

PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ZAWO BLOCK

M'MBELWA DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ACRONYMS

ADC	Area Development Committee
BMC	Block Management Committee
CBO	Community Based Organisation
DFO	District Forest Officer
DoF	Director of Forestry
EPA	Extension Plan Area
EU	European Union
FD	Department of Forestry
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FLS	Front Line Staff
FR	Forest Reserve
GoM	Government of Malawi
GVH	Group Village Headman
HH	Household
IFMSLP	Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme
LFMB	Local Forest Management Board
VNRMC	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
VNRMC	Village Natural Resource Management Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
VFA	Village Forest Area
VH	Village Headman

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Lastly, the committed and untiring efforts by the Management Committee for Zawo block of Lazaro Gausi are acknowledged throughout the development of the Plan.

1.0 Introduction

Perekezi Forest Reserve was created in 1933 for protecting the water catchment for agricultural activities and to conserve the forest with its biodiversity. The present management methods and benefits of the reserve are failing to satisfy the increasing demands of people and institutions with different needs and perceptions. As a strategy to increase its productivity and at the same time reduce unsanctioned (and hence unmanaged) pressure from the surrounding communities, co-management is the viable option. This however, requires that management objectives of the reserve are defined and overall management plan developed as enshrined in the National Forest Policy framework.

The Forestry Department with funding from European Union (EU/GoM) is facilitating the implementation of Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihood Programme (IFMSLP). The Programme aims at contributing to increasing household income and improving food security of communities in selected impact areas through sustainable management of natural resources. In Mzimba, the Programme is being implemented in Mtangatanga and Perekezi 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 Zawo block in Perekezi Forest Reserve which is in line with Perekezi Strategic Forest Area Plan. The main objectives of the SFAP are:

1. To increase forest cover on customary land adjacent to the forest reserve.
2. To engage communities in sustainable land use management on customary land adjacent to the forest reserve.
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 first products from perekezi Forest Reserve.

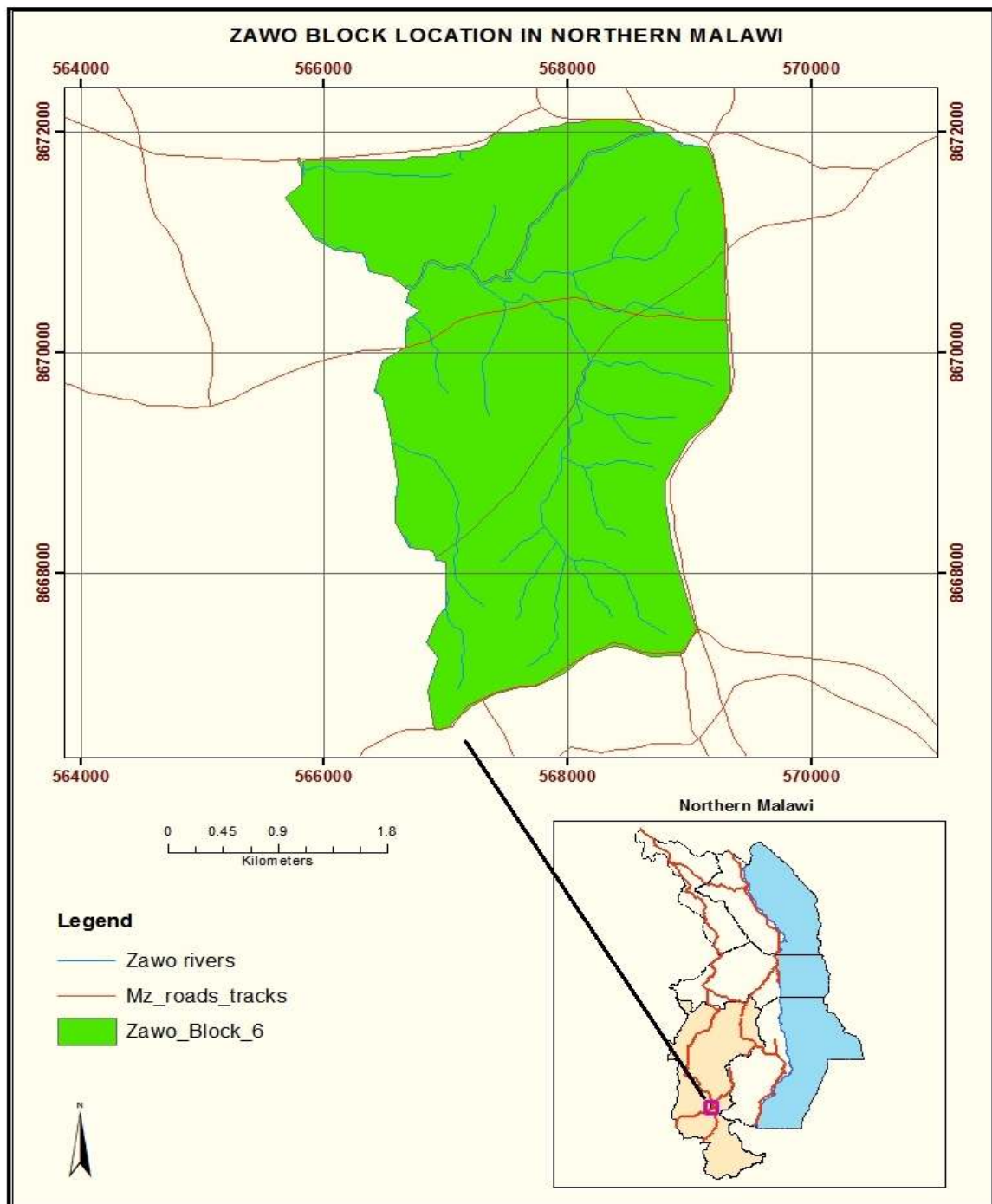
The Zawo block Co-Management Plan is based on objectives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Perekezi Strategic Forest Area Plan. The strategic plan divides the forest reserve into twelve blocks.

2. Zawo Block Forest Area

2.1 Location/Boundary

Perekezi Forest Reserve has an area of 15370 hectares and is situated in Mzimba District within Kazomba and Mbawa Extension Planning Areas (EPA), Traditional Authorities Mzikubola, along the M1 (Mzuzu– Lilongwe road) about 16 kilometers south of Mzimba Boma. It is a relatively hilly area

2.2 Location Map of Zawo Block



2.3 Tenure

Perekezi is a government forest reserve gazetted in 1935.

2.4 Forest Description

The total area of the Block is **1,268** hectares. The forest is typical of Miombo woodland, as in the rest of the reserve. The forest is composed of different age classes and sizes. There are few trees of timber mainly along the dambos of Rukuru and dominated by Katope and Chiyere species. Trees for firewood and poles are abundant. The dominant trees in the block are *Brachystegia* spp, with protected species such as *Syzygium cordatum*, *Faurea* spp and *Bridelia micrantha* growing mostly along the riverbanks. The dominant soil in the block is sandy clay mostly on the upper areas with some alluvial soils on the banks of the streams.

2.5 Forest Users and Uses

The community members from the GVH Lazaro Gausi are the primary users of Zawo Block. All users must have authority from the Block Management Committee to collect/harvest forest products.

People collect woody products such as firewood and poles. Other illegal activities include charcoal burning. Non-wood forest products are also collected such as medicine, fruit, mushrooms, honey, caterpillars, game meat and thatching grass.

2.6 Social Description

GVH Lazaro Gausi comprise the following four villages which are involved in Zawo block; Alick Gausi, Zitchokaimba, Matheza Mwale and Kasiyaphazi Gausi. The total number of households is 129. 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 piece work.

3. Zawo Block Co-Management Plan

3.1 General Objectives

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

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 Zawo block with a total area of **1,268** hectares as follows:

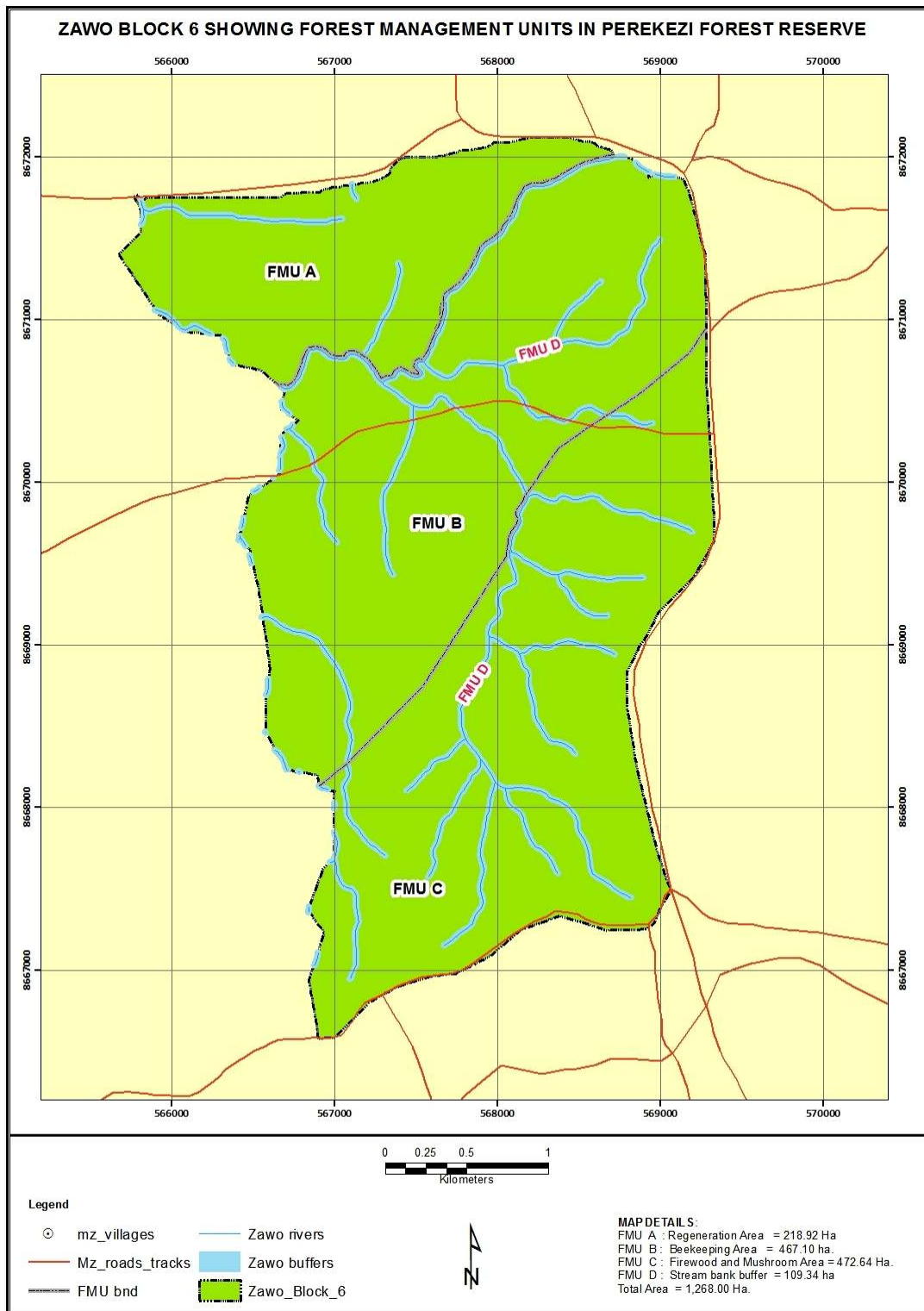
FMU A: This unit is for regeneration. The unit has an area of **218.92** hectares and shall mainly be used for conservation.

FMU B: Honey production. The unit of **467.10** hectares shall be used for bee keeping only.

FMU C: This unit is for firewood collection. The unit is **472.64** hectares and shall be used for Mushroom and firewood collection.

FMU D: Stream Bank Protection. The unit is set aside for water catchment protection. A strip of 20 meters on each side of streams shall be left intact. The total protected area is **109.34** hectares.

3.4 Map of Zawo Block with FMU:s and Uses



3.5 Resource Rules

No	Resource Rules	Within Zawo Block	Penalty
1	No cutting of live trees in the Block	Cutting of trees is strictly prohibited and is monitored by the Block Management Committee	Anyone found guilty of cutting trees in the Block shall pay a fine of K5,000 and one goat as stipulated in the Forest Act.
2	No sawing of timber without permit from Block Management Committee	Timber sawing in Block will be regulated and monitored by Block Management Committee	Anyone found guilty of sawing timber in Block without permit shall pay a fine of K5,000 and timber shall be confiscated by the Block Committee.
3	Dry wood will be collected free for community members. Outsiders shall pay a fee of K300 with permit from the Block Management Committee	Applicable	Anyone outsider found guilty of collecting firewood without permit shall pay a fine of K500 per head load followed by confiscating the product.
4	No setting of bush fires	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of setting bush fires shall pay a fine of K10, 000.
5	Everyone shall participate in any Block forestry activity such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Firebreak maintenance ■ Block patrols 	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of refusing to participate in any Block forestry activity shall pay a fine of K500 per working day
6	Thatch grass mowing is allowed freely for community members, outsiders shall pay a fee of K500	Applicable	Thatch grass mowing is allowed freely with permission from the Block Management Committee but shall attract a fine of K1000 to outsiders who break the law.
7	Grazing of livestock is allowed freely for the communities within the block in areas where it is designated for grazing	Applicable	Grazing is not allowed
8	Hunting is prohibited	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 a Block shall pay a fine of K95,000
10	Cultivating in the Block is prohibited	Applicable	Any one found guilty of cultivating in the Block shall pay a fine of K95,000 or be taken to a court of law
11	No one should possess forest produce without valid license or permit in Block or around is prohibited	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of possessing forest product without valid permit shall pay a fine of K5,000 and the product will be confiscated.
12	No hanging of bee hives in Block without the permit of the Block Management Committee and a fee of K500 per hive	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of hanging bee hives in the Block without a permit from the Block Management Committee shall pay a fine of K2,000 and bee hives confiscated.
13	Mushroom collection is free with written permission from the committee	Applicable	Mushroom collection is allowed from the Block freely by the surrounding community outsiders shall pay K500 per bucket.

14	Collection of medicine is allowed by the surrounding communities except for commercial purposes and should follow good practices	Applicable	Medicine collection is allowed freely on permission from the Block Management Committee. Commercial collection of medicine will attract a fee of K500 per bundle
15	Fruit collection is free on written permission from the committee without felling trees	Applicable	Fruit collection is free on permission from the Block Management Committee

3.6 Available Forest Resources

In the following is presented calculations of:

- 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 Zawo Block (Table 8)

The calculations are based on interviews with Block Management Committee members and on data collected from sample plots inside the Block. This information is primarily used for calculating the annual allowable harvest of firewood 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 Zawo Block.

Forest resources shall be harvested according to the block co-management plan and their estimated availability in the block. Harvesting of dry and dead wood will be applied to selected areas. In the same **14** ha coupes, timber trees shall be managed on a 33 years rotation period, poles shall be managed on a 12 years rotation period. Only selective cutting of timber shall apply and the trees shall be marked before fuelwood is harvested. Table 1 indicates the actual harvestable area of the block.

Table 1: Harvestable Area Of The Block

	ha	Comments
Block area	1,268	
Unharvestable area (FMU A ,B and D)	795.36	This comprises the areas for stream bank protection, honey production, buffer zone and regeneration.
Estimated Harvestable Area of Block (FMU C)	472.64	This is the area from which dry fuelwood and pole collection/harvesting apply

Table 2 shows the estimated availability of different products, based on sample plot data, for harvesting carried out in a 39 ha coupe.

Table 2: Estimate Of Available Forest Resources (Based On Sample Plot Data)

Product Name	Use	Total/ha	Available In 39 ha coupe
Mbalabala	Rafters (small)	300	11,700
Mapaso	House poles (medium)	375	14,625
Michiko/Migololo	Ridge Pole (large)	175	6,825
Sito	Purlins (small)	225	8,775
Matabwa	Timber tree (only regenerants)	75	1,050
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	50	1,950
Nkhuni Green	Green Firewood	2,830(325 m ³)	110,370 (12,675 m ³)
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood (head loads)	75	2,925

- Notes:
- Estimates based on four 20x20m sample plots inside the block
- 39 ha is the suggested annual harvesting coupe in the management plan

Table 3: Estimate Of Available Forest Resources FMU C (Based On Sample Plot Data)

Product Name	Use	Total/ha	Available In 472.64 ha
Mbalabala	Rafters (small)	300	141,792
Mapaso	House poles (medium)	375	177,240
Michiko/Migololo	Ridge Pole (large)	175	82,712
Sito	Purlins (small)	225	106,344
Matabwa	Timber tree (only regenerants)	75	35,448
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	50	23,632

- Notes:
- Estimates based on four 20x20m sample plots inside the block
- 472.64ha is the suggested total harvesting area in the management plan

The total number of households represented by the block management committee is 129. Table 3 calculates the annual domestic forest product requirements of these 129 households.

Table 4: Domestic Forest Product Requirements

Product Name	Use	Annual requirement per	Annual requirement for all 129
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		household	households
Mbalabala	Small poles for rafters	63 pieces ¹	8,127 pieces
Mapaso	House poles (small)	5 pieces ²	645 pieces
Michiko	Large poles (ridge pole)	0.75 pieces ³	96 pieces
Sito	Purlins (roof sticks)	27 pieces ⁴	3,483 pieces
Matabwa	Timber tree	No domestic consumption	n.a.
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	1.6 handles ⁵	206 pieces
Nkhuni Green	Green Fuelwood	n.a	n.a
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood	144 headloads	18,576 headloads
Nkhowani	Mushrooms (food)	n.a.	n.a.
Mankhwala	Medicinal plants	n.a	n.a.

In the management plan this is specified as annual harvesting of 39 ha coupe for FMU 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 or private land. Table 7 shows the forest product availability (supply) in relation to domestic requirements taking this consideration into account. Any products surplus to domestic needs will be available for commercial harvesting permits.

Table 5: Forest Product Availability

Name	Domestic requirement for 129 households	Amount available from annual 39 ha coupe	Surplus (+) or shortage (-)
Mbalabala (small poles)	8,127	11,700	+3,573
Mapaso (medium poles)	645	14,625	+ 13,980
Michiko (large poles)	96	6,825	+6729
Sito (roof sticks)	3,483	8,775	+5,292
Matabwa (timber trees only regenerants)	0	n.a	-
Mipini (hoe handles)	206	1,950	+1,744
Nkhuni Dry	18,576 headloads	2,925	-15,651

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

Name	Domestic requirement for 129 households	Amount available from annual 39 ha coupe	Surplus (+) or shortage (-)
Green firewood	n.a	n.a	n.a

The Zawo Block Management Committee will issue harvesting permits 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 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) i.e. by households in the villages represented in the BMC; outsiders (domestic consumption) i.e. by households in villages outside the BMC; and commercial i.e. firewood collected for sale to nearby towns.

Table 6: Collection/harvesting Fees For Different Products

Product Name	Domestic	Commercial
Mapaso (medium poles)	MK 200 per pole	MK 500 per pole
Michiko (large poles)	MK 500 per pole	MK 1000 per pole
Sito (roof sticks)	MK 200 per bundle	MK 300 per bundle
Matabwa (timber trees)	Na	Na
Mipini (hoe handles)	Free collection	MK 100 per handle
Nkhuni Dry (headloads)	Free collection	MK 300 per headload
Nkhuni Green (m ³)	n.a.	n.a
Mortars (mathuli)	n.a	n.a
Misi (pistils)	Free collection	MK250 medium MK600 large

Table 7: Projected Annual Income from Domestic and Commercial Fees

Product Name	Domestic sale (MK)	Commercial sale (MK)	Total income (MK)
Mapaso	129,000	6,990,000	7,119,000
Michiko (support beams)	48,000	7,729,000	7,777,000
Matabwa (only)	n.a	n.a	-

regenerants)			
Sito	696,600	1,587,600	2,284,200
Mipini	n.a	174,400	174,400
Nkhuni Dry	n.a	0	0
Nkhuni Green	n.a	0	0
TOTAL	873,600	16,481,000	17,354,600

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

The estimated total annual income is therefore about **MK17,354,600**. 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 are 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 8 shows the estimated annual cost of these activities as proposed in the block management plan.

Table 8: 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 Zawo Block is shown in Table 9. 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 Fund held at national level.

Table 9: Estimated Annual Cash Flow for Zawo Block 6, Perekezi FR

Block Management Committee Account	MK	% of gross income
Domestic permits	873,600	
Commercial permits	16,481,000	
Gross Income	17,354,600	100 %
Less shares to LFMB account and FDF (40% of commercial income)	6,941,840	
Gross income to Block Management Committee	10,412,760	60%
Less nominal costs of forest management (labour inputs in kind)	193,500	
Effective Net Income	10,219,260	
<i>Average net income per ha</i>	262,032.31	
<i>Average net income per household</i>	79,219.06	
Local Forest Management Board Account		
Income from Zawo Block 6 co-management block (10%)		
Income to LFMB	694,184	10%
Forest Development Fund (FDF)		
Income from Zawo Block 6 co-management Block (30%)		
Income to FDF	6,247,662	30%

3.7 Management Plans for Each Use

FMU C

Forest Product	Dry Fuelwood – for domestic use only
Key Species	Mhana, Chiyombo, Msankhanya, Mlama, Mtondo, Mpapa, Chitonyololo, Chiyere
Demand	Dry Fuelwood – High
Supply	Dry Fuelwood – low
Problems/Issues	Dry Fuelwood – availability is too low to meet the demand - Uncontrolled fires
Management	Collecting firewood will be selective in the FMU C only

Practices Dry fuelwood for domestic purposes shall take place from January to December each year.

Dry fuelwood will be allowed to be collected for domestic use only.

According to sample plot data there is an annual shortage of about 15,651 headloads of dry fuelwood in Zawo Block to meet the domestic demand of surrounding villages. Interviewed villagers stated that dry firewood is primarily collected from open access customary woodland.

Allowable area and quantity per year According to sample plot data about 2,925 headloads of fuelwood can be harvested for sale in each annual 39ha coupe.

Permits No fees.

FMU 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 cutting. Poles have to be piled and counted by species, before being taken from the Block.

In the first three years after selective cutting, the FMU shall be protected against fire to allow for regeneration. After this controlled early burning shall take place.

Cutting of poles shall be done at about 20 cm from the ground.

Allowable area and Poles can be extracted in FMU C.

quantity per year

According to sample plot data approximately 13,980 mapaso (small poles) and 6,729 michiko (large poles) can be felled annually for commercial purposes (after domestic needs have been deducted) in each 39 ha coupe.

The annual harvesting of mapaso for domestic use is 645 trees and 13,980 for commercial purposes.

The annual harvesting of michiko for domestic use is 96 and 6,729 for commercial purposes.

Fees

Mapaso pole-size trees for domestic use will attract a fee of K200 per pole and michiko pole-size trees K500. For mapaso this means an income of K129,000 and for michiko K 48,000.

Mapaso for commercial purposes will attract a fee of K500 and michiko K1000. For mapaso this means an income of K6,990,000 and for michiko K 6,729,000.

FMU B and D**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 B and D, which means that there will be no harvesting of timber trees for the next 15 to 30 years.

Enrichment planting of valuable indigenous species shall be done along stream banks and on open dambo areas, but no exotic species.

Allowable area and quantity per year
Fees

N/a

N/a

All FMU:s

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 growing period.

Management Practices

Over grazing, uncontrolled bush fires
Anyone collecting mushrooms must obtain a permit from the Block Management Committee.

Harvesting can 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 Zawo Block.

Fees royalties

Those outside shall pay K250 and K500 per permit which allows collection of 1 small basin and 1 pail.

FMU C

Forest Product	Honey
Key Species	Flowering trees such as <i>Periostigma thoningii</i> , <i>Syzigium cordatum</i> , <i>Faurea</i> species and <i>Brachystegia</i> spp.
Demand	High
Supply	Low
Problems/issues	Lack of beehives. Traditional bee keeping practices where barks of trees have been used have affected management of forest resource Lack of capacity building in bee keeping and management
Management Practices	Permission must be granted from the Block Management Committee and a register of users kept. Standard Beehives shall be used and no trees shall be cut for making hives or harvesting honey. Each beehive must be marked stating the name of the owner and number of beehives.
Allowable quantity per year	On obtaining permission the beekeeper is allowed to keep as many beehives as they want in the block. Any honey produced shall be solely owned by the beekeeper whom 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 FMU:s	
Forest Product	Medicinal Plants
Key Species	Muyokayoka, Muzakaka, Mguzabango, Mlombe, Mpokwa, Msolo
Demand	Medium
Supply	Medium
Problems/issues	Poor harvesting practices (over-debarking, uprooting,

etc.).

Management Practices

Uprooting, felling or ring barking of trees is not permitted.

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

Within all FMUs medicinal plants will be protected and marked by the Block Management Committee. No person shall harvest any of these trees.

Allowable quantity per year

Collection of medicinal plants is free for villagers at any time taking any required amount for subsistence use. However, the resource rules must be followed.

Fees royalties

For domestic purpose free collection. If commercial users want to access the block then they shall pay a fee of K200 per permit. They must harvest within the resource rules.

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 for pole trees • Collection of dry firewood • Stacking in m³ • Transportation to roadside • Recording of volumes • Issuing of permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pangas, axes, bow saws, chainsaws, oxcart, measuring tapes books for record keeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zawo Block Management Committee, community members, Front Line Staff 	April-November
2	Boundary/fire break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing • Screefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoes, slashers, axes, pangas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zawo Block Management Committee and community members 	April-May
3	Enrichment planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of sites • Marking for pitting and actual pitting • Controlled burning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoes, axes, ropes, picks, planting trowel, containers, pangas and tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zawo Block Management Committee and community members, Front Line Staff 	December-April

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting Weeding 			
4	Nursery establishment and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site identification Terracing Seed sowing Pot filling Watering Pot/out Pot cultivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery equipment: watering canes, hoes, shovels, rake, wheel barrow, polythene tubes and seed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zawo Block Management Committee, community, members and Forestry Front Line Staff 	August-December
5	Controlled burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patch burning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pangas, slashers, hoes, matches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members 	April-May
6	Seed procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed collection Seed processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containers, hooking sticks, ladders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zawo Block Management Committee and community members, Forestry Department 	December-May
7	Transportation of seedlings from the nursery to planting site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containers, oxcart, wheelbarrows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members 	December-April
8	Conduct meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Papers, ballpoints, note books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zawo Block Management Committee, 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 skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zawo Block Management Committee, community, members and Forestry Front Line Staff 	May-June
10	Reduce illegal activities in the Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct patrols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pangas, identification cards for patrolling community members, receipt books, rubber stamps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zawo Block Management Committee and community members 	Jan - Dec
11	Silvicultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coppicing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axes and pangas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members and Front Line Staff 	June -July
12	Collection of non-wood forest products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruits, Honey, Mushrooms, Medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beehives, bee suits, hive tools, hoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community members 	Jan - Dec
13	Forest protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection against destructive fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pangas, hoes, shovels, Axes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zawo Block Management Committee and community members 	When required

3.9 Patrolling Plan

- The Block Management Committee shall appoint community members to conduct weekly patrols according to established patrol schedule
- Members of the Block Management Committee shall undertake patrols every two months – a patrol schedule shall be prepared at the beginning of every year
- All license or permission 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 right to utilise the forest

3.10 Monitoring Plan

Monitoring of activities and fees/licenses are included in sections 3.7 and 3.8. Furthermore, the following issues shall be observed:

- Quarterly reports shall be produced by the Block Management Committee that includes 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 should 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.

4.0 Management Authority and Time Frame

The forest resources of Zawo Block in Perekezi Forest Reserve shall be managed by the Block Management Committee, together with Forestry Department Staff, GVH Lazaro Gausi which fall under Traditional Authority Mzikubola. The Block Management Committee is an official body registered with the M'mbelwa District Council.

The management plan of Zawo Block starts when it has been endorsed by the Director of Forestry and all relevant stakeholders, and will be monitored monthly. Reviewing period will be after 3 years.

5.0 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 **Alick Gausi, Zitchoka Zimba, Matheza Mwale and Kasiyaphazi Gausi** villages of Traditional Authority Mzikubola in Mzimba District represented by **ZAWO BLOCK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** as the Local Forest Organization (herewith described as LFO) and known also as the Block Management Committee.

The Government, hereby, wishes to make an agreement with the LFO to provide for the transfer of management authority and ownership of forest resource of **PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE – BLOCK 6**, 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 **Alick Gausi, Zitchoka Zimba, Matheza Mwale and Kasiyaphazi Gausi** villages.
2. The LFO accepts and undertakes to protect, manage, control and utilize sustainably the forest resource in accordance with terms and conditions stipulated in this agreement and the Co- Management Plan.

LFO OBLIGATION

3. In particular the Government gives authority to the LFO subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Forest resources shall be properly maintained and managed according to approved management techniques as set out in the annexed Management Plan.

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

DISTRICT COUNCIL OBLIGATION

- 4. In particular the District Forestry Officer and her/his delegated representatives shall;

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

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS

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

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

COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

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

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

DEMARCATATION AND BOUNDARY

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

DISPUTES

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

13. SIGNED

[Handwritten signature]

DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY

Dated: 14-2-14

AND



CHAIRPERSON LOCAL FOREST ORGANISATION (DUWU BLOCK)

Dated: 21-2-14

WITNESS: *[Handwritten signature]*

Alike Gausi
VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN

Dated: 21st Feb 2014

[Handwritten signature]
DISTRICT COMMISSIOER

Dated: 21/02/2014

[Handwritten signature]
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Dated: 21st Feb - 2014

T Gausi
CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dated: 21.1021 2014

Annex 1

ZAWO Block Constitution and By-Laws

NAME: Zawo Co-Management Block

ADDRESS: C/O Kabuku FP School
P.O. Box 149
Mzimba

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE:

- To get our benefits from the block to improve our livelihoods
- To manage our forest products in the block on sustainable basis
- To empower the committee and the communities to protect, manage and control the utilization of natural resources in Zawo Co-Management block 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 MANAGING COMMITTEE:

1. To guide the village communities sustainable management of Natural Resources.
2. Co-operate with development committees in the area
3. Propose the management plans and present them to the community for scrutiny.
4. Produce financial accounts records of community funds, showing all transactions.
5. Issue permits on forest products from the Zawo Block Committee.
6. Create and promote I.G.A's related to forest related activities.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All citizen of Zawo,
- 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 the office for two (2) years only, and 2 terms is the maximum period once the person can be re-elected

DISQUALIFICATION OF THE OFFICE BEARER:

Any office bearer shall be removed from the office upon failure to discharge his or her assigned duties. This will be done after warning such person more than three (3) 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 his/her expiry date due to unforeseen obstacles shall do so but is requested to give a one month notice.

DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE:

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

ELECTION PROCESS:

Election shall be conducted once every two years unless the incumbent committee faces dissolution.

The elections shall be done following secrete process.

MEETINGS:

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

QUORUM:

The meeting shall be conducted when half of the members are present including the chairperson and the secretary. Some sections of the constitution shall only be amended upon reaching two thirds $\frac{2}{3}$ majority and above.

PENALTIES:

Any person who willfully fails to attend meeting shall be liable to pay K500.00 penalty fee.

RECORD KEEPING:

- Any sales of forestry produce shall be accompanied by receipts. No receipts no sales.
- The committee shall permit the sales of the forest produce from the Zawo Block and the treasurer shall issue receipts.
- The secretary at all the time record all the minutes of the meeting deliberations and keep them safely.
- The treasurer shall keep up dated financial records and in a transparent manner and be able to produce them anytime they are required.

MANAGEMENT OF ZAWO BLOCK:

Forest produce allowed to be collected from the Zawo Block include:

- poles
- dry firewood
- mushroom
- fruits (masuku)
- medicine
- grass
- mapala (caterpillars)

PROHIBITED OPERATIONS IN ZAWO BLOCK

- setting fires
- live tree cutting
- prospecting and gemstone mining
- honey collection without a permit
- charcoal burning

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES:

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| - Burning charcoal | - | K 5,000.00 |
| - Setting fires | - | K20,000.00 |
| - Collecting honey | - | K 5,000.00 |
| - Collecting firewood (ngolo) | - | K 5,000.00 |
| - 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 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 firewood from the block
- Sales of poles from the block
- Licensing of other products from the block.

Annex 2. Agreed Roles and Responsibilities for Implementation of Zawo Block

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibility
Village headman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling for community gathering on developmental issues • Making village meetings • Solving village cases • Receiving village developments • Receiving and keeping strangers
Block Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the block according to management plan • Making village nurseries • Screefing Zawo Block boundaries • Receiving forestry visitors • Patrolling in the village forest area • Coordinating forestry matters to the village people
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calling meetings • Making committee meetings • Opening and closing meetings • Representing the village head in his absence • Looking after nurseries
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording meeting minutes and reading them • Keeping records of meetings items • Writing letters to where they are supposed to. • Writing what is coming in and going out
Treasurer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping funds raised and items • Record keeping • Recording cash coming in and out --Keeping records of whatever they are having
Committee member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping in all committee discussions • Intermediator between the committee and the community • Doing all the work which may be there together with the committee and the community
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting trees • Screefing Block boundary • Helping in fire fighting • Committee election • Helping in doing nursery work
VDC/ADC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They call for village development • Making village rules • They are intermediary between village and Assembly
TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming developmental issues • Making rules of the village

Annex 3:

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF ZAWO BLOCK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson	:	M ^c Donald Gausi
Vice	:	Kevison Gausi
Secretary	:	Stanley Chulu
Vice	:	Patricia Khoswe
Treasurer	:	Francis Nkhata
Members	:	Kelington Nyirenda Susan Banda Eneti Manda Maggie Bulukutu Bina Gausi

Annex 4. Benefit sharing arrangement

A Community Development Fund shall be established for sharing the benefits (accruing from the Reserve) within the four (4) 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.