

PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE

CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CHAFISI BLOCK

M'MBELWA DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Department of Forestry

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Acronyms

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

VFA Village Forest Area

VH Village Headman

VNRMC Village Natural Resources Management Committee

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Lastly, the committed and untiring efforts by the Chafisi Block 2 Management Committee of GVH Mbofana Nyika are also acknowledged throughout the development of this plan.

1. Introduction

Perekezi forest reserve was proclaimed as a forest reserve under Government Notice 6 in 1935 to be managed as a water catchment protection area with numerous streams, including the South Rukuru river, having their sources inside the forest reserve and running across the dry Mzimba plain. The present management methods and benefits of the reserve are failing to satisfy the increasing demands of people and institutions with different needs and perceptions. As a strategy to increase its productivity and at the same time reduce unsanctioned (and hence unmanaged) pressure from the surrounding communities, co-management has been adopted as a viable management option. This however, requires that management objectives of the reserve are defined and overall management plan developed as enshrined in the National Forest Policy framework.

The Forestry Department with funding from the European Union (EU) is facilitating the implementation of Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (IFMSLP). The Programme aims at contributing to the reduction of poverty and the conservation of forests in Malawi. Its purpose is to improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities through the participatory management of forests both in forest reserves and on customary land by implementation of the National Forestry programme (NFP). In Mzimba, the Programme is being implemented in Perekezi and Mtangatanga Impact Areas. The Strategic Forest Area Plan (SFAP) for Perekezi Impact Area is a long-term plan with a broad perspective to bring about sustainable management of forest goods and services in and around Perekezi forest reserve for improved and equitable livelihoods of the surrounding communities. The SFAP provides the vision, set of management objectives and strategic actions carefully developed and defined with regard to the reserve's wider environmental significance rather than the demand of products and services it might yield.

This document describes the co-management plan for Chafisi Block 2 in Perekezi forest reserve that is in line with Perekezi Strategic Forest Area Plan. The main objectives of the SFAP are:

1. To increase forest cover on customary land adjacent to the forest reserve.
2. To engage communities in sustainable land use management on customary land adjacent to the forest reserve.
3. To manage the forest resource in Perekezi for catchment and biodiversity protection and use.
4. To increase the economic contribution of the forest products to sustainable livelihood for forest dependent communities.

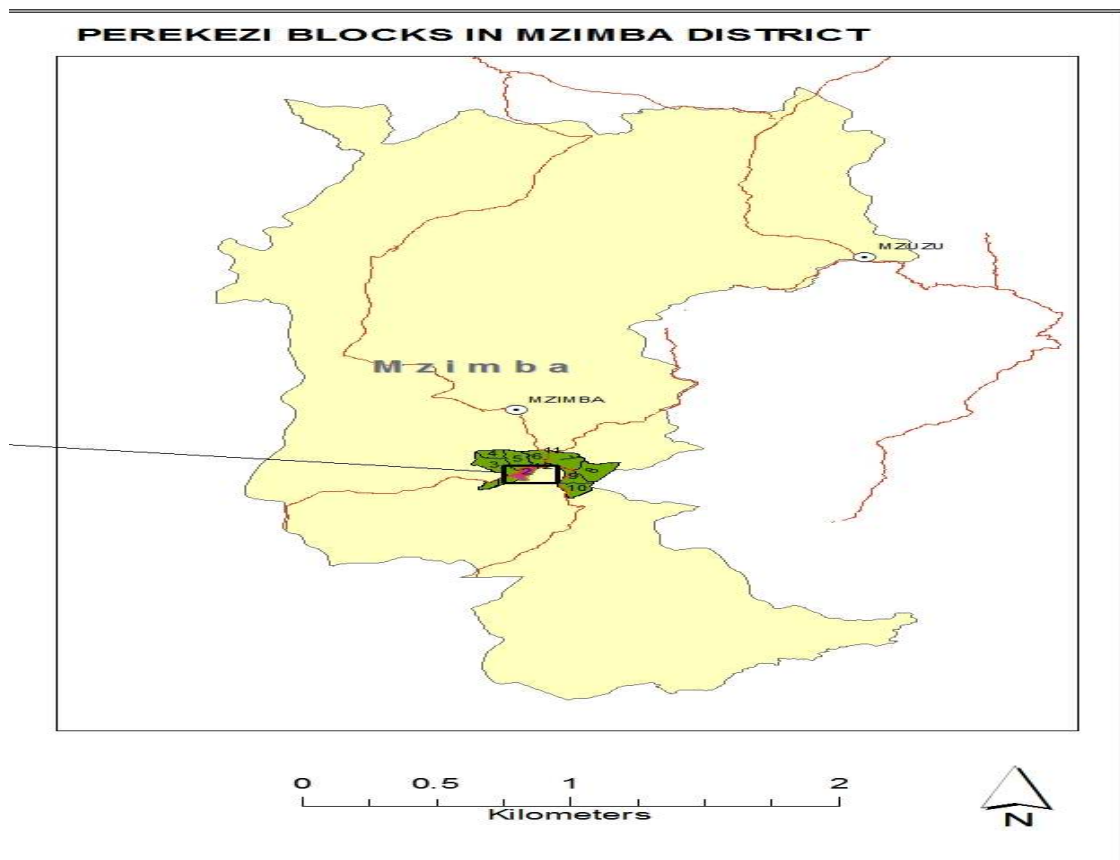
5. To regularise access to extraction of forest products from Perekezi forest reserve.

2. Chafisi Block 2 Forest Area

2.1 Location/Boundary

Perekezi forest reserve has an area of 15,370 hectares and is situated in Mzimba district within Kazomba Extension Planning Area (EPA), Traditional Authority Mzikubola. It lies on a relatively flat area 16 Km south of Mzimba Boma.

2.2 Location Map of Chafisi Block 2.



2.3 Tenure

Perekezi is a government forest reserve that was gazetted in 1935. Consequently both the land and resources on it are under the jurisdiction of Government of Malawi and administered through the Department of Forestry.

2.4 Forest Description

The total area of the Block is 981 hectares. The forest is typical of miombo woodland, as in the rest of the reserve. The forest is composed of trees with different age classes and sizes. A greater part of the block is a primary forest and

intact. Trees for firewood and poles are abundant. The dominant trees in the block are *Brachystegia spp*, *Julbernardia globiflora*, *Combretum spp*, *Bauhinia thonningii* and *Uapaca kirkiana*. Protected species such as *Syzygium cordatum*, *Faurea spp*, *Ficus spp* and *Bridelia micrantha* are also available and growing especially along the riverbanks. The soils are sandy-clay and red clay mostly on the upper areas with some alluvial soils on the banks of the streams running through the block.

2.5 Forest Users and Uses

The community members from the GVH Mbofana Nyika are the primary users of Chafisi Block 2. All users must have permission, under this co-management arrangement, from the Block Management Committee to collect/harvest forest products.

People collect woody products such as firewood and poles. Non-wood forest products are also collected such as medicines, fruit, mushrooms, honey, edible caterpillars, flying ants, game meat and thatch grass. Illegal activities prevalent in the reserve include charcoal burning, timber sawing and felling of trees for mortar & pistil carvings.

2.6 Social Description

GVH Mbofana Nyika comprise the following eight villages which are involved in Block 2; Mzgepula Mkandawire, Mgomo Mkandawire, Zabwanya Banda, Gonamaso Zimba, Shadreck Zimba, Nthongola Nyika, Mjuweni Zimba and Amon Nyika. The total number of households is 337. The main ethnic groups are Tumbuka and Ngoni with some Chewa and Tonga minorities represented. A Sustainable Livelihoods Analysis, carried out indicates that people belong to the better off (8%), average (20%), poor (50%) and very poor categories (22%). Both men and women are engaged in forest and non-forest based economic activities as a means of earning a living. In order of their importance, the main sources of income in the area include farming, sale of forest products, livestock production, small-scale businesses and piecework.

3. Chafisi Block 2 Co-Management Plan

3.1 General Objectives

To sustainably co-manage Chafisi Block 2 in Perekezi Forest Reserve to help realize ecological, social and economic benefits for the present and future generations.

3.2 Specific Objectives

- To sustainably utilize firewood, poles and timber trees for domestic and commercial purposes.
- To increase the availability of non-wood forest products such as honey, mushrooms, medicinal plants and thatch grass.
- To improve tree planting and maintain soil and water availability
- To regulate mining of quarry stone through licensing mechanism

3.3 Forest Management Units

There are 4 distinct management units in Chafisi Block 2 with a total area of 981 hectares as follows:

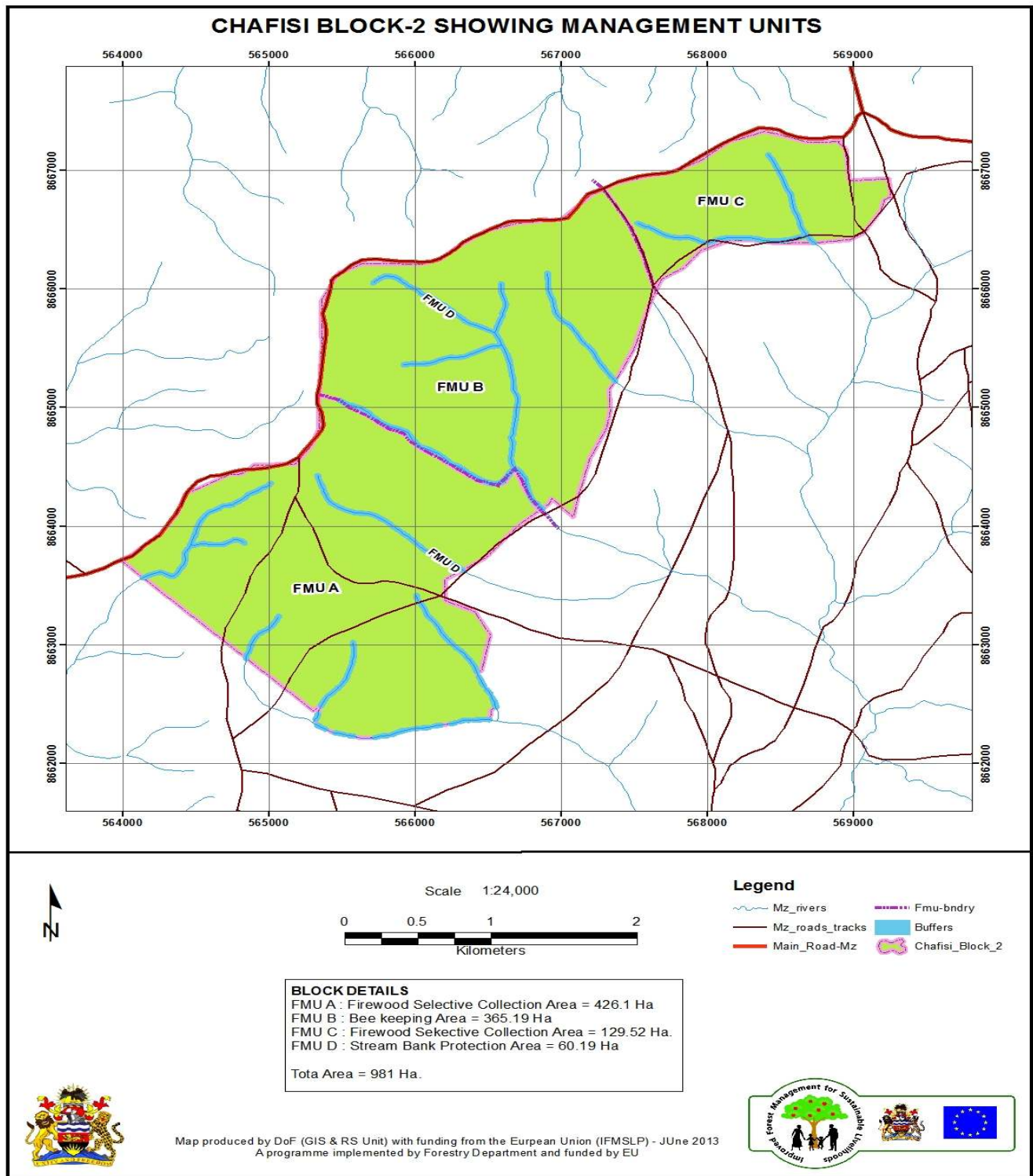
FMU A: Firewood Selective Collection Area. The unit of 426.1 hectares shall be used for collecting dry and dead wood only.

FMU B: Bee Keeping Area. The unit has an area of 365.19 hectares and shall mainly be used for honey production. The unit shall also be used for mushroom and masuku fruit collection.

FMU C: Firewood Selective Collection Area. The unit is 129.25 hectares and shall be used for sawing timber and pole extraction. The unit has a potential for quarry stone.

FMU D: Stream Bank Protection. The unit is set aside for water catchment protection and bee keeping. A strip of 20 meters on either side of streams shall be left intact. The total protected area is 60.19 hectares.

3.4 Map of Chafisi Block 2 with FMUs.



3.5 Resource Use Rules

No	Resource Rules	Within Block 2	Penalty
1	No cutting of live trees in the Block will be allowed.	Cutting of trees will be monitored by the BMC and LFMB.	Anyone found guilty of cutting trees in the Block shall pay a fine of K5, 000 per tree.
2	No sawing of timber without a permit/licence from the BMC.	Timber sawing in Block will be regulated by the BMC.	Anyone found guilty of sawing timber in Block without a valid permit/licence shall pay a fine of K10, 000 per tree and the timber shall be confiscated.
3	Dry firewood will be collected free of charge to block members. Outsiders shall pay a fee of K100 per head load.	Applicable	Anyone outsider found guilty of collecting firewood without a valid permit/licence shall pay a fine of K500 per head load followed by confiscation of the product.
4	No setting of bush fires will be allowed.	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of setting bush fires shall pay a fine of K20, 000.
5	Everyone shall participate in Block forestry activities.	Applicable	Anyone who refuses/fails to participate in Block forestry activities shall pay a fine of K500 per working day.
6	Thatch grass will be collected freely of charge to block members; outsiders shall pay a permit/licence fee of K500 per bundle.	Applicable	Any outsider found collecting thatch grass without a valid permit/licence shall pay a fine of K1000 and the grass will be confiscated.
7	Grazing of livestock only in designated areas is allowed free of charge to Block members.	Applicable	Anyone found grazing without a valid permit/licence shall pay a fine as per the Forest Act.
8	Hunting is prohibited in the block	Applicable	Any person found guilty of hunting in the block shall pay a fine of K5,000

9	Settling in the block is prohibited	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of settling in the Block shall pay a fine of K100,000
10	Cultivating in the Block is prohibited	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of cultivating in the Block shall pay a fine of K100,000.
11	No one should possess forest produce without a valid license/permit.	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of possessing forest products without a valid permit/licence shall pay a fine of K5,000 and the product confiscated.
12	No one should hang bee hives in the Block without a valid permit/licence from the BMC. Outsiders shall pay K500 per hive per year.	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of hanging bee hives in the Block without a valid permit/licence shall pay a fine of K5,000 and bee hives confiscated.
13	Mushroom collection is free of charge with written permission from the BMC.	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of collecting mushroom without written permission will have the product confiscated.
14	Collection of medicines is allowed free of charge for domestic use.	Applicable	Collection of medicines for commercial use will attract a fee of K500 per bundle.
15	Fruit collection is free of charge with written permission from the BMC without felling trees.	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of collecting fruits without written permission will have the product confiscated.
16	Burning of charcoal is strictly prohibited.	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of burning charcoal in the Block shall pay a fine of K5,000 as stipulated in the Forest Act.

3.6 Available Forest Resources

This section presents the following information:

- Harvestable area in Block 2 (Table 1)
- Estimate of available forest resources (Table 2)
- Domestic forest product requirements (Table 3)
- Forest product availability (Table 4)
- Collection/harvesting permit fees for different products (Table 5)
- Projected annual income from fees (Table 6)
- Forest management costs (Table 7)
- Estimated annual cash flow for Block 2 (Table 8)

The calculations are based on interviews with Block 2 Management Committee members and on data collected from temporary sample plots inside the Block. This information is primarily used for calculating the annual allowable harvest of forest products for commercial use after domestic requirements have been deducted. The information is also used for establishing the Enterprise Development Plan for selected forest resources in Block 2.

Forest resources shall be harvested according to the block co-management plan and their estimated availability in the block. Collection of dry and dead wood will be applied to FMUs A and C. In the same FMUs timber trees shall be managed on a 33-year rotation and poles shall be managed on a 12-year rotation. Only selective cutting of timber and poles shall apply and the trees shall be marked before felling. Table 1 indicates the actual harvestable area of the block.

Table 1: Harvestable Area Of The Block

	Ha	Comments
Block area	981	
Unharvestable area (FMU B and D)	425.38	This comprises the areas for stream bank protection, honey production and the buffer zone.
Estimated Harvestable Area of Block (FMUs A and C)	555.62	This is the area from which fuelwood, pole and timber harvesting apply.

Table 2 shows the estimated availability of different products, based on sample plot data, for harvesting to be carried out in a 44 ha coupe.

Table 2: Estimate of available forest resources.

Product Name	Use	Total/ha	Available In 44 ha
Mbalabala	Rafters (small)	300	13,200
Mapaso	House poles (medium)	375	16,500
Michiko/Migololo	Ridge Pole (large)	175	7,700
Sito	Purlins (small)	225	9,900
Matabwa	Timber tree (only regenerants)	75	1,200
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	50	2,200
Nkhuni Green	Green Firewood	2,830(325 m ³)	124,520 (14,300 m ³)
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood (head loads)	75	1,200

Note: Estimates based on four 20x20m sample plots inside the block.

The total number of households represented by the block management committee is 337. Table 3 calculates the annual domestic forest product requirements of these 337 households.

Table 3: Domestic forest product requirements.

Product Name	Use	Annual requirement per household	Annual requirement for all 337 households
Mbalabala	Small poles for rafters	63 pieces ¹	21,231 pieces
Mapaso	House poles (small)	5 pieces ²	1,685 pieces
Michiko	Large poles (ridge pole)	0.75 pieces ³	256 pieces
Sito	Purlins (roof sticks)	27 pieces ⁴	9,099 pieces
Matabwa	Timber tree	No domestic consumption	n.a.
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	1.6 handles ⁵	539 pieces
Nkhuni Green	Green Fuelwood	n.a	n.a
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood	144 headloads	48,528 headloads
Nkhowani	Mushrooms (food)	n.a.	n.a.
Mankhwala	Medicinal plants	n.a	n.a.

In the management plan the annual coupe is specified as 44 ha for FMUs A and C. Not all domestic forest product requirements will be harvested or collected from the co-management block. Some are collected from other areas including adjacent customary land and private land. Table 4 shows the forest product availability (supply) in relation to domestic requirements. Any products surplus to domestic needs will be available for commercial harvesting permits.

¹ 500 pieces required for one house that lasts for 8 years

² 42 pieces required for one house that lasts for 8 years.

³ 6 pieces required for one house that lasts for 8 years.

⁴ 216 pieces required for one house that lasts for 8 years.

⁵ pieces required for one house that lasts for 3 years.

Table 4: Forest product availability.

Name	Domestic requirement for 337 households	Amount available from annual 44ha coupes (FMUs A and C)	Surplus (+) or shortage (-)
Mbalabala (small poles)	21,231 pieces	13,200	-8,031
Mapaso (medium poles)	1,685 pieces	16,500	+14,815
Michiko (large poles)	256 pieces	7,700	+7,444
Sito (roof sticks)	9,099 pieces	9,900	+801
Matabwa (timber trees)	n.a.	1,200	+1,200
Mipini (hoe handles)	539 pieces	2,200	+2,739
Green firewood	n.a	124,520 (14,300 m ³)	+124,520 (14,300m ³)
Nkhuni Dry	48,528 head loads	1,200 head loads	-47,328hdloads

Chafisi Block 2 Management Committee will issue harvesting permits/licences for different products at different rates, depending on whether they are for domestic (subsistence) or commercial use. Estimated domestic permit fee income and commercial permit/licence fee income were calculated based on information provided during discussions with the block management committee and including a number of estimated variables. The domestic and commercial fee rates set by the block management committee are shown in Table 5. Note that in the case of fuelwood, different rates have been set for local people (domestic consumption rates) i.e. by households in the villages represented in the block; outsiders (domestic consumption rates) i.e. by households in villages outside the block; and commercial i.e. firewood collected for sale to nearby towns regardless of membership.

Table 5: Collection/harvesting fees for different products.

Product Name	Domestic	Commercial
Mbalabala (small poles)	MK 75 per bundle	MK 75 per bundle
Mapaso (medium poles)	MK 50 per pole	MK 100 per pole
Michiko (large poles)	MK 100 per pole	MK 250 per pole
Sito (roof sticks)	MK 500 per bundle	MK 500 per bundle
Matabwa (timber trees)	Na	n.a
Mipini (hoe handles)	Free of charge	MK 250 per handle
Nkhuni Dry (headloads)	Free of charge	MK 100 per headloads
Nkhuni Green (m ³)	n.a.	n.a

Table 6: Projected annual income from domestic and commercial fees.

Product Name	Domestic sale (MK)	Commercial sale (MK)	Total income (MK)
Mbalabala	990,000	0	990,000
Mapaso	84,250	1,481,500	1,565,750
Michiko	25,600	1,861,000	1,886,600
Matabwa (only regenerants)	0	0	0
Sito	4,549,500	400,500	4,950,000
Mipini	0	684,750	684,750
Nkhuni Dry	0	0	0
Nkhuni Green	0	0	0
TOTAL	5,649,350	4,427,750	10,077,100

These rates can be used to calculate the expected annual income from forest product harvesting.

The estimated total annual income is therefore about MK10, 077,100. To generate this income in a sustainable way (through sustainable forest management), various activities need to be undertaken by members of the community (including the block management committee). These activities will be carried out on the basis of voluntary inputs by community and committee members. The nominal costs of carrying out these activities have been calculated in order to off-set them against the sale of wood products. Note that normally these costs would not be paid out as cash for labour. Table 7 shows the estimated annual cost of these activities as proposed in the block management plan.

Table 7: Forest management costs.

Operation	Work Rate	Daily rate (MK)	Nominal cost (MK)
Boundary screening (3.0 km of boundary)	60m per person day (once per year)	MK 300	15,000
Controlled early burning	75 person days	MK 300	22,500
Patrolling	10 person days per week	MK 300	156,000
Total			193,500

Based on the information from the previous tables, an estimated annual cash flow for Chafisi Block 2 is shown in Table 8. This assumes that under the co-management model, 60% of the commercial fees and all the domestic fees will be retained in the block management account. 10% of the commercial fees will be transferred to the Local Forest Management Board account and 30% will be transferred to the Forest Development and Management Fund held at national level.

Table 8: Estimated annual cash flow for Chafisi Block 2.

Block Management Committee Account	MK	% of gross income
Domestic permits	5,649,350	

Commercial permits	4,427,750	
Gross Income	10,077,100	100 %
Less shares to LFMB account and FDMF (40% of 1,771,100 commercial income)		
Gross income to Block Management Committee	8,306,000	60%
Less nominal costs of forest management (labour inputs in kind)	193,500	
Effective Net Income	8,112,500	
<i>Average net income per ha</i>	<i>184,375.00</i>	
<i>Average net income per household</i>	<i>24,072.70</i>	

Local Forest Management Board Account

Income from Chafisi Block 2 co-management block (10%)	1,007,710	
Income to LFMB	1,007,710	10%

Forest Development and Management Fund (FDMF)

Income from Chafisi Block 2 co-management Block (30%)	3,023,130	
Income to FDMF	3,023,130	30%

3.7 Management Plans for Each Use

FMU A and C

Forest Product	Dry Fuelwood – for domestic use and commercial purpose
Key Species	Mhana, Chiyombo, Msankhanya, Mlama, Mtondo, Mpapa, Chitonyololo, Chiyere
Demand	Dry Fuelwood – High
Supply	Dry Fuelwood – low
Problems/Issues	Dry Fuelwood – availability is insufficient to meet the demand. Uncontrolled fires pose another challenge.
Management Practices	<p>Collecting firewood will be selectively done in FMU C only</p> <p>Dry fuelwood for domestic purposes will be done in annual 6 ha coupes and shall take place from January to December each year.</p> <p>Dry fuelwood will be allowed to be collected for domestic use only.</p> <p>According to sample plot data there is an annual shortfall of about 47,328 headloads of dry fuel wood in Block 2 to meet the domestic demand of surrounding villages. Interviewed villagers stated that dry firewood is primarily collected from unallocated customary woodland.</p>
Allowable area and quantity per year	According to sample plot data about 14,300m ³ of fuel wood can be harvested for sale in each annually 44 ha, which corresponds to about 124,520 head loads headloads to meet the demand.
Permits	No fees.

FMU A and C

Forest Product	Poles
Key Species	Mpapa, Masuku, Mtondo.
Demand	High
Supply	Medium
Problems/Issues	Wildfires, theft.

Management Practices

Poles are trees suitable for the purpose which are not marked as timber, or medicinal trees. All trees suitable for poles shall be marked before fuelwood is harvested. Poles have to be piled and counted by species, before being taken from the Block.

In the first three years after harvesting the coupes shall be protected against fire to allow for regeneration. After this controlled early burning shall take place.

Cutting of trees shall be done at about 20 cm from the ground to facilitate coppicing.

Allowable area and quantity per year

According to sample plot data approximately 14,815 mapaso pole trees and 7,444 michiko pole trees can be harvested annually for commercial purposes (after domestic needs have been deducted) in each 44 ha coupe.

The annual harvesting of mapaso for domestic use is 1,685 poles and 14,815 for commercial purposes.

The annual harvesting of michiko for domestic use is 256 trees and 7,444 for commercial purposes.

Fees

Mapaso pole-size trees for domestic use will attract a fee of K50 per pole and michiko pole-size trees K100. For mapaso this means an income of K84, 250 and for michiko K 25,000.

Mapaso for commercial purposes will attract a fee of K100 and michiko K250. For mapaso this means an income of K 1,481,500 and for michiko K 1,861,000.

FMU A and C

Forest Product

Timber

Timber trees are trees suitable for purposes of sawing lumber (planks). All trees suitable for timber shall be marked. Logs have to be piled and counted by species, before being taken from the Block.

Key Species

Indigenous species such as: Chiyere, Katope, Mlewezi, Kawizi,

	Mpapa, Kabale, Msuku, Muwale
Demand	High
Supply	Low
Problems/Issues	Theft, wastage and lack of silvicultural management.
Management Practices	Only small tree species of timber trees are found in FMU D, which means that there will be no harvesting of timber trees for the next 15 years. Enrichment planting by only valuable indigenous species shall be done along stream banks and on open dambo areas.
Allowable area and quantity per year	N/a
Fees	N/a

All FMUs

Forest Product	Mushrooms
Key Species	All types of mushroom
Demand	High
Supply	High
Problems/issues	Damage to soils and vegetation (quarry stone miners) reduce the availability of mushrooms during the growing period. Over grazing and uncontrolled bush fires may also reduce mushroom production.
Management Practices	Anyone collecting mushrooms must obtain a permit/licence from the Block Management Committee. Harvesting may be done in all FMUs where mushrooms are available. Harvesting of mushrooms must be done carefully to prevent any damage to the ecosystem. Stalks should be snapped off gently at the base. Collectors should only take mushrooms that have matured; young

mushrooms shall not be removed.

Allowable quantity per year There is no limit to the amount of mushrooms collected by surrounding villagers involved in Block 2.

Fees royalties Those outside the block shall pay K250 and K500 per permit for collection of 1 small basin and 1 pail, respectively.

FMU B

Forest Product Honey

Key Species Flowering trees such as *Piliostigma thonningii*, *Syzygium cordatum*, *Faurea* species and *Brachystegia* spp, *Cussonia arborea*, *Azanza garckeana*, *Vangueria infausta*

Demand High

Supply Low

Problems/issues Inadequate skills and improper siting of hives is limiting potential supply.

Beekeeping practices that have used traditional methods have been detrimental to the forest area – cutting of trees for hives, or harvesting honey.

Management Practices Permission must be granted by the Block Management Committee and a registry of users kept.

Beekeepers shall be encouraged to use modern technology and no trees shall be cut for making hives or harvesting honey. Each beehive must be marked stating the name of the owner of the beehive.

Allowable quantity per year On obtaining permission the beekeeper is allowed to keep as many beehives as technically possible in the block.

Any honey produced shall be solely owned by the beekeeper who shall be free to consume or sell as they see fit.

Fees royalties Once permission is granted the beekeeper shall pay K500 per year per beehive to the Block Management Committee.

All FMUs

Forest Product Medicinal Plants

Key Species Muyokayoka, Muzakaka, Mguzabango, Mlombe, Mpokwa, Msolo

Demand Medium

Supply Medium

Problems/issues Poor harvesting practices such as ring-barking, uprooting trees, etc.).

Management Practices Felling or ring barking of trees is not permitted.

Removal of roots shall be done with minimal damage. Only 10% of roots can be removed from any one tree.

Within harvested coupes medicinal plants will be protected and marked by the Block Management Committee. No person shall be allowed to harvest a complete tree.

Allowable quantity per year Collection of medicinal plants is free of charge for block members as long as it is for domestic consumption. However, the resource rules must be followed.

Fees royalties For commercial use a license fee of K200 per bundle will be levied.

3.8 Activity Plan

NO	ACTIVITY	TASK	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TIME FRAME
1	Collecting of firewood and poles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking • Collection of dry firewood • Stacking in m³ • Transportation to roadside • Recording of volumes • Issuing of permits 	Pangas, axes, bow saws, chainsaws, oxcart, measuring tapes books for record keeping	BMC, community members, Front Line Staff	Apr-Nov
2	Boundary/fire break maintenance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing • Screefing 	Hoes, slashers, axes, pangas	BMC, FLS and community members	Apr-May
3	Enrichment planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of sites • Marking for pitting and actual pitting • Controlled burning • Planting • Weeding 	Hoes, axes, ropes, picks, planting trowel, containers, pangas and tape	BMC, community members, Front Line Staff	Dec-Apr
4	Nursery establishment and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site identification • Terracing • Seed sowing • Seedling management 	Nursery equipment: watering canes, hoes, shovels, rake, wheel barrow, polythene tubes and seed.	BMC, community members and Forestry Front Line Staff	Aug-Dec
5	Controlled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patch burning 	Pangas, slashers,	BMC, Community	Apr-May

Perekezi Forest Reserve Co-Management Plan for Chafisi Block 2

	early burning		hoes	members, FLS	
6	Seed procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed collection Seed processing 	Containers, hooking sticks, rudders	BMC and community members, Forestry Department	Dec-May
7	Transportation of seedlings from the nursery to planting site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation 	Containers, oxcart, wheelbarrows	Community members	Dec-Apr
8	Conduct meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community meetings 	Papers, ballpoints, note books	BMC, community, members and Forestry Front Line Staff	Jan-Dec
9	Community training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct training of community members on forestry and business skills 	Training materials	BMC, community, members and Forestry Front Line Staff	May-Oct
10	Reduce illegal activities in the Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct patrols 	Pangas, identification cards, receipt books, rubber stamps	BMC, community, members and Forestry Front Line Staff	Jan-Dec
11	Silvicultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coppicing 	Axes and pangas	BMC, Community members and Front Line Staff	Jun-Jul
12	Collection of non-wood forest products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruits, Honey, Mushrooms, Medicine 	Beehives, bee suits, hive tools, hoes	Community members	Jan-Dec
13	Forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection against destructive agents 	Pangas, shovels, axes	BMC and members, FLS	When required

3.9 Patrolling Plan

- The Block Management Committee shall appoint community members and other relevant stakeholders to conduct weekly patrols according to established patrol schedule.
- Members of the Block Management Committee and LFMB shall undertake patrols every two months – a patrol schedule shall be prepared at the beginning of every year.
- All licensee or permit holders shall report any illegal activities that they observe during the course of their work. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of their permits/licences.

3.10 Monitoring Plan

Monitoring of activities and fees/licenses is included in sections 3.7 and 3.8. In addition to that, the following issues shall be observed:

- Quarterly reports shall be produced by the Block Management Committee and shall include information on all activities according to the activity plan and the financial management of the block.
- Records shall be kept by the Block Management Committee.
- Regular review meetings shall be held together with FD.
- Field visits by FD, Village Headman and Block Management Committee, LFMB will be conducted on a regular basis.

3.11 Financial Issues

Any payment made to the Block Management Committee shall be used as per the constitution of the Block Management Committee.

4. Management Authority and Time Frame

The forest resources of Chafisi Block 2 in Perekezi forest reserve shall be managed collaboratively by the Block Management Committee and Department of Forestry. The LFMB shall provide oversight function to management of the block. The Block Management Committee is an officially registered body with the M'belwa District Council.

The management plan of Chafisi Block 2 will come into effect when it has been endorsed by all concerned stakeholders. Reviewing of the plan will be done after every 3 years.

5. Forestry Co-management Agreement

(Forestry Act, 1997 Section 25)

THIS AGREEMENT is made the day of

BETWEEN Director of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management, hereafter referred to as the Government, and local residents of Mzgepula **Mkandawire, Mgomo Mkandawire, Zabwanya Banda, Gonamaso Zimba, Shadreck Zimba, Nthongola Nyika, Mjuweni Zimba and Amon Nyika**. Villages of Traditional Authority Kampingo Sibande in Mzimba District represented by **CHAFISI BLOCK 2 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** as the Local Forest Organization (herewith described as LFO) and known also as the Block Management Committee.

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

PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE – CHAFISI BLOCK 2, in order to promote forest management and the enhancement of livelihoods of the forest adjacent communities.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:

1. The Government shall upon satisfied with transitional arrangements recognize the joint authority of the LFO to protect, manage, control and utilize sustainably the forest resource for the benefit of the local communities of **Mzgepula Mkandawire, Mgomo Mkandawire, Zabwanya Banda, Gonamaso Zimba, Shadreck Zimba, Nthongola Nyika, Mjuweni Zimba and Amon Nyika** villages.
2. The LFO accepts and undertakes to protect, manage, control and utilize sustainably the forest resource in accordance with terms and conditions stipulated in this agreement and the Co- Management Plan.

LFO OBLIGATION

3. In particular the Government gives authority to the LFO subject to the following conditions:

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

DISTRICT COUNCIL OBLIGATION

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

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS

5. In particular the Forestry Department shall;
 - g) Provide technical expertise to support the joint implementation with the LFO and the timely revision of the Co-Management Plan.
 - h) Advice and assist with monitoring local accountability mechanisms including, conduct of meetings, elections, by-elections, record keeping, financial accounting and reporting.
 - c) Provide a 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 item after collecting revenue.

- d) Assist the coordination of forest law enforcement activities between the LFO, traditional Leaders, Local community policing forums, local police officers and the District Magistrate in accordance with the Co-Management Plans.
- e) With the LFO jointly monitor the Block demarcated in the Co-Management plan to ensure management is in accordance with this agreement and in accordance with Standards & Guidelines for Participatory Forestry in Malawi.
- f) Jointly with the LFO countersign any permits and licenses being for the commercial utilization and harvesting of forest products (non-domestic use) in accordance with Block Co-Management Plan.
- g) In line with licensing procedures issue conveyance certificates against verified documentation to ensure legal transportation of forest products.
- h) Provide in collaboration with other partners, legal, organization, marketing and other forms of support to the LFO as appropriate.
- i) Organize in collaboration with other partners, relevant training courses to enhance organizational, technical and management capacity of Local Forest Boards, LFO, traditional authorities and other members of the community.
- j) Recognize and actively support the protection and policing measures taken by the FMB, LFO and the community in accordance with the Forest Act 1997, Forest Rules 2001, and Local Forest Organisation Registration Agreement.

COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

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

10. In the event of notice of termination, LFO shall be under obligation to ensure that the forest area is protected until a Caretaker Committee or Government has assumed authority over the Block.

DEMARCATIION AND BOUNDARY

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

DISPUTES

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

13. SIGNED

DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY

Dated:.....

AND

CHAIRPERSON LOCAL FOREST ORGANISATION (CHAFISI BLOCK 2)

Dated:.....

WITNESS:.....

VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN

Dated:.....

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Dated:.....

DISTRICT COMMISSIOER

Dated:.....

CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dated:.....

Annex 1. Chafisi, Block 2 Constitution and By-Laws

NAME: Chafisi Block 2 Co-Management Committee

ADDRESS: C/o Mapanjira FP School

P.O. Box

Mzimba

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE:

- To appropriate benefits from the Block in order to improve livelihoods of communities.
- To manage forest resources in the block on a sustainable basis.
- To empower the committee and the communities to protect, manage and regulate the utilization of natural resources in Chafisi Block 2 in a transparent and equitable manner.

COMPOSITION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

The committee shall be composed of:

- Chairperson
- Vice chairperson
- Secretary
- Vice secretary
- Treasurer
- Vice treasurer
- Committee members

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE:

1. To lead and guide the village communities in sustainable management of natural resources in the block.
2. To co-operate and work with other development committees in the area.
3. To facilitate the process of proposing changes and amendments to the management plans and presenting them to the community for scrutiny and approval.
4. To produce financial accounts for all transactions in the block.
5. To issue permits/licences of forest products from the Block.
6. To facilitate establishment and promotion of IGA's related to forest resources in the block.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All citizen of Chafisi Block 2.
- All people aged 18 years and above.
- People from outside but who have stayed in the area for more than 3 years.

PERIOD FOR TERM OF OFFICE:

Any person elected, shall hold office for a period of two years, and for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

DISQUALIFICATION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Any office bearer shall be removed from the office upon failure to discharge his or her assigned duties. This shall be done after warning such a person at least three times.

The community shall have the powers to remove any person from the office upon approval of the committee.

SUBMISSION OF AN APPEAL AFTER BEING DISQUALIFIED / REMOVED FROM OFFICE:

Any person upon his/her removal from the office is allowed to make an appeal through the committee to the communities.

LEAVING THE OFFICE BEFORE EXPIRY DATE:

Any person who intends to leave the office before the end of their tenure due to unforeseen circumstances shall do so but will be requested to give a one month's notice.

DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE:

Upon failure to perform or discharge the assigned duties, the wider community shall converge a meeting and dissolve the incumbent committee and elect new office bearers.

ELECTION PROCESS:

Elections shall be conducted at the end of every two years unless the incumbent committee faces dissolution or resignation or disqualification of committee member(s).

The elections shall be done following the secret procedure.

MEETINGS:

The meetings shall be conducted at the block site once a month.

QUORUM:

The committee meetings shall be conducted when at least half of the members are present including the chairperson and the secretary. Some sections of the constitution may only be amended upon reaching at least a two thirds majority vote.

PENALTIES:

Any person who willfully fails to attend committee meetings shall be liable to pay a K50.00 penalty fee.

RECORD KEEPING:

All sales of forestry produce shall be accompanied by official receipts.

The treasurer shall issue receipts.

The treasurer shall keep up-dated financial records of all transactions in the block in a transparent manner and shall be requested to produce them anytime they are required.

The secretary shall record all the minutes and deliberations of the committee meetings and keep them safely.

MANAGEMENT OF CHAFISI BLOCK 2:

Forest produce allowed to be collected from Chafisi Block 2 include:

- Dry firewood
- Poles
- Fruits
- Mushroom
- Orchids (chinaka)
- Medicines
- Thatch grass
- Mpharata / ngumbi (edible flying ants)
- Mapala (caterpillars)

PROHIBITED OPERATIONS IN BLOCK 2:

- Setting bush fires
- Tree cutting without a permit/licence
- Prospecting and gemstone mining
- Honey collection without a permit/licence
- Charcoal burning
- Timber sawing without permit/licence

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES:

Anybody involved in the following offences shall be liable for the following penalties:

Burning charcoal	-	K 5,000.00
Setting bush fires	-	K20, 000.00
Collecting honey without permit	-	K 5,000.00
Illegally collecting firewood (ngolo)	-	K 5,000.00
Illegally collecting firewood (vehicle)	-	K20, 000.00
Illegally collecting poles	-	K 5,000.00 per pole

BENEFIT SHARING:

All benefit accrued from forest products shall be used to manage the block. This will be kept in the Block bank account. Members of the block and vulnerable groups will also benefit. The benefit sharing will relate to the daily individual inputs as indicated in the daily attendance register.

SOURCES OF INCOME:

- Sales of dry and dead firewood from the block
- Sales of poles from the block
- Licensing of other products from the block.

Annex 2. Agreed roles and responsibilities for various stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibility
Village headman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling meetings for village developmental issues. • Conducting village meetings. • Solving village cases.
Block Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the block according to management plan. • Receiving visitors to the block. • Coordinating forestry matters in the block.
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling for block meetings. • Conducting committee meetings. • Representing the BMC in other fora.
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording and keeping minutes of meetings. • Keeping records of the block. • Communicating with other organisations. • Inventorying assets of the block.
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping funds generated from the block. • Recording financial transactions in the block. • Banking and issuing cash.
Committee member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in all block discussions.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executing activities of the block plan. • Participating in committee elections.
VDC/ADC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling for village development meetings. • Making village rules. • Linking villages to the district assembly.
TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating establishment of development issues. • Providing oversight to management of villages.

Annex 3. Names of Members of Chafisi Block 2 Management Committee

Chairman : Wiseman Banda

Vice : Fanwell Nyika

Secretary : Uchizi Nyika

Vice : Oscar Nyika

Treasurer : Isaac Mkandawire

Members : Olive Mwale
Lofini Shaba
Moreen Kamanga
Maganizo Zimba
Felix Nyika

Annex 4. Benefit Sharing Arrangement:

A Community Development Fund shall be established for sharing the benefits (accruing from the Reserve) within the eight (8) Villages. Details of the benefit sharing arrangements are described below.

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