

NATIONAL

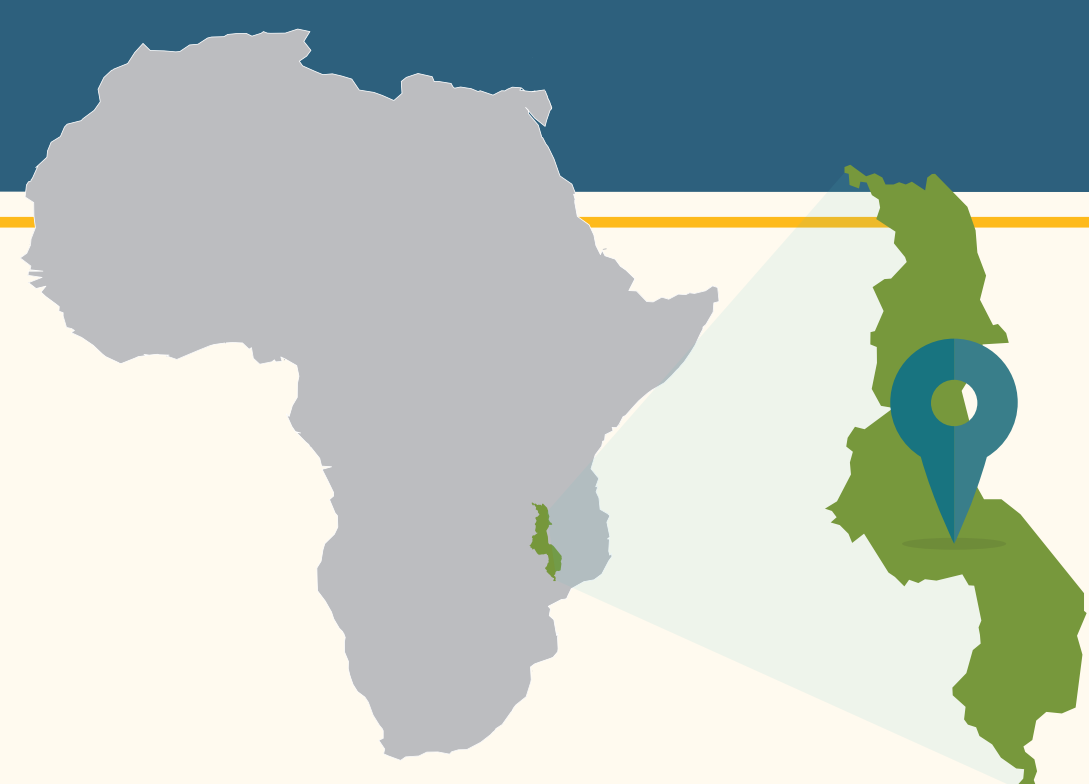
1. Department of Irrigation (DoI) and
2. Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) as the main implementing departments.
3. National Water Resources Authority,
4. Department of Forestry (DoF),
5. Land Resources Conservation Department (LRCD),
6. Department of Meteorological Services and Climate Change
7. Department of Agriculture and Extension Services (DAES)
8. Department of Agriculture Research Services (DARS)

LOCAL

1. Agricultural Extension and Development Officers (AEDO) and Agricultural Extension and Development Officers (AEDC) from DAES
2. Forestry Assistants from the Department of Forestry.
3. Catchment Area Management Committees (CAMCs),
4. Village Natural Resources Management Committees
5. Interim Waters Users Associations (WUAs).

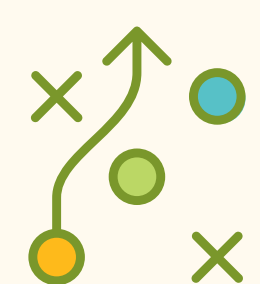
INTERNATIONAL

1. Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
2. ICRAF WHO played a big role in the implementation of Land Degradation Survey Framework (LDSF).
3. Biodiversity International



Farmers Enjoying multiple benefits of beekeeping

Authors: Felix Malamula (PRIDE); Khalani Makunje (DAES)



What approach did the team take to achieve the impact

Sites for conservation activities were identified. The sites were profiled by detailing the challenges they have related to conservation of the environment. Potential interventions to address the challenges were identified. Introduction of beekeeping to the communities was considered as one of the interventions. **The project has facilitated the promotion of beekeeping in all targeted sub catchments as an incentive for forest conservation with 646 households benefiting.** After engaging the communities, committees were formed and these include CAMC and VNRMCs. The committees formed Village Level Action Plans (VLAPs). It was at this level where the beekeeping intervention was conceived.



One of the approaches used was to train the household beneficiaries in honey production, group dynamics and business linkages. As part of the training, the farmers underwent training in honey production, beehive making among others. This has proven to be an effective way of forest conservation and a positive deterrent to forest degradation. This innovation is self-sustaining as incomes from the sale of honey is being used to upscale the enterprise. This approach has been adopted in PRIDE and has potential to be adopted in other projects in Malawi.



What impact did the effort have and on/for whom?



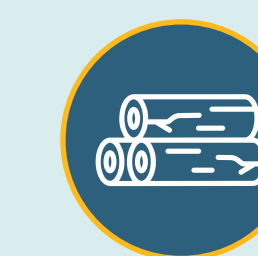
Individual incomes

Beneficiary farmers are finding beekeeping as the better alternative income source. Farmers are producing hundreds of kilograms of honey, which when they sell, they are getting a lot of money that is assisting them in their daily living.



Protection of the forests being regenerated

Burning and selling of charcoal meant more trees being cut. Efforts to save the trees was always going to be a challenge because the community members had no other sources of livelihood. Being a non-timber forest product means farmers are now earning a living through sustainable means while protecting the environment. Forest regeneration is now a possibility because the farmers want more forests to hang more beehives on. Additionally, the beneficiary farmers are jealously guarding the forests being regenerated knowing that their livelihoods are dependent on these



Hunger to own more woodlots

There is evidently more hunger amongst the beneficiary farmers to raise more woodlots where more beehives could be hung. Expectedly, more tree nurseries are being raised to produce more tree seedlings for planting.



What were the main ingredients that led to the impact?



Community-led

Beekeeping initiative as an intervention was led by the beneficiary farmers themselves with facilitation from extension workers. The committees that led the implementation comprised of members from the same communities. The community members felt some sense of ownership and therefore were in the forefront ensuring that the intervention does not fail to produce the desired results.



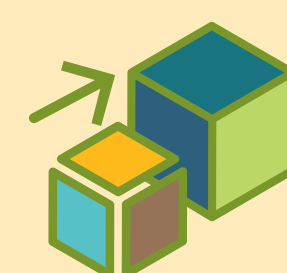
Motivation to have diversified income

The communities view bee keeping as an opportunity for easily diversifying their incomes because bee-keeping does not require high investment and is easy to manage. Bee-keeping also does not have any competing effect on farm land as it is done in the natural forest.



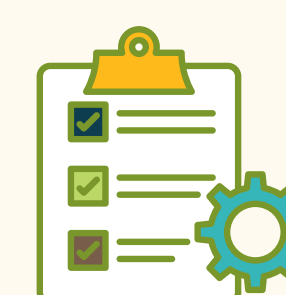
Good sensitisation of the community by extension workers

The farming community has seen a number of challenges including natural disasters, food insecurity and low income. Community sensitisation by extension staff capitalised on these lements by making the community realise that their situation could be improve by income diversification. This resulted in the communities to be agitated to improve their situation.



Where or under which circumstances could this effort be scaled?

- **The bee farmers need to be trained in book keeping and saving money.** Some of the money could be ploughed back into the enterprise and used as investment into additional beehives.
- **The Project should support the bee farmers with more equipment including bee suits, beehives and bee processing equipment** to scale up investment. This will improve the quality of the honey and therefore improve the price.
- **There is need for establishing links with big offtakers in towns** to make sure there always ready market for the honey.
- Once the enterprise has been well established, there is **need to form a cooperative.**



What are the main lessons that were learned? What would you advise others?

Community-led initiatives are bound to succeed

The beekeeping intervention in the three ERASP districts of Machinga, Phalombe and Karonga was initiated by the extension workers (AEDO/AEDC and Forestry Assistants). However, community committees responsible for conservation of the environment were in the forefront implementing this intervention.

Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs), Catchment Area Management Committees (CAMCs) are committees composed of beneficiary farmers themselves. An intervention whose implementation has the targeted communities at the forefront with bear fruits because the communities feel a sense of ownership.