

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

2024 CONFERENCE



The Power of Conservation Enterprises in Developing Cities



PRESENTED BY:



Mpambira Kambewa

Community Specialist,
US Forest Service International Programs/Malawi

Liza Paqueo

Urban Ecologist
US Forest Service International Programs

AGENDA

Introduction

**Conservation
Enterprises in
Malawi**

**Key Elements
For Success**

**Steps to
Implement**

**Challenges
and Solutions**

**Call to
Action**

Introduction

“Smokey Bear in Malawi”



WHERE WE ARE





MIOMBO



MALAWI





URBAN & COMMUNITY CHALLENGES

- Infrastructure demands and encroachment
- Climate realities worse in urban and peri-urban areas
- Human health issues: vector borne diseases, impacts on elderly and young, and heat related illnesses/deaths
- Illegal activities in adjacent and nearby protected areas and parks (e.g. charcoal production)
- Lack of livelihood alternatives

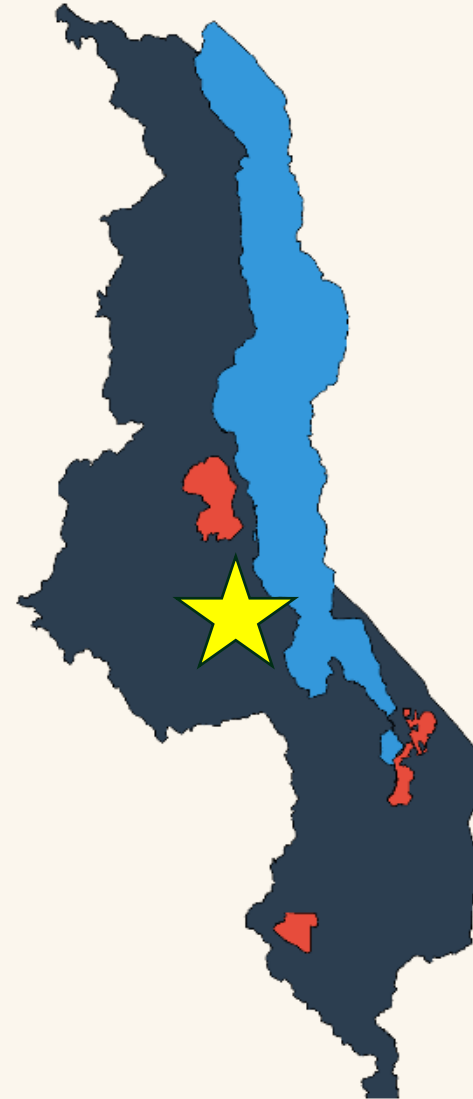
HUMAN – WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

- Fewer water sources → Increased competition
- Poaching
- Destruction of crops



THE US FOREST SERVICE & PARTNERS WORK ON:

- Ecological Monitoring
- Tourism Development
- **Community Outreach & Engagement**





Community Outreach and Engagement

- Student Scholarship Program
- Enhancing Community Inclusive Participation
 - Community participation in law enforcement activities
 - Community participation in fire management
 - **Community Projects**
 - Conservation Enterprises (Dried Mangoes, Honey Production)
 - Cultural Heritage Programming

“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them” – Dr. Jane Goodman



What Are Conservation Enterprises?

"As Africa's cities grow at unprecedented rates, the pressure on natural resources and rural landscapes intensifies. Conservation enterprises offer a vital pathway—bridging economic needs with environmental stewardship to ensure that growth and sustainability are interwoven into Africa's development story." - Koffi Annan

Conservation Enterprises in Nkhotakota and Lilongwe

Partners with African Parks and Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

- Community Dried Mangoes Production
- Honey Production





Community Dried Mangoes Production

A sustainable income source for local communities

Objectives:

- Alternative sustainable livelihood
- Inclusive and active community engagement
- Reduction of food waste



Community Dried Mangoes Production: Key Benefits

- Economic Empowerment
- Environmental Impact
- Food Security

45
Households
reached
since 2021



Honey Production

Local communities produce and sell honey in a way that promotes the health of local ecosystems, especially forests and wildflower habitats:

Project Components:

- Capacity Building:
- Marketing:



Honey Production: Key Benefits

- Reduce deforestation
- Support pollination
- Encourage natural habitat maintenance
- Reduce reliance on environmentally damaging activities

165
Households
reached
since 2023

Success at a Glance

1. Economic Impact

- **Revenue Generation:** 158% increase in revenue generation since 2021 - Dried mangoes
- **Job Creation:** 45 households directly benefitted, (dried mangoes), 105 households directly benefitted (bee keeping)

2. Environmental Impact

- **Protected Areas:** Aversion to partake in wildlife crimes and deforestation (understanding the value of biodiversity)
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Conservation enterprises involved in reforestation can sequester thousands of tons of CO₂ annually.

Success at a Glance

3. Social Impact

- **Community Benefits:** Village Savings and loans association
- **Cultural Preservation:** By involving local communities, conservation enterprises have helped to preserve indigenous knowledge and cultural practices related to land and resource management.

Gender: 62% females



Best Practices

Community Engagement and Ownership

- Build trust through open communication.
- Ensure that community members have a sense of ownership and decision-making power.

Building Partnerships and Networks

- Partner for funding, technical expertise, and market access.
- Join conservation networks to share knowledge and best practices.



Implementation Steps

- Assess
- Engage
- Plan
- Fund
- Train
- Launch
- Monitor
- Scale
- Sustain



Challenges

- Limited funding and financial resources
- Balancing conservation and profit
- Gaining and maintaining community buy-in
- Environmental and Climatic vulnerability
- Regulatory and policy barriers
- Longtime frames for results

Solutions

- Fostering partnerships
- Building local capacity
- Promoting policy support for conservation enterprises.



SHARING THIS GLOBALLY

- Urban Ecology Community of Learning and Practice
- Beyond Trees Network
- International Phytoremediation Academy
- Yale's Global Urban Ecology course

Get involved Locally!!



Join or support local conservation enterprises in your cities!
Collaborate and Partner!!!

ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI!!!

Mpambira.Kambewa@fs-ip.us, +265996109377
Liza.Paqueo@usda.gov, +1-202-617-8515

CEUs

For ISA CEUs, record the code to the right for each session.

Post conference, you can submit all Your CEU codes within the Conference app.

Sign-in sheets for Society of American Foresters (SAF) CFE credits are available at the registration desk post conference.

The Power of Conservation Enterprises in Developing Cities

Speakers:

Mpambira Kambewa & Liza Paqueo



**PP-24-912
.5 A, BCMA-M, MS**