

MTANGATANGA FOREST RESERVE

CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MUTUWANJOBVU BLOCK

M'MBELWA DISTRICT COUNCIL



Prepared by: GVH Thomas Mhinji, Wider Communities, Department of Forestry

Supported by: GoM/EU Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (IFMSLP)



JANUARY 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Mtangatanga Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Forest Area.....	2
2.1 Location/Boundary.....	2
2.2 Location Map of Mtangatanga Mutuwanjobvu Block 4.....	2
2.3 Tenure.....	3
2.4 Forest Description.....	3
2.5 Forest Uses and Users.....	3
2.6 Social Description.....	3
3. Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Plan	4
3.1 General Objectives.....	4
3.2 Specific Objectives.....	4
3.3 Forest Management Units.....	4
3.4 Map of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 with FMU:s and Uses.....	5
3.5 Resource Rules.....	6
3.6 Available Forest Resources.....	7
3.7 Management Plans for Each Use.....	11
3.8 Activity Plan.....	15
3.9 Patrolling Plan.....	16
3.10 Monitoring Plan.....	16
3.11 Financial Issues.....	16
4. Management Authority and Time Frame.....	17
5. Forestry Co-management Agreement.....	18
Annex 1: Constitution and By-Laws of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee.....	22
Annex 2: Agreed Roles and Responsibilities for Implementation of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4.....	26
Annex 3: Names of Members of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee.....	27
Annex 4: Benefit Sharing and Arrangement.....	28

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

Acknowledgement

GVH Thomasi Mhinji and the wider communities would like to thank the Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (IFMSLP) for funding the development of the Mtangatanga Forest Reserve Co-Management Plan for Mutuwanjobvu Block 4. Thanks are also extended to staff from Mzimba District Forestry Office (DFO), under the Department of Forestry (DoF) for the facilitation and technical input into all processes leading to the development of this plan.

Lastly, the committed and untiring efforts by the Mutuwanjobvu Management Committee for Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 of GVH Thomas Mhinji are also acknowledged throughout the development of the Plan.

1. Introduction

Mtangatanga Forest Reserve was created in 1948 for protecting the water catchments 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 Mtangatanga Impact Area is a long-term plan with a broad perspective to bring about sustainable management of forest goods and services in and around Mtangatanga 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 Mutuwanzjobvu Block 4 in Mtangatanga Forest Reserve which is in line with Mtangatanga 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 Mtangatanga 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 Mtangatanga Forest Reserve.

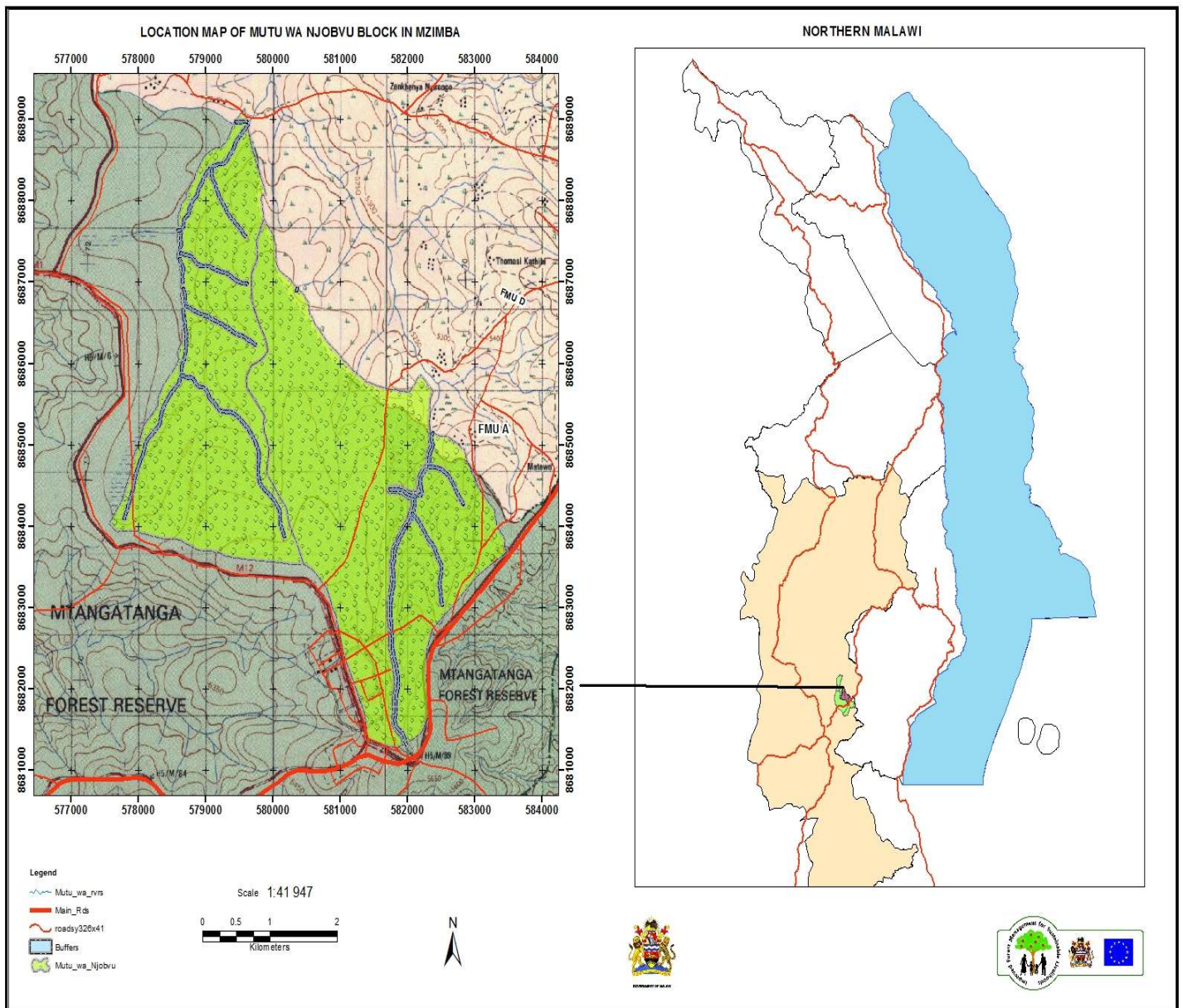
The Mutuwanzjobvu Block 4 Co-Management Plan is based on objectives 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Mtangatanga SFAP. The strategic plan divides the forest reserve into six blocks.

2. Mtangatanga Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Forest Area

2.1 Location/Boundary

Mtangatanga Forest Reserve has an area of 9,770 hectares and is situated in Mzimba District within Chikangawa Extension Planning Area (EPA), Traditional Authorities Kampingo Sibande and Mzikubola, along the M9 Mzimba – Kafukule road about 12 kilometers north of Mzimba Boma. It is a relatively flat area in northern part while to the south ranges from gentle to step slope, which lies at an altitude of 1,627 meters above sea level.

2.2 Location Map of Mtangatanga Mutuwanjobvu Block 4



2.3 Tenure

Mtangatanga forest is a government forest reserve gazetted in 1958.

2.4 Forest Description

The total area of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 is **1,849.39** 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. A greater part of the block is a secondary forest as a result of illegal activities on a large scale. Timber trees are available but with small diameter class, trees for firewood and poles are abundant. The dominant trees in the block are *Brachystegia spp*, *Julbernardia globiflora* and *Uapaca kirkiana*. Protected species such as *Syzygium cordatum*, *Faurea spp* and *Bridelia micrantha* are also available and growing especially along the riverbanks the dambo areas. The soils are sandy-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 Thomas Mhinji are the primary users of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4. 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 Thomas Mhinji comprise the following fourteen villages which are involved in Mutuwabjobvu Block 4; Thomas Mhinji, Simeon Mguntha, Kamunthewezi Dombola, Makantha Chirwa, Chimasura Chirwa, James Lupeska, Zakeyo Mhinji, Loti Mguntha, Masoghambeta Kamanga, Solomon Nkhata, Tymon Muva, Yesaya Banda, Batimeyo Ndhlovu, Yakhobe Mulunda. The total number of households is 529. 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: subsistence farming, sale of forest products, livestock production, small scale businesses and piece work.

3. Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Co-Management Plan

3.1 General Objectives

To sustainably co-manage Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 in Mtangatanga 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 and medicinal plants.
- To improve tree planting and maintain soil and water availability

3.3 Forest Management Units

There are 4 distinct management units in Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 with a total area of **1,849.39** hectares as follows:

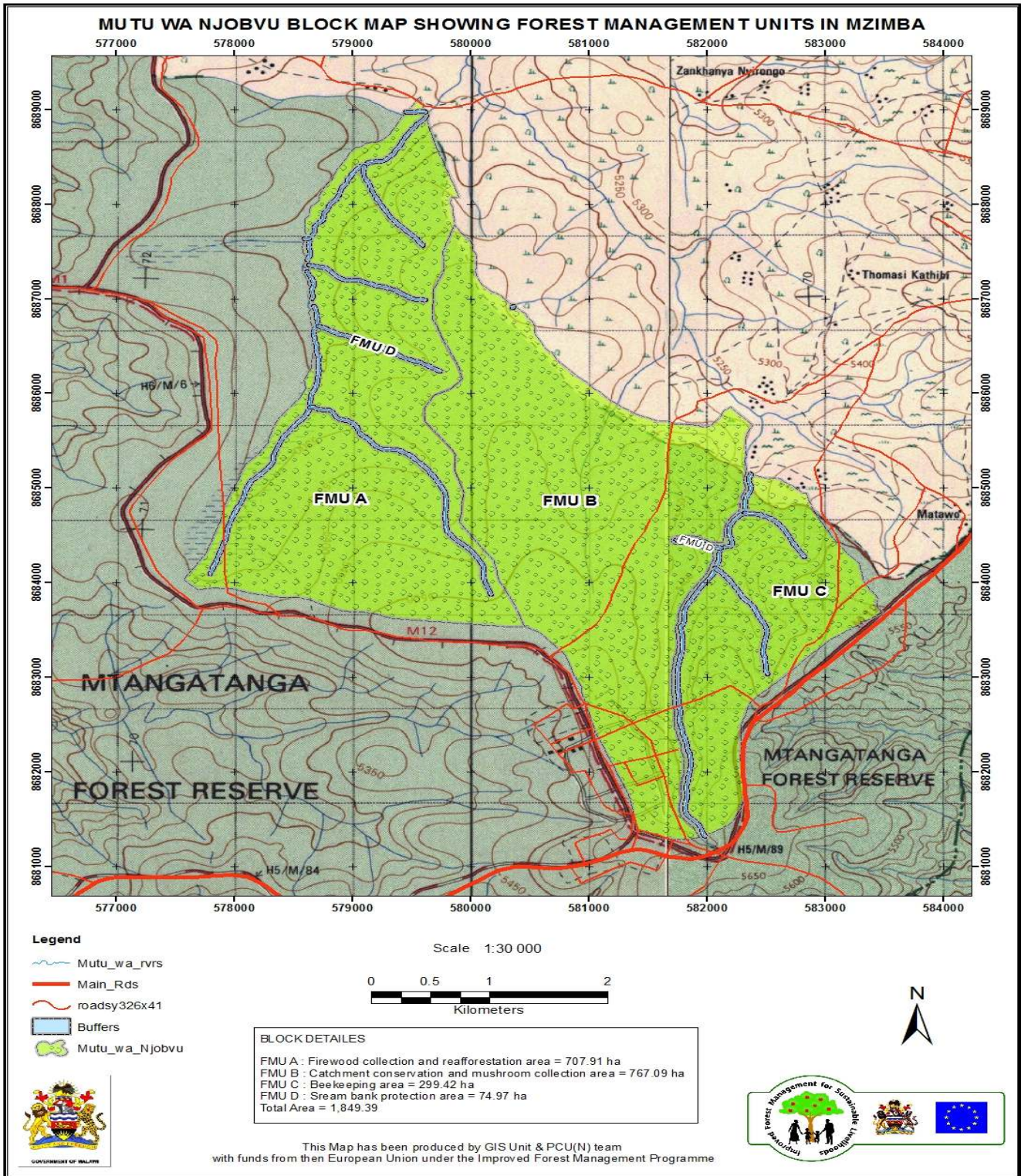
FMU A: Firewood Collection and Reafforestation Area. The unit of **707.91** hectares shall be used for collecting dry and dead wood only, poles and reafforestation purposes.

FMU B: Catchment Conservation and Mushroom Collection Area. The unit has an area of **767.09** hectares and shall mainly be used for conservation. The unit also serves a purpose for mushroom and wild fruit collection.

FMU C: Bee Keeping Area. The unit is **299.42** hectares and shall mainly be used for honey production.

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 **74.97** hectares.

3.4 Map of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 with FMUs and Uses



3.5 Resource Rules

No	Resource Rules	Within Mutuwanjobvu Block 4	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 K10,000 as stipulated in the Forestry Act or one goat.
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 one half times the value of tree(s) cut as stipulated in the Schedule of Forestry Royalties in force 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 K100 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 lord followed by confiscating the product.
4	No setting of bush fires	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of setting bush fires shall pay a fine of K20, 000 twice as much of the Forestry Act.
5	Everyone shall participate in any Block forestry activity such as: ■ Firebreak maintenance ■ Block patrols	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of refusing to participate in any Block forestry activity shall pay a fine of K400 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	Anyone found grazing without a permit shall pay a fine as per the Forest Act.
8	Charcoal burning is prohibited in the block	Applicable	Any person found guilty of burning charcoal in the block shall pay a fine of K30,000 and the charcoal confiscated.
9	Settling in the block is prohibited	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of settling in a Block shall be evicted and prosecuted in court of law . The structures shall be demolished.
10	Cultivating in the Block is prohibited	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of cultivating in the Block shall pay a fine of K100,000 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 confiscate the product.
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 K1,000 and bee hives confiscated.
13	Mushroom collection for domestic use is free with written permission from the committee	Applicable	Mushroom collection is allowed from the Block freely by the surrounding community, but for sale shall attract a fee of K 100 per small basin and K500 per 20 litres pail
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.
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 for domestic use but for sale shall attract a fee of K100 per small basin for the owners and K200 per small basin for outsiders
16	Hunting is prohibited	Applicable	Any person found guilty of hunting in the block shall pay a fine of K5,000
17	Collection of dambo sand is free on written permission from the committee.	Applicable	Dambo sand collection is free but for sale shall attract a fee of K 1,500 per tonne.

3.6 Available Forest Resources

In the following is presented calculations of:

- Harvestable area in Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 (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 Domestic and Commercial Fees (Table 6)
- Forest Management Costs (Table 7)
- Estimated Annual Cash Flow for Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 (Table 8)

The calculations are based on interviews with Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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 Mutuwanjobvu Block 4.

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 59 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	1,849.39	
Unharvestable area (FMUs B, C and D)	1,141.48	This area comprises of stream banks protection, catchment conservation, honey production and the buffer zone.
Estimated Harvestable Area of Block (FMU A)	707.91	This is the area where fuel wood, pole and timber harvesting apply

Table 2 shows the estimated availability of different products, based on sample plot data, for harvesting carried out in a 59 ha coupe.

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

Product Name	Use	Total/ha	Available In 59 ha
Mbalabala	Rafters (small)	250	14,750
Mapaso	House poles (medium)	200	11,800
Michiko/Migololo	Ridge Pole (large)	100	5,900
Mphanda	Roof supporting poles	225	13,275
Sito	Purlins (small)	175	10,325
Matabwa	Timber tree (only regenerants)	n.a	n.a
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	150	8,850
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood (head loads)	765	45,135

The total number of households represented by the block management committee is 529. Table 3 calculates the annual domestic forest product requirements of these 529 households.

Table 3: Domestic Forest Product Requirements

Product Name	Use	Annual requirement per household	Annual requirement for all 529 households
Mbalabala	Small poles for rafters	63 ¹	33,327 pieces
Mapaso	House poles (small)	5 ²	2,645 pieces
Michiko	Large poles (ridge pole)	0.75 ³	397 pieces
Mphanda	Roof supporting poles	3.2 ⁶	1,693 pieces
Sito	Purlins (roof sticks)	27 ⁴	14,283 pieces
Matabwa	Timber tree	n.a	n.a.
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	1.6 handles ⁵	846 pieces
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood	144 headloads	76,176 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 59 ha coupe for FMU A. 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 4 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 4: Forest Product Availability

Name	Domestic requirement for 529 households	Amount available from annual 59 ha (FMU A) coupes	Surplus (+) or shortage (-)
Mbalabala (small poles)	33,327	14,750	-18,577
Mapaso (medium poles)	2,645	11,800	+ 9,155
Michiko (large poles)	397	5,900	+5,503
Mphanda (roof supporting poles)	1,693	13,275	+11,582
Sito (roof sticks)	14,283	10,325	-3,958
Matabwa (timber trees)	n.a	n.a	n.a
Mipini (hoe handles)	846	8,850	+8,004
Nkhuni Dry	76,176	45,135	-31,041

The Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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

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.

⁶ 16 pieces required for one house that last for 5 years

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 5: Collection/harvesting Fees for Different Products

Product Name	Domestic	Commercial
Mbalabala (small poles)	MK 80	MK 85
Mapaso (medium poles)	MK 150 per pole	MK 300 per pole
Mgololo (large poles)	MK500 per pole	Mk1000 per pole
Michiko (large poles)	MK 300 per pole	MK 800 per pole
Sito (roof sticks)	MK 250 per bundle	MK 500 per bundle
Mphanda (roof supports)	MK100	MK 200 per pole
Mipini (hoe handles)	MK 100	MK 200 per handle
Nkhuni Dry (headloads)	Free collection	MK 350 per head load

Table 6: Projected Annual Income from Domestic and Commercial Fees

Product Name	Domestic sale (MK)	Commercial sale (MK)	Total income (MK)
Mbalabala	1,180,000	0	1,180,000
Mapaso	396,750	2,746,500	3,143,250
Michiko	119,100	4,402,400	4,521,500
Mphanda	169,300	2,316,400	2,485,700
Sito	2,581,250	0	2,581,250
Mipini	84,600	1,600,800	1,685,400
Nkhuni Dry	0	0	
Nkhuni Green	n.a	n.a	n.a
TOTAL	4,531,000	11,066,100	15,597,100

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

The estimated total annual income is therefore about **MK 15,597,100**. 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 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 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/week	MK 300	156,000
Total			193,500

Based on the information from the previous tables, an estimated annual cash flow for Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 is shown in Table 11. 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 8: Estimated Annual Cash Flow for Mutuwanjobvu Block 4, Mtangatanga FR

Block Management Committee Account	MK	% of gross income
Domestic permits	4, 531, 000	
Commercial permits	11, 066,100	
Gross Income	15,597,100	100 %
Less shares to LFMB account and FDF (40% of commercial income)	4,426,440	
Gross income to Block Management Committee	11,170, 660	60%
Less nominal costs of forest management (labour inputs in kind)	193,500	
Effective Net Income	10,977,160	
<i>Average net income per ha</i>	<i>186,053.56</i>	
<i>Average net income per household</i>	<i>20,750.76</i>	
Local Forest Management Board Account		
Income from Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 co-management block (10%)	1,559,710	
Income to LFMB	1,559,710	10%
Forest Development Fund (FDF)		
Income from Golong'ondo Block 3 co-management Block (30%)	4,679,130	
Income to FDF	4,679,130	30%

3.7 Management Plans for Each Use

FMU A

Forest Product	Dry Fuelwood – for domestic use only
Key Species	<i>Mhana, Msankhanya, Mlama, Mtondo, Mpapa, Chitonyololo, Chilwembe, mvula, chiyere</i>
Demand	Dry Fuelwood – High
Supply	Dry Fuelwood – low
Problems/Issues	Dry Fuelwood – availability is too low to meet the demand - Uncontrolled fires
Management Practices	Collecting firewood will be selective in the FMU A only Dry fuelwood for domestic purposes will be done in annual 59 ha coupe and 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 31,041 head loads of dry fuel wood in Mutuwanjovu Block 4 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 45,135 head loads of fuel wood can be found in each annual 59 ha coupe, against 76,176 head loads required to meet the demand.
Permits	No fees. Permission must be granted by the BMC

FMU A

Forest Product	Poles
Key Species	<i>Mpapa, Masuku, Mtondo, mkalati</i>
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.

Allowable area and quantity per year

Poles can be extracted in FMU A according to coupe rotation.

According to sample plot data approximately 9,155 mapaso pole trees and 5,503 michiko pole trees can be harvested annually for commercial purposes (after domestic needs have been deducted) in each 59 ha coupe.

The annual harvesting of mapaso for domestic use is 2,645 trees and 9,155 for commercial purposes.

The annual harvesting of michiko for domestic use is 397 trees and 5,503 for commercial purposes.

Fees

Mapaso pole-size trees for domestic use will attract a fee of K150 per pole and michiko pole-size trees K300. For mapaso this means an income of K396,750 and for michiko K 119,100.

Mapaso for commercial purposes will attract a fee of K 300 and michiko K800. For mapaso this means an income of K 2,746,500 and for michiko K 4,402,400.

FMU A

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, 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 A, which means that there will be no harvesting of timber trees for the next 15 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	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 growing period. Over grazing, uncontrolled bush fires
Management Practices	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 Mutuwanjobvu Block 4.
Fees royalties	Those outside shall pay K500 per permit which allows collection of 1 pail.
FMU B	
Forest Product	Honey
Key Species	Flowering trees such as <i>Periostigma thoningii</i> , <i>Syzygium cordatum</i> , <i>Faurea</i> species and <i>Brachystegia</i> spp.
Demand	High
Supply	Low
Problems/issues	Lack of beehives means that supply is not met. 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 from the Block Management Committee and a registry kept of users. Beehives shall 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 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 FMUs	
Forest Product	Medicinal Plants
Key Species	<i>Muyokayoka, Muzakaka, Mguzabango, Mlombe, Mpokwa, Msolo, Msefu</i>
Demand	Medium
Supply	Medium
Problems/issues	Poor harvesting practices (over-debarking, uprooting, etc.).
Management Practices	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 harvested coupes 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	If commercial users want to access the block then they shall pay a yearly license fee of K500 per bundle. 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"> • Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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"> • Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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 • Planting • Weeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hoes, axes, ropes, picks, planting trowel, containers, pangas and tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee and community members, Front Line Staff 	December-April
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"> • Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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 	<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, rudders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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"> • Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee, community, members and Forestry Front Line Staff 	January-December
NO	ACTIVITY	TASK	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TIME FRAME

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"> Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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"> Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee and community members 	January-December
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 	January-December
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"> Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee 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 utilize 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. Management Authority and Time Frame

The forest resources of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 in Mtangatanga Forest Reserve shall be managed by the Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee, together with Forestry Department Staff, GVH Thomas Mhinji, which fall under Traditional Authority Kapingo Sibande. The Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee is an official body registered with M'belwa District Council.

The management plan of Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 starts when it has been endorsed to by all relevant stakeholders and will be monitored monthly. Reviewing period will be after 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 **Thomas Mhinji, Simeon Mguntha, Kamunthwezi Dombola, Makantha Chirwa, Chimasura Chirwa, James Lupeska, Zakeyo Mhinji, Loti Mguntha, Masoghambeta Kamanga, Solomon Nkhata, Tymon Muva, Yesaya Banda, Batimeyo Ndhlovu, Yakhobe Mulunda** villages of Traditional Authority Kampingo Sibande in Mzimba District represented by **Mutuwanjobvu BLOCK 4 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 **MTANGATANGA FOREST RESERVE – BLOCK 4**, 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 **Thomas Mhinji, Simeon Mguntha, Kamunthwezi Dombola, Makantha Chirwa, Chimasura Chirwa, James Lupeska, Zakeyo Mhinji, Loti Mguntha, Masoghambeta Kamanga, Solomon Nkhata, Tymon Muva, Yesaya Banda, Batimeyo Ndhlovu, Yakhobe Mulunda** 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 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.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS

- 4. In particular the Forest department 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 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.

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 (MUTUWANJOBVU BLOCK 4)

Dated:.....

WITNESS:.....

VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Dated:.....

Dated:.....

DISTRICT COMMISSIOER

CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dated:.....

Dated:.....

Annex 1

Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Constitution and By-Laws

NAME: Mutuwanjobvu Co-Management Block 4 Committee

ADDRESS: C/O Kathibi Primary School
P.O. Box 2
Chikangawa
Mzimba

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE:

- To get our benefits from the Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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 Mutuwanjobvu Co-Management Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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 Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Committee.
6. Create and promote I.G.A's related to forest related activities.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All citizens under GVH Thomas Mhinji,
- 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 three (3) 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 on theft grounds, not being active in the committee and upon displaying bad behavior. This will be done after warning such person more than two (2) 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 K50.00 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 Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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 MUTUWANJOBVU BLOCK 4

Forest produce allowed to be collected from the Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 include:

- poles
- timber
- dry firewood
- mushroom
- medicine
- grass
- mapala (caterpillars)
- Fruits

PROHIBITED OPERATIONS IN MUTUWANJOBVU BLOCK 4:

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

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES:

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

- Burning charcoal - K 30,000.00
- Setting fires - K20,000.00
- Collecting honey - K 500.00
- Collecting firewood (ngolo) - K 2,500.00
(2 tonner vehicle)- K5, 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.

USE OF RESOURCES FOUND IN THE BLOCK

- Buying of plates used during funerals
- Maintenance of school blocks
- Assisting orphans, the elderly, widows and HIV + people
- During community functions

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 Mutuwanjobvu Block 4

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
Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the block according to management plan • Making village nurseries • Screefing Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 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 4 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 Mutuwanjobvu Block 4 Management Committee

Chairman	:	Amosi Banda
Vice	:	Beatrice Nyasulu
Secretary	:	Winfry Chirwa
Vice	:	Agnes Hara
Treasurer	:	Jane Mulunda
Members	:	Kennedy Chirwa Mateyo Banda Jona Nkhata Cecilia Chirwa Lincy Ngulube

Annex 4.

Benefit Sharing Arrangements

A Community Development Fund shall be established for sharing the benefits (accruing from the Reserve) within the fourteen (14) villages. Details of the benefit sharing arrangements are described below;

- a) **7%** will be a contribution to community developments 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 to 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 operational costs to enable the BMC and Community Members perform their functions under the Co-Management Agreement, constitution and Registration Agreement.
- f) **10%** will be allocated to buy livestock ie chickens as a pass on programme.
- g) **2%** shall be retained in the BMC Bank Account.