial purposes.	1,548 big poles/yr for domestic uses. 300 big poles/yr for commercial uses Total poles/yr = 1,848.	K774,000.00	K210,000.00
		516	K50/pole	30	K150/pole	60small poles/hh/yr for domestic. -160small poles for commercial	30,960 small poles per year for domestic. 4,800 small poles per year for commercial -Total poles/ yr = 35,760.	K1,548,000.00	K720,000.00
3	Timber	20	K7,000/tree	30	K10,000.00/tree	1 tree/hh/yr for domestic. 3 trees/hh/yr for commercial.	20 trees/yr for domestic. 90 trees/yr for commercial. -Total trees/yr = 110.	K140,000.00	K900,000.00
TOTALS								K7,918,400.00	K6,078,000.00

Annex 8: Income Projections from Non Woody Products

No	Name of Product	Domestic Requirement		Commercial Requirement		Frequency	Quantity/year	Annual Calculations	
		Hh	Permit	hh	Permit			Domestic	Commercial
1	Medicine	50	K100/entry/bag	8	K2,500.00/entry/2bags	2 entries/hh/month for domestic. 1 entry/hh/month for commercial.	1,200entries (1,200bags)/yr for domestic. 96entries (192 bags)/yr for commercial. Total entries/yr 1,296 (1,392 bags).	K120,000.00	K240,000.00
2	Fruits	300	Free	100	K100/basket	4 baskets/hh/yr for domestic. 10baskets/hh/yr for commercial.	1,200baskets/yr for domestic. 1,000baskets/yr for commercial. Total baskets/yr = 2,200.	-----	K100,000.00
3	Game meat	5	K2,500/entry	10	K5,000.00/entry	2 entries/hh/yr for domestic. 2 entries/hh/yr for commercial.	10 entries/yr for domestic. 20 entries/yr for commercial. Total entries/yr = 30.	K25,000.00	K100,000.00
4	Birds	20	Free	10	Free	-25 entries/hh/yr for domestic. - 40 entries/hh/yr for commercial.	500 entries/yr for domestic. 400 entries/yr for commercial. Total entries/yr = 900.	-----	----- -
5	Mushrooms	516	K50/basket	30	K100/basket	-4 basket/day/hh/entry for domestic for 3months. -60 baskets/hh/dy for commercial for 3 month.	6,440 baskets/yr for domestic. 5,400 baskets/yr for commercial. Total baskets/yr= 11,840	K322,000.00	K540,000.00
6	Fibres	516	K50/entry/bundle	15	-----	-2 bundles/hh/wk/entry for domestic. .	53,664 bundles/yr for domestic. -Total bundles/yr = 53,664	K2,683,200.00	-----
7	Thatch grass	516	Free	50	K200/10 bundles/entry	-30 bundles/hh/yr for domestic. - 100 bundles/hh/yr for	-15,480 bundles/yr for domestic. -5,000 bundles/yr for	-----	K100,000.00

						commercial	commercial. -Total bundles/yr= 20,480.		
8	Stones	5	Free	10	K2,500/ton	-1 ton/hh/yr for domestic. -10 tons/hh/yr for commercial.	-5 tons/yr for domestic. -100 tons/yr for commercial. -Total tons = 105.	-----	K250,000.00
9	Honey	5	K200/bee-hive	3	K500/bee-hive	-5 bee-hives/hh/yr for domestic. -5 bee-hives/hh/yr for commercial.	-25 bee-hives/yr for domestic. -15 bee-hives/yr for commercial. -Total hives = 40.	K5,000.00	K7,500.00
10	Bamboos	516	K100/bundle	50	K200/bundle	-15 bundles/hh/yr for domestic. - 25 bundles/hh/yr for commercial.	-7,740 bundles/yr for domestic. -1,250 bundles/yr for commercial. -Total bundles/yr = 8,990.	K774,000.00	K250,000.00
11	Chewo	20	Free	5	K150/entry/bundle	-1 bundle/hh/yr for domestic. -2 bundles/hh/yr for commercial purpose.	-20 bundles /yr for domestic. -10 bundles/yr for commercial. - Total bundles/yr = 30.	-----	K1,500.00
TOTALS								K5,929,200.00	K1,589,000.00

Annex 9: Mdere Mlelemba Block Management Committee Constitution

Name of LFO: Mdere Mlelemba Block Management Committee.

Name of the Block: M'dere/Mlelemba

Address: C/O Chinkwezule CDSS,
Box 33,
Machinga

Contact numbers: Cells: Mrs. Jenet Smart 0997237582.
Mr. Jackson Chipasuka 0995582334
Mrs. Jenifa Sifa 0994977945

1.0. AREA OF JURISDICTION

The elected management committee shall be covering all the two Group village headmen namely: **M'dere** (Mwamadi, Alani, Milepa, Mpasuka and Misoya) and **Mlelemba** (Michongwe, Chinkwezule and Mziliri), thus starting from Chinkwezule village where the block borders with Ntuluma Block to the South which is in Zomba and runs up to Mwamadi village where it borders with Ndaje/ Nkula Block to the North.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

To satisfy M'dere/Mlelemba wider community's (especially those from GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba needs of forest based products such as firewood, poles, wood, timber, thatch grass, honey, fruits and mushrooms through collaborative management and sustainable utilization of forest resources within M'dere/Mlelemba Block and promote conservation of fragile areas.

3.0 STRUCTURE:

3.1 There shall be an elected managing committee comprising office bearers (17 members) such as Chairperson and vice, Secretary and vice, Treasurer and other 12 members.

3.2 These members shall be elected proportionately from the two (2) villages mentioned in 1.0 above.

3.3 Community members from the above two villages shall be automatic members of M'dere/Mlelemba wider community. To this effect, elected members shall be representatives of different interested user groups of the Block from the above two villages.

3.4 All Village Heads in the stated villages and the Group village Headmen M'dere and Mlelemba shall be ex-officials of the Block Management committee.

4.5 The wider community members shall be automatic members of the Block Management Committee.

4.0. ELECTIONS:

4.1. Elections shall take place in a free and fair manner in consultation with the two Group village heads. Ten (10) chosen community members (representatives) from each of the two (2) villages shall contest for executive membership of the Block Management Committee. Village heads shall accompany their contestants to the elections as observers.

4.2. Elections shall take place every three years except when the whole committee is dissolved or some members are disqualified, dismissed or have resigned.

4.3. 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.

4.4. 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.

5.0. ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS:

Eligible members shall only be:-

- Citizens from the stated two villages (GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba).
- Committed & dedicated members from the two villages.
- People with no record of conviction after committing an offence.
- Non-drunkard(s).
- Visionary

5.1. 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 has gone mad.

5.2 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.

5.3. 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.

5.4. Rights & Responsibilities of Members:

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

a) **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.

b) **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.

6.0. SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

6.1 The Chairperson shall:

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

6.2 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.

6.3 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.

6.4. 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.

6.5. The Group Village Headman and village headmen shall:

- Mobilize 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.

6.6.0. The Forestry Department shall:

- 6.6.1. Provide technical support on all activities of the Block Management Committee.
- 6.6.2. Assist the Block committee in solving disputes that are beyond capacity of GVH level.
- 6.6.3. Observe elections of office bearers of the Block Management Committee.
- 6.6.4. Assist in resource use regulation and law enforcement.

6.7.0. General members shall:

- 6.7.1. 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.
- 6.7.2. Elect their representatives into the Block committee.
- 6.7.3. Call for dissolution of the committee or disqualification of an elected member in the case of corruption.

7.0. FUNCTIONS OF THE BLOCK COMMITTEE:

- 7.1. Managing Body (Block Management Committee) shall meet twice every month to discuss management issues.
- 7.2. Managing body shall meet once in a quarter with a wider committee for information giving, feedback or consensus.
- 7.3. Quorum of management meeting shall be half the number of Block Committee members i.e. 10members.
- 7.4. Decision shall be reached by voting.
- 7.5. Block Committee, GVH, VHs shall develop resource use rules, penalties and sanctions.
- 7.6. Review of the constitution shall be made after three years.
- 7.7. The block committee shall be registered at the DFO as a Local Forestry Organization.
- 7.8. The managing committee shall steer all activities of the Block in collaboration with the Forestry Department and with consultations with all the two group heads and the village headmen.
- 7.9. Block Management committee shall with consultations with Forestry Officers issue permits and licenses to people for the purpose of accessing products in the Block.
- 7.10. 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.

8.0. **BLOCK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FINANCES:**

8.1. **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 MARDEF, NATIONAL BANK & FINCA.
- Sales of Forest Products & services.

8.2. **Other Sources**

- Tree seedling raising & sales.
- Other feasible businesses.

9.0. **BENEFIT SHARING:**

100% of monetary benefits arising from sales of forest products for both domestic and 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 the money accumulated into Chagwa Block Management Committee Account shall be used as follows:

1. Forestry management activities of the Block- 30%.
2. Administration costs of the Block Committee-15%.
3. Micro-Credit scheme-15%.
4. Community Development (bridges, welfare, orphans etc.)-40%.

NOTE:

- **Forest Management activities** shall include Block boundary screefing, slashing, controlled early burning, monitoring activity implementation, conducting 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 M'dere/Mlelemba 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 sub-committee headed by the BMC treasurer to manage the loans. The loans will only be given to organized groups (15 members per group) to ease repayment.

10.0 Names of M'dere/Mlelemba Block Management Committee of GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba:

No.	Name	Position	Gender
1	Jenet Smart	Chairperson	Female
2	Jackson Chipasuka	Vice chairperson	Male
3	Jenifa Sifa	Secretary	Female
4	Goodson M'balaka	Vice Secretary	Male
5	Magret Mandala	Treasurer	Female
6	Elephant Hema	Committee member	Male
7	Magret Magesi	Committee member	Female
8	Dube Sande	Committee member	Male
9	Lony Asima	Committee member	Female
10	Justin Kasiyano	Committee member	Male
11	Hilder Naluso	Committee member	Female
12	Lameck Namitengo	Committee member	Male
13	Febe John	Committee member	Female
14	Idith Yusufu	Committee member	Female
15	Brenda Chikumba	Committee member	Fe male
16	Rashid Charles	Committee member	Male
17	Malizani Kathumba	Committee member	Male

Annex 10: Co- Management Agreement Template

CO-MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (Forestry Act, 1997 Section 25) and

THIS AGREEMENT is made the _____ day of----- BETWEEN Director of Forestry, Ministry of Energy and Mines, hereinafter referred to as the Government, local residents of GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba of Traditional Authority Nkula and District Machinga represented by Chagwa Block Management Committee as the Local Forest Organization (herewith described as LFO) and known also as the block management committee.

The Government, hereby, wishes to make an agreement with the LFO to provide for co-management, in partnership with the Department of Forestry, of the forest resources of M'dere/Mlelemba forest block of Zomba-Malosa 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 GVHs M'dere and Mlelemba.
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 licenses 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 organization 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/Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserves, 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.

DEMARCATIION 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... 30-01-14

AND

Jenot smart

CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST ORGANISATION:

Dated... 19/02/14

WITNESSES:

[Signature] ABC

VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN:

Date... 19/02/14

Ira Nkwa

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY:

Dated... 19/02/14
[Signature]

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER:

Dated... 19/02/2014