

PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE

CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CHILING'OMA BLOCK

M'MBELWA DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Acronyms

ADC	Area Development Committee
BMC	Block Management Committee
CBO	Community Based Organisation
DFO	District Forestry Office(r)
DoF	Director of Forestry
EPA	Extension Planning 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
LFO	Local Forestry Organisation
PCU	Programme Coordination Unit
PIU	Programme Implementation Unit
PFMP	Participatory Forestry Management Plan
PMU	Programme Management Unit
SFAP	Strategic Forest Area Plan
TA	Traditional Authority
VDC	Village Development Committee
VFA	Village Forest Area
VH	Village Headman
VNRMC	Village Natural Resources Management Committee

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Lastly, the commitment and untiring efforts by the Mnyukuzi Block Management Committee are also acknowledged throughout the development of the Plan.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Perekezi forest reserve was established in 1933 for protecting catchment areas in order to supply water 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 viewed as a viable option for managing the reserve. This however, requires that management objectives of the reserve are defined and a 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 the reduction of poverty and the conservation of forests in Malawi. The purpose of the programme is to improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities through the participatory management of forests both in forest reserves and on customary land by implementation of the National Forestry programme (NFP). In Mzimba, the programme is implemented in Perekezi and Mtangatanga Impact Areas. The Strategic Forest Area Plan (SFAP) for Perekezi impact area is a long-term plan with a broad perspective to bring about sustainable management of forest goods and services in and around Perekezi forest reserve for improved and equitable livelihoods of the surrounding communities. The SFAP provides the vision, set of management objectives and strategic actions carefully developed and defined with regard to the reserve's wider environmental significance rather than the demand of products and services it might yield.

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

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

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

The Mnyukuzi Block co-management plan is based on objectives 3, 4 and 5 in the Perekezi strategic forest area plan. The strategic plan divides the forest reserve into twelve blocks for co-managing the reserve. The Blocks follow natural features, mostly water catchment areas, and are further linked to particular GVH areas for ease of administration.

CHAPTER 2. MNYUKUZI BLOCK FOREST AREA

2.1 Location/Boundary

Mnyukuzi Block 4 is located on the north-western corner of Perekezi forest reserve. It is bordered by block 3 to the south and block 5 to the east. It has an area of 890 hectares and is situated in Manyamula Extension Planning Area (EPA) within Traditional Authority Mzikubola in Mzimba District. It forms borders with Kazomba EPA to the east, Mbawa EPA to the south and Mujinge EPA to the west. Mharaunda river delineates the boundary on the western side of the block and Mirara river forms the boundary to the east adjacent with block 5. The major access road is Chigude - Emazwini – Thoza road. Mnyukuzi Block which is close to Emazwini trading centre is located 17 kilometers west of Mzimba Boma.

2.2 Tenure

Perekezi forest reserve is a government forest reserve which was declared a protected forest area and gazetted in 1933 with an objective of protecting the water catchment. This means that both the land and resources within Mnyukuzi Block belong to and are rightfully managed by government of Malawi through the Forestry Department.

2.3 Forest Description

The forest within the block is classified as a typical miombo woodland, similar with the rest of Perekezi forest reserve. It is composed of various tree species of different age and sizes classes. The block is almost a secondary forest as a result of illegal tree cutting activities on a large scale within the reserve. Timber tree species are available but mainly consist of small diameter class, trees for poles and dry fuelwood for firewood are relatively more 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 classified as ferralsols, acrisols, nitosols composed of kaolinite and quartz, enriched in iron and aluminium oxides. Sandy-clay soil dominate on the upper areas with some alluvial soils on the banks of the streams running through the block. The Block lies on a relatively flat area at an altitude of 1,627 meters above sea level.

The climate is classified as humid subtropical with dry winter and hot summer. Maximum temperature of 27.3°C is experience in October with minimum temperatures of 8.7°C in July; however, there are no distinct

temperature seasons. Mean annual rainfall ranges from 760 mm to 1270 mm with the rainy season typically beginning in October, peaking in January and ending in April.

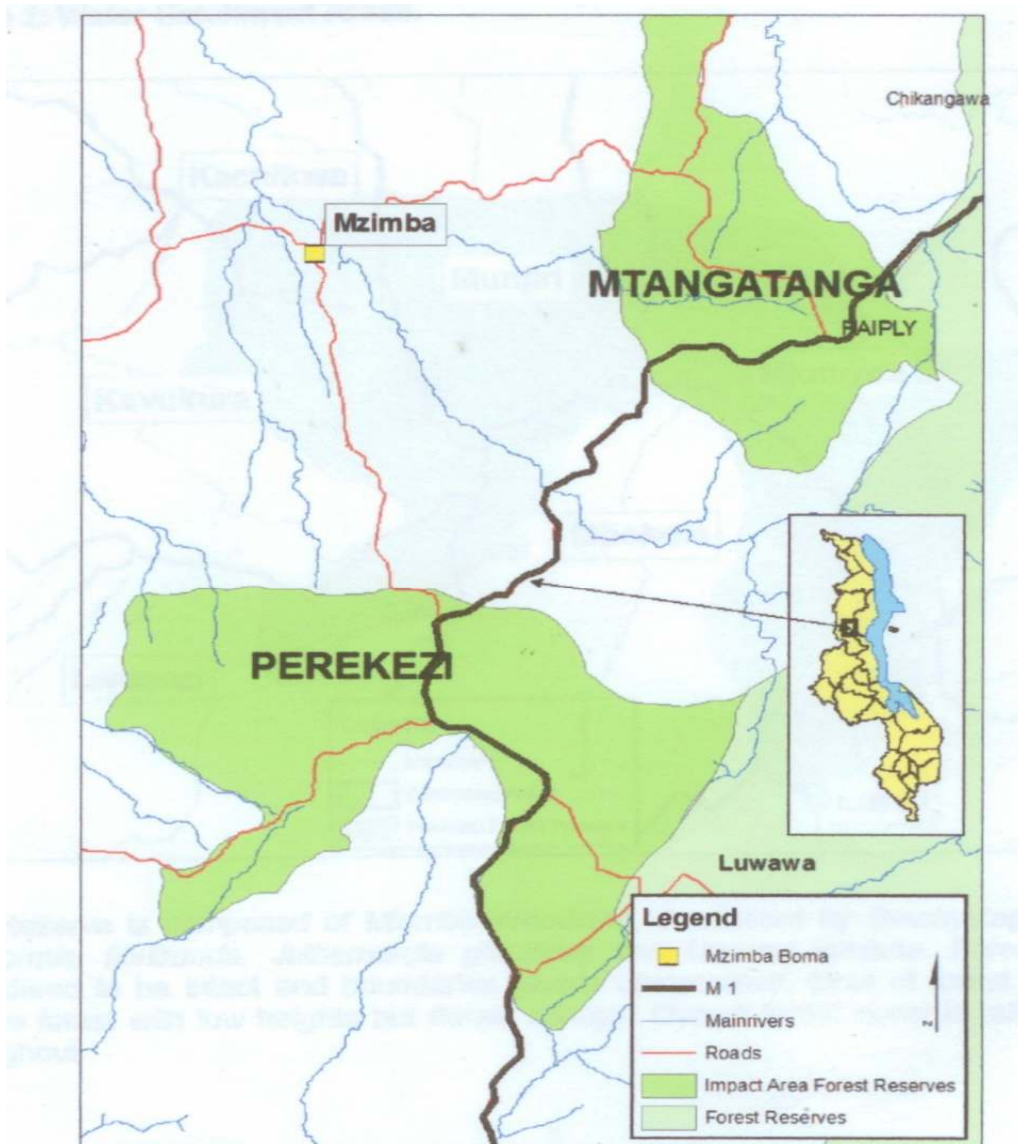


Figure 1. Location of Perekezi forest reserve in relation to Mzimba boma.

2.4 Forest Users and Uses

The community members from the GVH Chizumba Ngulube are the primary users of Mnyukuzi Block. All users must have authority from the Block Management Committee to collect/harvest forest products. People collect woody products such as firewood and poles. Illegal activities such as charcoal burning, quarry stone mining, cutting live trees for caterpillar collection, and hunting without permit are prevalent. Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) are also collected such as medicine, fruits, mushrooms, honey, caterpillars, game meat and thatch grass.

2.5 Social Description

GVH Chizumba Ngulube has 1325 households . The main ethnic groups are Tumbuka and Ngoni with some Chewa and Tonga minorities represented. 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.

CHAPTER 3. MNYUKUZI BLOCK CO-MANAGEMENT PLAN

3.1 General Objective

The overall objective is to sustainably co-manage Mnyukuzi Block in Perekezi forest reserve in order to help realize ecological, social and economic benefits for the present and future generation.

3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives for co-managing the block include the following:

- To sustainably manage and utilize the existing resources such as firewood, poles and timber trees for domestic and future commercial purposes.
- To protect and manage the natural regeneration
- To carry out enrichment planting in degraded areas of the block
- To build the capacity of local communities adjacent to the block natural resources management.
- To increase the availability of non-wood forest products such as honey, mushrooms and thatch grass for domestic use and generating income.
- To ensure total protection of fragile areas (i.e. rivers, steep slopes)

- To establish a legally recognized institution for managing and enforcing by-laws.

3.3 Forest Management Units

In order to achieve the above objectives, 4 distinct forest management units have been delineated in Mnyukuzi Block with a total area of 890 hectares as follows:

- FMU 1: Stream bank protection. This unit will be set aside for water catchment protection and practicing bee keeping for honey production. A strip of 20 meters on either side of streams shall be left intact. The total protected area is 209.9 hectares.
- FMU 2: Total Conservation and honey production. This unit of 243.49 hectares shall be dedicated to conservation and honey production. The unit shall also be used for mushroom collection.
- FMU 3: Conservation, grazing, partial harvesting of poles and firewood for domestic purposes. The unit set aside for the purposes of regeneration, honey production and mushroom collection. The total area for this unit is 302.26 hectares.
- FMU 4: Firewood collection for domestic purposes, quarry mining, mushroom, coppice management and grazing. The unit is 134.35 hectares and shall be used for collecting dry and dead wood. The unit shall also be used for collection of poles and mushroom.

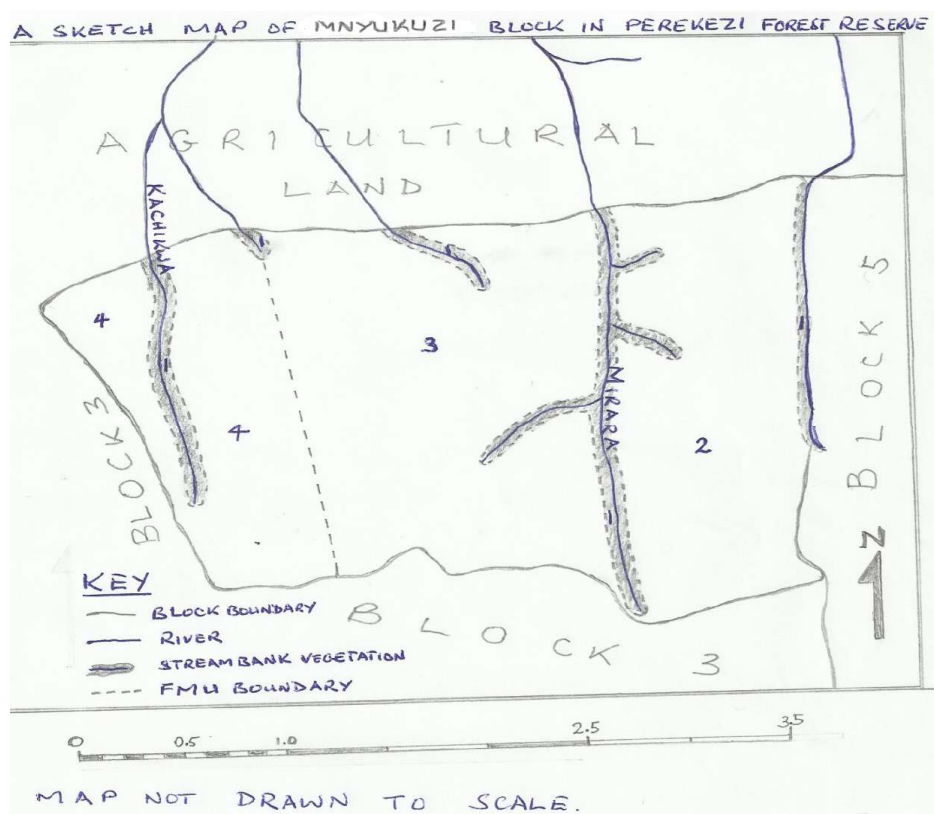


Figure 2. Sketch map of Mnyukuzi block showing the different FMUs

3.4 Resource Use Rules

Table 1 summarises the resource use rules that will be followed in managing the block and the resultant sanctions/penalties for non-compliance.

Table.1 Resource use rules and concomitant penalties.

No	Resource Rules	Sanctions
1	No cutting of live trees in the Block without permission from the block committee.	Anyone found guilty of cutting trees in the Block shall pay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block member K2,500 • Outsiders K5,000
2	No sawing of timber without permit from Block Management Committee.	Anyone found guilty of sawing timber in Block without permit shall pay a fine of K10, 000 and timber shall be confiscated by the Block Committee.
3	Dry wood will be collected free per head load for community members. For commercial purposes the following fee rates	Any outsider found guilty of this rule shall pay a fine followed by confiscating the product. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head load – K100

	<p>shall apply:</p> <p>1. Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxcart –K500 <p>2. Outsiders shall pay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head load - K50 • Bicycle load –K250 • Oxcart load –K150 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle load – K500 • Oxcart – K3000
4	No setting of bush fires.	Anyone found guilty of setting bush fires shall pay a fine of K20, 000.
5	Everyone shall participate in block forestry activities such as Firebreak maintenance, block patrols. This is applicable to the block committee and all community members.	Failure to participate without valid reason will attract a penalty of K250 per working day
6	Thatch grass mowing will be regulated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members - free • Outsiders -pay fee of K250 	Illegal mowing of thatch grass by non members shall attract a fine of K500.
7	Grazing of livestock will be allowed only for members of Mnyukuzi block in designated areas.	Outsiders found grazing without a permit shall pay a fine of K500
8	Hunting in the block is prohibited at all costs.	Any person found guilty of hunting in the block shall pay a fine of K10,000
9	Building settlements in the block is prohibited	Anyone found guilty of settling in the block shall pay a fine of K50,000
10	Cultivating in the Block is prohibited	Anyone found guilty of cultivating in the block shall pay a fine of K50,000
11	Hanging of bee hives is allowed only to organized groups of Mnyukuzi block members.	Anyone found hanging bee hives in the block without permission shall pay a fine of K3,000 and bee hives confiscated.
12	Mushroom collection is free to members of the block. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. for home consumption 2. outsiders shall pay a fee of K50 	Outsiders who shall be found collecting mushroom without permission shall pay K500.
13	Collection of medicine is allowed to members of Mnyukuzi block	Commercial collection of medicine will attract a fine of K2, 000 per bundle.
14	Fruit collection is free to block members, however, outsiders shall pay K200/pail; K100/basin;	Any outsider found collecting fruits from the block without permission shall pay a fine of K500.
15	Caterpillar collection is allowed to block members without cutting the trees.	Anyone found cutting trees for caterpillar collection shall pay a fine of K5,000 per tree.

3.5 Available Forest Resources

This section narrates harvestable area in Mnyukuzi block (Table 2), estimate of available forest resources (Table 3), domestic forest product requirements (Table 4), forest product availability (Table 5), collection/harvesting permit fees for different products (Table 6), projected annual income from fees (Table 7), forest management costs (Table 8), and estimated annual cash flow for Mnyukuzi block (Table 9). The calculations are based data from discussions with Mnyukuzi block community and on data collected from sample plots inside the block.

Forest resources shall be harvested according to the block co-management plan and their estimated availability in the block. Harvesting of dry and dead wood will be applied to selected areas. Timber trees shall be managed on a 33 year rotation period, while, poles shall be managed on a 12 year rotation period.

Table 2: Harvestable area of the block

Block area	890.00ha	Comments
Unharvestable area (FMU 1)	209.9ha	This comprises the areas for stream bank protection, honey production and the buffer zone.
Total Conservation and honey production.	243.49 hectares	This unit shall be dedicated to conservation and honey production. The unit shall also be used for mushroom collection.
Partial harvesting of dry firewood for domestic purposes	302.26 hectares.	Honey production, conservation and grazing area
(FMU 4) Firewood collection for domestic purposes	134.3ha	This is the area from which dry fuelwood and pole collection and harvesting apply

Table 3: Estimate of available forest resources in FMU 3

Product Name	Use	Total/ha (Trees)	Available In 22.87 ha (Trees)
Mbalabala	Rafters (small)	58	1315
Mapaso	House poles (medium)	92	2049
Michiko/Migololo	Ridge Pole (large)	75	1715
Sito	Purlins (small)	25	572
Matabwa	Timber tree (only regenerants)	408	9320

Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	50	1144
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- Notes:
- Estimates based on four 20x20m sample plots inside the block
- 22.87 ha is the suggested annual harvesting coupe for FMU 3

Table 4: Estimate of available forest resources in FMU 4

Product Name	Use	Total/ha (headloads)	Available In 10.16 ha (headloads)
Dry firewood	Headloads	691	7020

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

The total number of households comprising the block is 1327. Table 6 calculates the annual domestic forest product requirements of these 1327 households.

Table 5: Domestic annual forest product requirements

Product Name	Use	Annual requirement per household	Annual requirement for all 1327 households
Mbalabala	Small poles for rafters	25 pieces ¹	33175 pieces
Mapaso	House poles (small)	5 pieces ²	6635 pieces
Michiko	Large poles (ridge pole)	2 pieces ³	2654 pieces
Sito	Purlins (roof sticks)	30 pieces ⁴	39810 pieces
Matabwa	Timber tree	No domestic consumption	n.a.
Mipini	Tree for making hoe handles	3 handles ⁵	3981 pieces
Nkhuni Dry	Dry Fuelwood	104 headloads	138,008 headloads
Nkhowani	Mushrooms (food)	Quantity unknown	Quantity unknown
Mankhwala	Medicinal plants	Quantity unknown	Quantity unknown

In the management plan annual harvesting coupes whose sizes are 22.87ha, and 10.16ha coupes for FMUs 3 and 4 respectively are specified. 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.

The Mnyukuzi Block Management Committee will issue harvesting permits for different products at different rates for outsiders.

Table 6: Harvesting permit fees for different forest products

Product Name	Domestic (MK)	Commercial (MK)
Mbalabala (small poles)	Free	75
Mapaso (medium poles)	Free	300 per pole
Michiko (large poles)	Free	500 per pole
Sito (roof sticks)	Free	500 per bundle/20sticks
Mipini (hoe handles)	Free	250 per handle
Nkhuni Dry (headloads)	Free	MK 200 per headload

Table 7. Forest management costs

Operation	Work Rate	Daily rate (MK)	Nominal cost (MK)
Boundary screefing (4.0 km of boundary)	60m per person day (once per year)	300	20,000
Controlled early burning	80 man days	300	24,000
Patrolling	10 man days per week	300	156,000
Total			193,500

3.6 Management Plans for Each Use

FMU 4

Forest Product Dry Fuelwood – for domestic use only

Key Species Mhana, Chiyombo, Msankhanya, Mlama, Mtondo,

Mpapa, Chitonyololo, Chiyere

Demand

High

Supply

Low

Problems/Issues

Dry fuelwood availability is too low to satisfy the demand Domestic let alone commercial use. Uncontrolled fires are a threat to availability of this product.

Management Practices

Dry fuelwood for domestic purposes shall take place from throughout the year. However, because there are limited supplies, dry fuelwood will be allowed for domestic use only. The deficit in fuelwood demand will be met from harvesting open access customary woodland.

Allowable area and quantity per year

According to sample plot data about 2070 headloads to meet the demand.

FMU 4

Forest Product

Poles

Key Species

Mpapa, Masuku, Mtondo.

Demand

High

Supply

Medium

Problems/Issues

Wildfires and illegal harvesting are the two main threats to sustainable management.

Management Practices

All trees suitable for poles shall be marked. Poles have to be piled and counted by species, before being harvested from the block. In the first three years after selective cutting, the FMU shall be protected against fire to allow for regeneration. After this controlled early burning shall take place annually. Cutting of trees shall be done at about 20 cm from the ground to facilitate coppicing.

Allowable area and quantity per year According to sample plot data approximately 2049 mapaso pole trees and 1715 michiko pole trees can be harvested annually for commercial purposes in 33.87 ha coupe.

Fees Commercial use for mapaso pole will attract a fee of MK300 per pole and for Michiko is MK500 per pole.

FMU 4

Forest Product Timber trees in Mnyukuzi block have not reached harvestable diameters conversion.

Key Species Indigenous species such as: Chiyere, Katope, Mlewezi, Kawizi, Mpapa, Kabale, Msuku, Muwale

Demand High

Supply Unavailable

Problems/Issues Unsanctioned harvesting of trees and lack of appropriate silvicultural management prescriptions are the main problems.

Management Practices Thinning and management in the next 5 years will yield timber trees. Enrichment planting of valuable indigenous species shall be done in open areas, however, no exotic species will be used.

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	Quarry stone mining tends to damage soils and vegetation which reduce the availability of mushrooms during the growing period. Over grazing and uncontrolled bush fires also reduce the supply of mushrooms.
Management Practices	Harvesting of mushrooms will be done in all FMUs where mushrooms are available. Collectors will be monitored to ensure that only mushrooms that have matured should be harvested.
Allowable quantity per year	The limit to the amount of mushrooms collected by communities will be defined by the supply.
Fees royalties	People from outside the block will pay K250/small basin and K500/pail as permit fees.
FMU 1, 2 and 3	
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	Illegal tree felling for matondo (caterpillars) collection which reduces habitats for bees (i.e. flower nectar, support for beehives), use of traditional bee keeping technologies using tree barks and hollowed trunk affect sustainable supply. Inadequate community capacity to run beekeeping enterprises on a commercial basis are some of the problems.
Management Practices	Permission must be granted from the Block Management Committee and a register of users should be kept. Standard beehives shall be used and no trees shall be cut for making hives or harvesting honey. Each beehive must be marked stating the name of the owner and number of beehives.

Allowable quantity per year On obtaining permission the beekeeping club is allowed to keep as many beehives as is technically feasible in the block.

Fees royalties Once permission is granted the bee keeping club shall pay K500/beehive per year to the Block Management Committee.

All FMUs

Forest Product Medicinal Plants

Key Species Muyokayoka, Muzakaka, Mguwabango, Mlombe, Mpokwa, Msolo, Msulanjuchi, Nkalakati, Muhoto, Mbula, Mvalane

Demand Medium

Supply Medium

Problems/issues Poor harvesting practices such as debarking, uprooting trees/saplings, etc.) in addition to overharvesting due to traditional medicine trade are the major threats to managing the block for the supply of medicinal plants.

Management Practices All traditional healers and traders should be registered by the block management committee for monitoring purposes. Felling or ring barking of trees is prohibited. Removal of roots shall be done with minimal damage to the remaining tree. Within harvested coupes medicinal plants will be protected and marked by the Block Management Committee. Domestication of frequently used medicinal plants will be introduced among traditional healers and traders.

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 No fees will be levied on use by members of the block for subsistence consumption, however, commercial collection will attract a fee of K2000/permit.

3.7 Activity Plan

Table 12. Activity plan for the block

NO	ACTIVITY	TASK	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TIME FRAME
1	Conduct meetings	Community meetings	Papers, ballpoints, note books, flip charts	Mnyukuzi block community members and FLS.	January-December
2	Community training	Conduct training of community members on forestry skills, EDPs, financial management etc	Training materials such as flip charts and magic markers, paper,	Mnyukuzi block community members, FLS, resource persons	May-June
3	Seed procurement	Seed collection Seed purchasing Seed processing	Containers, hooking sticks, baskets, sacks, mats and ladders.	Mnyukuzi block community members and FLS.	December-May
4	Nursery establishment and management	Site identification Terracing Seed sowing Pot filling Watering Pricking out Pot cultivation.	Nursery equipment: watering canes, hoes, shovels, rake, wheel barrow, polythene tubes and seed.	Mnyukuzi BMC, community members and FLS.	June-December
5	Tree planting	Transportation and planting	Containers, oxcart, wheelbarrows	Community members of Mnyukuzi block and FLS.	December-April
6	Enrichment planting	Identification of sites Marking for pitting and actual pitting Planting Weeding	Hoes, axes, ropes, picks, containers, pangas and tapes.	Mnyukuzi block community members and FLS	December-April
7	Boundary/fire break	Slashing Screefing	Hoes, slashers, axes, pangas	Mnyukuzi block community members and FLS	April-June
8	Controlled burning	Patch burning	Pangas, slashers, hoes, matches	Community members and FLS	April-May
9	Forest Protection against wild Fires	Fire fighting	Pangas, hoes, shovels, Axes	Mnyukuzi block community members and FLS	When required
10	Reduce illegal activities in the Block	Conduct patrols	Pangas, identification cards for patrolling community members, receipt books, rubber stamps	Mnyukuzi block community members and FLS	January-December
11	Collecting of firewood and poles	Marking for pole trees Collection of dry firewood	Pangas, axes, bow saws, oxcart, measuring tapes, books for record keeping.	Mnyukuzi block community members and FLS.	January-December

		Stacking in m ³ Transportation to roadside Recording of volumes Issuing of permits			
12	Collection of non-wood forest products	Fruits, Honey, Mushrooms, Medicine	Beehives, bee suits, hive tools, hoes	Community members and FLS	January-December

3.8. Patrolling Plan

- The Block members, together with FLS, shall assign specific community members and FLS to conduct weekly patrols according to established patrol schedule.
- 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 licences/permits.

3.9 Monitoring Plan

Monitoring of activities and fees/licenses shall be conducted on a continuous basis and shall involve block members and FLS. 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 reports detailing income and expenditure will be discussed.
- Records shall be kept by the Block Management Committee but will be subject to scrutiny by community members, LFMB members and FLS.
- Regular review meetings shall be held together with forest extension workers at least once per quarter.
- Joint field visits by FLS, Village Headmen and Block Management Committee members should be conducted every three months.

3.10 Financial Issues

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

CHAPTER 4. MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND TIME FRAME

The Block Management Committee, together with Forestry Department Staff from Mzimba DFO, shall manage the forest resources of Mnyukuzi block in Perekezi forest reserve. The Block Management Committee is a legal body registered with the M'mbelwa District Council.

The management plan of the block will become operational when it has been endorsed by all relevant stakeholders. It will be subject to review after every 10 years.

CHAPTER 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 GVH Chizumba Ngulube villages of Traditional Authority Mzikubola in Mzimba District represented by **Mnyukuzi BLOCK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** as the Local Forest Organization (herewith described as LFO) and known also as the Block Management Committee.

The Government, hereby, wishes to make an agreement with the LFO to provide for the transfer of management authority and ownership of forest resource of **PEREKEZI FOREST RESERVE – Mnyukuzi Block**, 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 Mzondi Shumba, Yeremiya Shumba, Mbotcho Malindi, Chapuma Nkhata, Chibinganyama Nkhata and Alick Ndabandaba 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

- forementioned village(s) as set out in the annexed management plan.
- d) To assist the District Forestry Officer with the issuing of conveyance certificate from the District Forestry Officer.
 - e) Benefits accruing from the forest resource shall be equitably utilized by the community in accordance with the benefit sharing arrangements set out in the annexed management plan.
 - f) Revenue accruing from the forest resource shall be equitably utilised by the community in accordance with the LFO Constitution and as per agreements reached at General Assembly of the LFO.
 - g) 10% of the share of revenue accruing from the issue of commercial harvesting permits and licenses (i.e. those permits and licenses not issued for domestic or subsistence purposes) shall be deposited into the accounts of the Local Forest Management Board of PEREKEZI Forest Reserve, with transfers being made on a quarterly basis.
 - h) 30% of the share of revenue accruing from the issue of commercial harvesting permits and licenses (i.e. those permits and licenses not issued for domestic or subsistence purposes) shall be deposited into the accounts of the Forest Development and Management Fund Account Number 1 with such transfers being made on a quarterly basis.
 - i) It is expected that 60% of the funds available to the LFO after sharing the proportions specified in (g) and (h) will be utilized by the LFO for the purposes of forest development, management and operating costs. This includes utilization of the funds inside and outside the area of co-management block.
 - j) The LFO shall make accessible records of accounts and licenses issued to the Director of Forestry or his/her representative, the District Commissioner or his/her representative upon receiving notification from the Director of Forestry or District Commissioner.
 - k) The LFO shall represent and be accountable to the community and operate in accordance with the agreed constitution.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OBLIGATION

- 4. In particular the District Forestry Officer and her/his delegated representatives shall;
 - a) Provide technical expertise to support the joint implementation with the LFO and the timely revision of the co – management plan.
 - b) Advise and assist with monitoring local accountability mechanisms including, conduct of meetings, elections, by – elections, record keeping, financial accounting and reporting.
 - c) Provide a basic set of office resources for the LFO (on signature of this agreement) comprising of cashbooks, minute books, duplicate license forms, headed paper and an official LFO stamp or unique

- mark, plus other necessary items in order to support the set – up of a transparent and well documented forest management and local licensing system. it is anticipated that the LFO will take over purchasing these items after collecting revenue.
- d) Assist the coordination of forest law enforcement activities between the LFO, traditional leaders, Local community policing forums, Local police officers and the District magistrate in accordance with the co – management plan.
 - e) With the LFO jointly monitor the block demarcated in the co – management plan to ensure management is in accordance with this agreement and in accordance with Standards & Guidelines for participatory Forestry in Malawi.
 - f) Jointly with the LFO countersigning any permits and licenses being for the commercial utilization and harvesting of forest products (non – domestic use) in accordance with block co – management plan.
 - g) In line with licensing procedures issue conveyance certificates against verified documentation to ensure legal transportation of forest products.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT OBLIGATIONS

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

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

COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

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

DEMARCATATION AND BOUNDARY

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

DISPUTES

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

13. SIGNED

[Signature]
DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY

Dated: 21/2/2014
AND
S. Ngoma

CHAIRPERSON LOCAL FOREST ORGANISATION (DUWU BLOCK)

Dated: 21st Feb 2014

WITNESS: M. Salca

[Signature]
VILLAGE HEADMAN/WOMAN

Dated: 21/2/2014

[Signature]
DISTRICT COMMISSIOER

Dated: 21/02/2014

[Signature]
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Dated: 21st Feb 2014

T. Gaudi
CHAIRPERSON, LOCAL FOREST
MANAGEMENT BOARD

Dated: 21/02/2014

Annex 1: Mnyukuzi block constitution and by-laws

NAME: Mnyukuzi Co-Management Block Committee

ADDRESS: C/O Emazwini FP School
P.O. Box 60
Mzimba

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

- To sustainably manage the block with a view to improve livelihoods of surrounding communities
- To empower the communities to jointly protect, manage and control the utilization of natural resources in Mnyukuzi block in a transparent, accountable 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 COMMITTEE:

1. To guide the village communities in sustainable management of natural resources.
2. To co-operate, build synergy and work with other development committees in the area
3. To take a lead in development/reviewing of management plans and agreements and subsequently present them to the community for scrutiny and approval.
4. To produce financial accounts records of community funds, showing all transactions.
5. To issue permits, together with forestry department officials, for harvesting of forest products from the block
6. To create and promote IGA's/FBEs related to forest related activities.
7. To jointly patrolling the block with forestry officials

8. To issue receipts/permits/licences, together with forestry officials, to buyers of forest products

ELIGIBILITY:

- All bona fide citizen of GVH Samson Shumba
- All people aged 18 years and above from GVH Samson Shumba
- 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 a period of three (3) years, subject to reelection for a maximum of two terms.

DISQUALIFICATION OF 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 such a person has been warned three (3) times.

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

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

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

LEAVING THE OFFICE BEFORE EXPIRY DATE:

Any person who intends to leave the office before the expiry date of his/her term due to unforeseen obstacles shall do so provided he/she gives 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:

Elections shall be conducted once every three years unless the incumbent committee faces dissolution. The elections shall be done following the secret ballot process.

MEETINGS:

The meetings shall be conducted after giving the block members one a month notice.

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 of the membership.

PENALTIES:

Any person who willfully fails to attend meeting shall be liable to pay K100.00 penalty fee.

RECORD KEEPING:

The BMC shall:

- Keep duplicate receipts of all transactions for accountability
- Maintain all records of issued permits/licences of the forest produce from Mnyukuzi block.
- Record minutes of all meetings and deliberations and keep them safely.
- Keep a list of updated office bearers.
- Keep updated financial records in a transparent manner and be able to produce them anytime they are required.

MANAGEMENT OF MNYUKUZI BLOCK

Forest produce allowed to be collected from the Mnyukuzi block include:

- Fruits
- Poles
- Mushroom
- Thatch grass
- Medicine
- Dry firewood
- Mapala (caterpillars)

- Timber
- Quarry stone

PROHIBITED OPERATIONS IN MNYUKUZI BLOCK:

- setting illegal fires
- prospecting and gemstone mining
- charcoal burning
- tree cutting without a permit
- honey collection without a permit
- Game hunting
- Cutting trees for caterpillar (matondo) collection

BENEFIT SHARING:

All benefits accrued from forest products shall be used to manage the block. This will be kept in the bank account. The benefit sharing will relate to the daily individual inputs as indicated in the daily attendance register.

- Members of the Mnyukuzi block will be allowed to collect firewood, medicine, mushroom, thatch grass and fruits.
- Members of the Mnyukuzi block shall have grazing rights
- Members of the community shall be allowed to use the routes passing through the Mnyukuzi block
- Members of the community shall have access to water within the block
- Members of Mnyukuzi block shall be allowed to collect matondo (caterpillars) on a sustainable basis

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 activities.

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibility
Village headman	Calling for community gathering on developmental issues Making village meetings Solving village cases Receiving village developments Receiving and keeping strangers
Mnyukuzi Block Management Committee	Managing the block according to management plan Making village nurseries Screefing Block boundaries Receiving forestry visitors Patrolling in the village forest area Coordinating forestry matters to the village people
Chairperson	Calling meetings Making committee meetings Opening and closing meetings Representing the village head in his absence Looking after nurseries
Secretary	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	Keeping funds raised and items Record keeping Recording cash coming in and out -Keeping records of whatever they are having
Committee member	Helping in all committee discussions Inter-mediator between the committee and the community Doing all the work which may be there together with the committee and the community
Community	Planting trees Screefing Block boundary Helping in fire fighting Committee election Helping in doing nursery work
VDC/ADC	They call for village development Making village rules They are inter-mediator between village and Assembly
TA	Welcoming developmental issues Making rules of the village

Annex 3: Names of members of Mnyukuzi block management committee

Chairman	:	Sylvester Ngoma
Vice Chairman	:	Alick Nkhata
Secretary	:	Elisha Shumba
Vice Secretary	:	Jimmy Nkhata
Treasurer	:	Inness Nyirenda
Members	:	Kingsley Nyirongo Mercy Saka Osman Malindi Ethel Mithi Dorah Luhana

Annex 4: Benefit Sharing Arrangement:

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

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