

MTANGATANGA FOREST RESERVE CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 1B

M'MBELWA DISTRICT COUNCIL



Prepared by: GVH Grandwell Lukhere Wider Communities
Department of Forestry

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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

Acknowledgement

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Lastly, the committed and untiring efforts by the Thundwe Management Committee for Block 1b of GVH Grandwell Lukhere Villages throughout the development of the Plan is also greatly acknowledged.

1. Introduction

Mtangatanga Forest Reserve was created in 1948 for the main purpose of protecting the water catchment for agricultural activities and to conserve the forest with its flora and fauna 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 nation's 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 the Mtangatanga Impact Area.

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, and set of management objectives and strategic actions carefully developed and defined with regard to the reserve's wider environmental significance rather than to the demand of products and services it might yield.

This document describes the Co-management Plan for Block 1b 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.

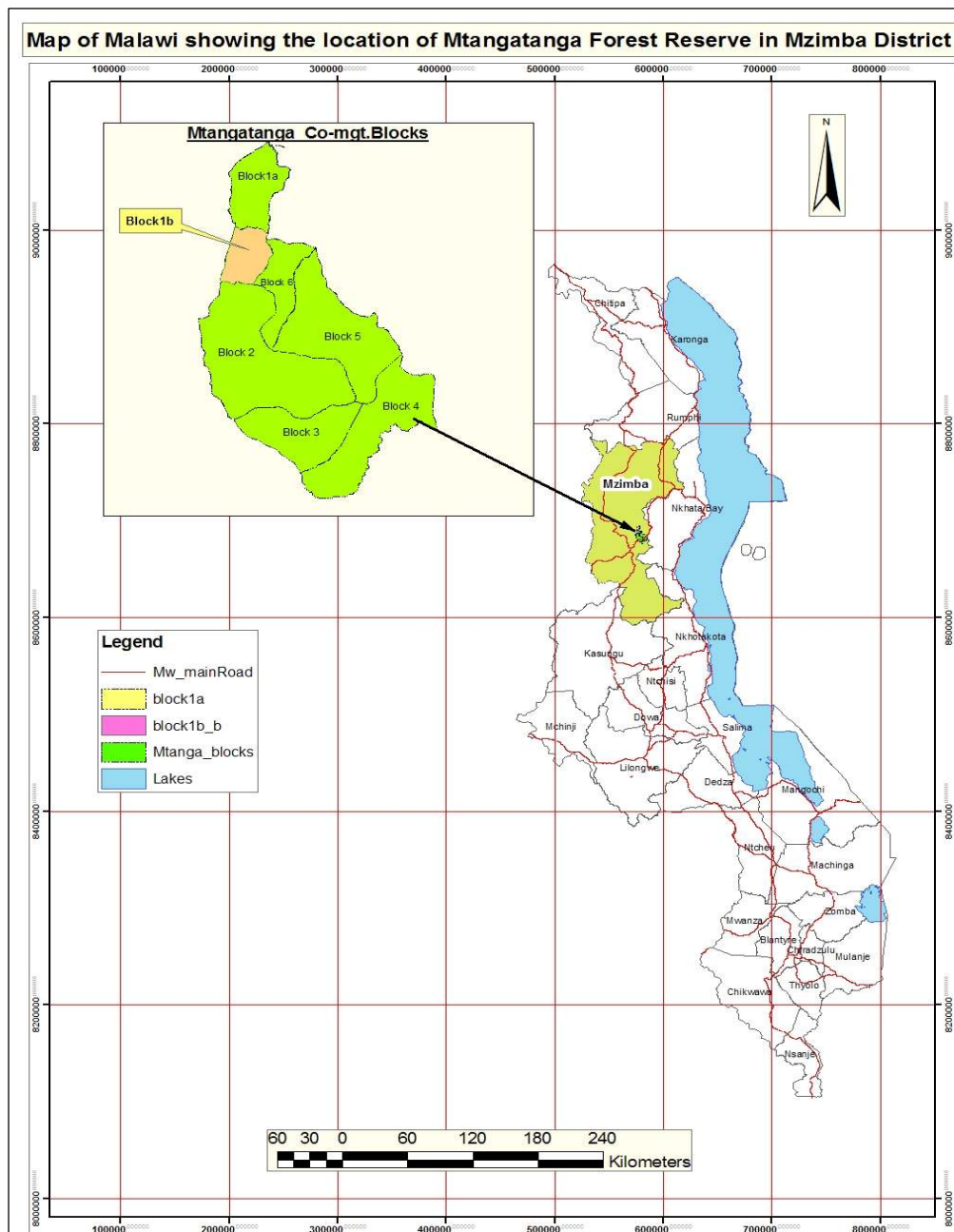
The Block 1b Co-Management Plan is based on objectives 2 and 3 in the Mtangatanga Strategic Forest Area Plan. The strategic plan divides the forest reserve into six blocks.

2. Mtangatanga Block 1b Forest Area

2.1 Location/Boundary

The Mtangatanga Forest Reserve has an area of 9,770 hectares and is situated in Mzimba District in 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 which lies at an altitude of 1,627 meters above sea level.

2.2 Location Map of Mtangatanga Block 1b



2.3 Tenure

The Mtangatanga forest is a government forest reserve gazetted in 1958.

2.4 Forest Description

The total area of the Block 1b is 477.64 hectares. The forest is a typical 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 therefore not available to any significant extent, but 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 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

Community members from the GVH Grandwell Lukhere villages are the primary users of Block 1b. All users must have authority from the Block 1b Management Committee to collect/harvest forest products.

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

2.6 Social Description

GVH Grandwell Lukhere comprises the following seven villages which are involved in Block 1b; Grandwell Lukhere, Hannock Lukhere, Kajani Muva, Vwalapachanya Lukhere, Mateyu Lukhere, Mzungunuka Mphande and Gideon Mchulu. The total number of households is 111. 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 (21%), 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. Block 1b Co-Management Plan

3.1 General Objectives

To sustainably co-manage Block 1b in Mtangatanga Forest Reserve to supply forest products, social and ecological services to meet the diverse needs of the communities.

3.2 Specific Objectives

- To sustainably utilise 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 protect the water catchment for downstream agricultural activities.
- To empower surrounding communities to actively participate in the sustainable management of Block 1b.

3.3 Forest Management Units

There are 4 distinct management units in Block 1b with a total area of 477.64 hectares.

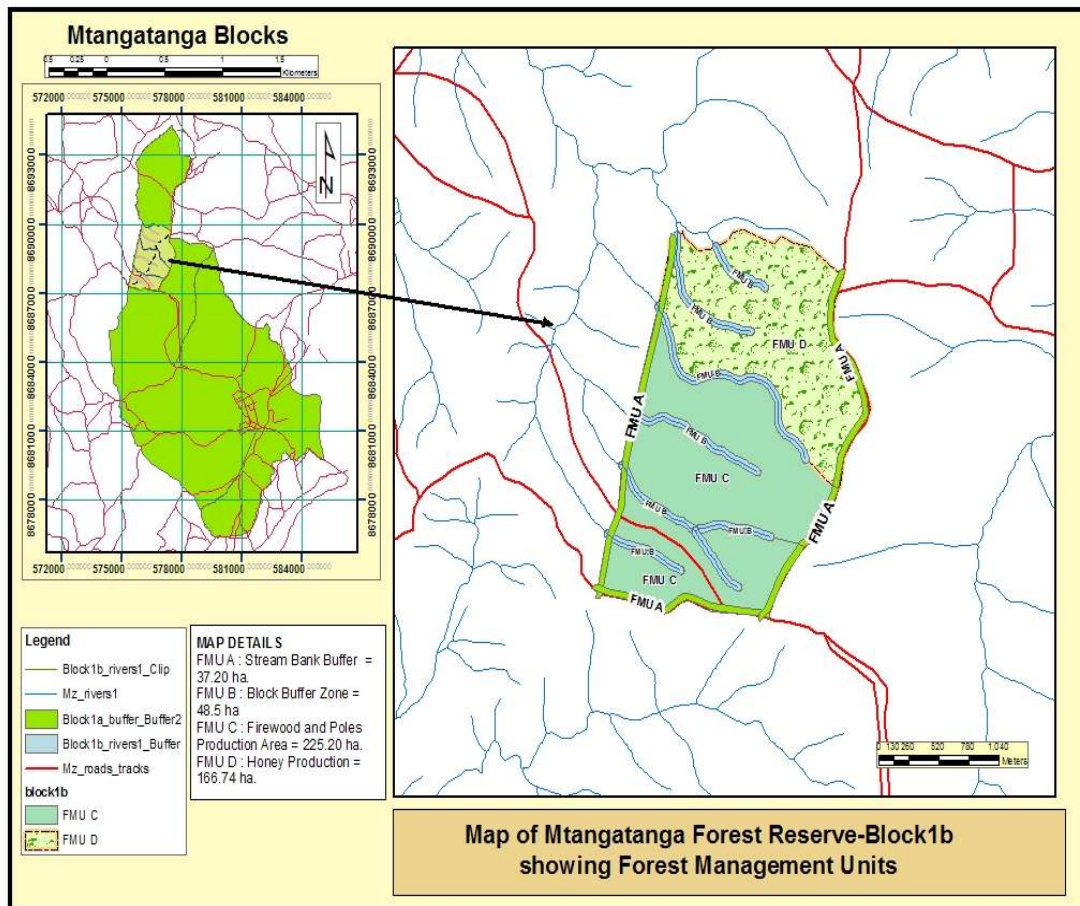
FMU A: Stream Bank Protection. The unit is set aside for water catchment protection. A strip of 20 meters on each side of streams shall be left intact. The total protected area is 37.20 hectares.

FMU B: Block 1b Buffer Zone. The purpose of the unit is to leave a strip of 50 meters intact around the boundary of the block where no cutting of trees shall be allowed in order to protect the block from encroaching by surrounding communities. The unit has an area of 48.50 hectares.

FMU C: Firewood and Poles Production. The unit of 225.20 hectares shall be used for collecting in coupes dry firewood and has a potential for poles extraction.

FMU D: Honey Production. The unit has an area of 166.74 hectares and shall mainly be used for honey production. The unit also serves as a reserve for future production of timber, firewood and poles.

3.4 Map of Block 1b with FMU:s and Uses



3.5 Resource Rules

No	Resource Rules	Within Block 1b	Penalty
1	No cutting of live trees from the Block	Cutting of live trees is strictly prohibited and will be monitored by the Block Management Committee	Anyone found guilty of cutting green trees in the Block shall pay a fine of K5000 as stipulated in the Forest Act. Or one goat
2	No sawing of timber is allowed in the Block	Timber sawing in Block is prohibited and will be monitored by Block Management Committee	Anyone found guilty of sawing timber in Block shall pay a fine of K5,000 or pay one goat and confiscated timber by the Block Committee.
3	Dry wood will be collected free for community members. Outsiders shall pay a fee with permit from the Block Management Committee	Applicable	Anyone outsider found guilty of collecting firewood without permit shall pay a fine of K2,000.
4	No setting of bush fires	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of setting bush fires shall pay a fine of K3,000.
5	Everyone shall participate in any Block forestry activity	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of refusing to participate in any Block forestry

Mtangata Forest Reserve Co-Management Plan for Block 1b

	such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Firebreak maintenance ■ Block patrols 		activity shall pay a fine of K50 per working day
6	Thatch grass mowing is allowed freely	Applicable	Thatch grass mowing is allowed freely with permission from the Block Management Committee
7	Grazing of livestock is allowed freely 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	Hunting is prohibited	Applicable	Any person found guilty of hunting in the block shall pay a fine of K2,000
9	Settling in the block is prohibited	Applicable	Anyone found guilty of settling in a Block shall pay a fine of K2.000
10	Cultivating in the Block is prohibited	Applicable	Any one found guilty of cultivating in the Block shall pay a fine of K5,000 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 or the product will be confiscated.
12	No hanging of bee hives in Block without the permit of the Block Management Committee	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 or bee hives confiscated.
13	Mushroom collection is allowed freely	Applicable	Mushroom collection is allowed from the Block freely by the surrounding community
14	Collection of medicine is allowed by the surrounding communities except for commercial purposes	Applicable	Medicine collection is allowed freely on permission from the Block Management Committee. Commercial collection of medicine will attract a fee of K250 per bundle
15	Fruit collection is allowed freely 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:

- Harvestable area in Block 1b (Table 1)
- Estimate of Available Forest Resources (Table 2)
- Domestic forest product requirements (Table 3)
- Forest product availability (Table 4)
- Collection/harvesting Permit Fees For Different Products (Table 5)
- Projected Annual Income from Fees (Table 6)
- Forest Management Costs (Table 7)
- Estimated Annual Cash Flow for Block 1b (Table 8)

The calculations are based on interviews with Block 1b 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 Block 1b.

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. This means that there will be no clear cutting of green fuelwood in the block. In the same 20 ha coupes, timber trees shall be managed on a 30 year 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	477.64	
Unharvestable area (FMU A)	252.44	This comprises the areas for stream bank protection, the buffer zone and FMU D.
Estimated Harvestable Area of Block (FMU C)	225.20	This is the area to which fuelwood and pole harvesting apply

Table 2 shows the estimated availability of different products, based on sample plot data, for harvesting carried out in a 22 ha coupe.

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

Product Name	Use	Total/ha	Available In 22 ha
Mbalabala	Rafters (small)	0	0
Mapaso	House poles (medium)	200	4,400
Michiko/Migololo	Ridge Pole (large)	80	2,200
Sito	Purlins (small)	175	3,850
Matabwa	Timber tree (only regenerants)	25	550
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	0	0
Nkhuni Green	Green Firewood	1,525 (175 m ³)	33,550 (3,850 m ³)
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood (head loads)	63	1,386

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

The total number of households represented by the block management committee is 111. Table 3 calculates the annual domestic forest product requirements of these 111 households.

Table 3: Domestic Forest Product Requirements

Product Name	Use	Per household/yr (mean) ¹	Annual requirement for all 111 households
Mbalabala	Small poles for rafters	0.5 pieces ²	60 pieces
Mapaso	House poles (small)	5.5 pieces ³	600 pieces
Michiko	Large poles (ridge pole)	0.20 pieces ⁴	20 pieces
Sito	Purlins (roof sticks)	27 pieces	3,000 pieces
Matabwa	Timber tree	No domestic consumption	n.a.
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	3 handles	330 pieces
Nkhuni Green	Green Fuelwood	0.7 m ³	75 m ³
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood	156 headloads	17,316 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 a 22 ha coupe. Not all domestic forest product requirements will be harvested or collected from the co-management block. Some are more usually collected from other areas including adjacent customary land or private land as well as within Block 1b. 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 111 households	Amount available from annual 22 ha coupes	Surplus (+) or shortage (-)
Mbalabala (small poles)	60	0	- 60
Mapaso (medium poles)	600	4,400	+ 3,800
Michiko (large poles)	20	2,200	+ 2,180
Sito (roof sticks)	3,000	3,850	
Matabwa (timber trees)	0	(550)	(+ 550)
Mipini (hoe handles)	2,436	0	- 2,436
Nkhuni Green	657 75 m ³	33,550 (3,850 m ³)	+ 67,260 (3,775 m ³)

¹ For building materials (poles) it is assumed that each household has one house

² 500 pieces are required for one house that lasts for 8 years.

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

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

Name	Domestic requirement for 111 households	Amount available from annual 22 ha coupes	Surplus (+) or shortage (-)
Nkhuni Dry	17,316	1,386 headloads	- 15,930
Nkhowani (mushroom kg)	0	as required	0
Mankhwala (medicinal plants kg)	0	as required	0

The Block 1b 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 5: Collection/harvesting Fees For Different Products

Product Name	Domestic	Commercial
Mbalabala (small poles)	MK 50	MK 75
Mapaso (medium poles)	MK 50 per pole	MK 100 per pole
Michiko (large poles)	MK 150 per pole	MK 200 per pole
Sito (roof sticks)	MK 5 per stick	MK 10 per stick
Matabwa (timber trees)	N/A	N/A
Mipini (hoe handles)	N/A	N/A
Nkhuni Dry (headloads)	Free collection	MK 150 per headload
Nkhuni Green (m ³)	N/A	N/A

Table 6: Projected Annual Income from Domestic and Commercial Fees

Product Name	Domestic sale (MK)	Commercial sale (MK)	Total income (MK)
Mbalabala			0
Mapaso	30,000	380,000	410,000
Michiko	3,000	436,000	439,000
Matabwa (only regenerants)	0	0	0
Mipini	0	0	0
Nkhuni Dry	0	0	0
Nkhuni Green	0	0	0
TOTAL	33,000	816,000	849,000

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

The estimated total annual income is therefore about MK 849,000. 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 screefing (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 Block 1 b is shown in Table 8. This assumes that under the co-management model, 60% of the commercial fees and all the domestic fees will be retained in the block management account. 10% of the commercial fees will be transferred to the Local Forest Management Board account and 30% will be transferred to the Forest Development Fund held at national level.

Table 8: Estimated Annual Cash Flow for Block 1b, Mtangatanga FR

Block Management Committee Account	MK	% of gross income
Domestic permits	33,000	
Commercial permits	816,000	
Gross Income	849,000	100 %
Less shares to LFMB account and FDF (40% of commercial income)	326,400	
Gross income to Block Management Committee	509,400	60%
Less nominal costs of forest management (labour inputs in kind)	193,500	
Effective Net Income	315,900	
<i>Average net income per ha</i>	<i>14359.09</i>	
<i>Average net income per household</i>	<i>2845.94</i>	
Local Forest Management Board Account		
Income from Block 1b co-management block (10%)	84,900	
Income to LFMB	84,900	10%
Forest Development Fund (FDF)		
Income from Block 1b co-management Block (30%)	254,700	
Income to FDF	254,700	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 – Medium
Problems/Issues	Dry Fuelwood – Wildfires and wastage
Management Practices	Collecting firewood will be selective, only dry fuelwood will be collected from annual 22 ha coupes and shall take place from April to November each year. The first 3 annual blocks of 22 ha each shall be demarcated on the ground.

Only dry fuelwood will be allowed to be collected for domestic use.

According to sample plot data there is an annual shortage of about 15,930 headloads of dry fuelwood in Block 1b to meet the domestic demand of surrounding villages. Interviewed villagers stated that dry firewood is primarily collected from open access customary woodland.

Controlled early burning shall take place between May and June to promote successful regeneration of firewood species. Controlled burning shall be done every year in the remaining parts of Block 1b.

No cutting of live trees shall be done.

Allowable area and quantity per year

According to sample plot data about 724.09 ha of fuelwood can be harvested for sale in each annual 22 ha, which corresponds to about 15,930 head lords to meet the demand.

Permits

No fees.

FMU C

Forest Product

Poles

Key Species

Mpapa, Masuku, Mtondo.

Demand

Medium

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.

Every 2 years an assessment will be made of each harvested coupe to allow thinning of coppice shoots. Thinning will

commence 5 years after harvesting of coupes.

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 C according to coupe rotation (same coupes as for firewood).

According to sample plot data approximately 3,800 mapaso pole trees and 2,180 michiko pole trees can be harvested annually for commercial purposes (after domestic needs have been deducted) in each 22 ha coupe.

The annual harvesting of mapaso for domestic use is 600 trees, and 3,800 for commercial purposes.

The annual harvesting of michiko for domestic use is 20 trees and 2,180 for commercial purposes.

Fees

Mapaso pole-size trees for domestic use will attract a fee of K50 per pole and michiko pole-size trees K150. For mapaso this means an income of K30,000 and for michiko K3,000.

Mapaso for commercial purposes will attract a fee of K60,000 and michiko K436,000. For mapaso this means an income of K380,000 and for michiko.

FMU C

Forest Product

Timber

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 regenerants of timber trees are found in FMU C, which means that there will be no harvesting of timber trees for the next 30 years.

Enrichment planting of valuable indigenous species shall be done along stream banks and on open dambo areas.

Allowable area and

N/a

**quantity per year
Fees**

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 reduce the availability of mushrooms during growing period.

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 Block 1b.

Fees royalties

Those outside shall pay K10 per permit which allows collection of 1 basket.

All FMU:s (especially FMU D)

Forest Product

Honey

Key Species

Flowering trees such as *Syzygium cordatum*, and *Brachystegia* spp.

Demand

High

Supply

Low

Problems/issues

A 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 K100 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 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 K200 per permit. They must harvest within the resource rules.

3.8 Activity Plan

NO	ACTIVITY	TASK	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TIME FRAME
1	Harvesting of coupes for firewood, poles and timber.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marking of coupes • Marking for poles and timber trees • Cutting of firewood trees • Stacking in m³ • Transportation to roadside • Recording of volumes • Issuing of permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pangas, axes, bowsaws, chainsaws, oxcart, measuring tapes, paint for demarcation, books for record keeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block 1b 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"> • Block 1b 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"> • Block 1b 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"> • Block 1b 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"> • Block 1b 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papers, ballpoints, note 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block 1b Management 	January-

Mtangata Forest Reserve Co-Management Plan for Block 1b

	meetings	meetings	books	Committee, community, members and Forestry Front Line Staff	December
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"> Block 1b 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"> Block 1b 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"> Block 1b 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. Management Authority and Time Frame

The forest resources of Block 1b in Mtangatanga Forest Reserve shall be managed by the Block 1b Management Committee, together with Forestry Department Staff, for GVH Grandwell Lukhere villages, which fall under Traditional Authorities Kapingo Sibande and Mzikubola. The Block 1b Management Committee is an official body registered with the M'mbelwa District Assembly.

The management plan of Block 1b will become operational after endorsement by the relevant stakeholder and will be monitored monthly. Reviewing will be after 3 years.

Annex 1

Thundwe Block 1b Constitution and By-Laws

NAME: Thundwe Co-Management Block 1b Committee

ADDRESS: Thundwe JP School
C/O Chasato FP School
P.O. Box 8
Mzimba.

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE:

- To get our benefits from the block 1b 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 Thundwe Co-Management block 1b 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 Block 1b Committee.
6. Create and promote I.G.A's related to forest related activities.

ELIGIBILITY:

- All citizen of Thundwe,
- 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 secret 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 block 1b and the treasurer shall 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 BLOCK 1B:

Forest produce allowed to be collected from the block 1b include:

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

PROHIBITED OPERATIONS IN BLOCK 1B:

- setting fires
- tree cutting without a permit
- 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 | - | K2,000.00 |
| - Collecting honey | - | K1,000.00 |
| - 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 Block 1b

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 1b Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the block according to management plan • Making village nurseries • Screefing Block 1b 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 1 b 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 Block 1b Management Committee

Chairperson	:	Rose Mkandawire
Vice Chairperson	:	Silvester Chulu
Secretary	:	Happy Lukhere
Vice Secretary	:	Director Muva
Treasurer	:	Christina Zimba
Vice Treasurer	:	Edwin sakala
Members	:	Febi Nyirongo
		Getrude Chakwila
		Dally Moyo
		Sylvia Chulu

Annex 4. 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 **GVH Grandwell Lukhere** villages of Traditional Authority Kampingo Sibande in Mzimba District represented by **THUNDWE BLOCK 1B 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 - Thundwe block 1 b** 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 **GVH Grandwell Lukhere** 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 Mtangatanga 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.
- If for any reason the community finds itself unable or unwilling to continue with the activities of the designated forest area

Disputes

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

Mtangatanga Forest Reserve Co-Management Plan for Block 1b

Mtangatanga Forest Reserve Co-Management Plan for Block 1b

13. SIGNED

Dr. Dennis Karamba Zindzi
DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY

Dated: 17/06/2013

AND

Director G. Muya
CHAIRPERSON LOCAL FOREST ORGANISATION (GUDUGUDU BLOCK)

Dated: 10-6-2013

WITNESS: Edwin Sceda

Kajani Muya
VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN

Dated: 10-6-2013

[Signature]
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Dated: 10/06/13



[Signature]
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Dated: 10-06-2013

[Signature]
CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dated: 10-06-2013

