

# PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

2024 CONFERENCE



# The Power of Conservation Enterprises in Developing Cities



PRESENTED BY:



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# AGENDA

**Introduction**

**Conservation  
Enterprises in  
Malawi**

**Key Elements  
For Success**

**Steps to  
Implement**

**Challenges  
and Solutions**

**Call to  
Action**



# Introduction

*“Smokey Bear in Malawi”*





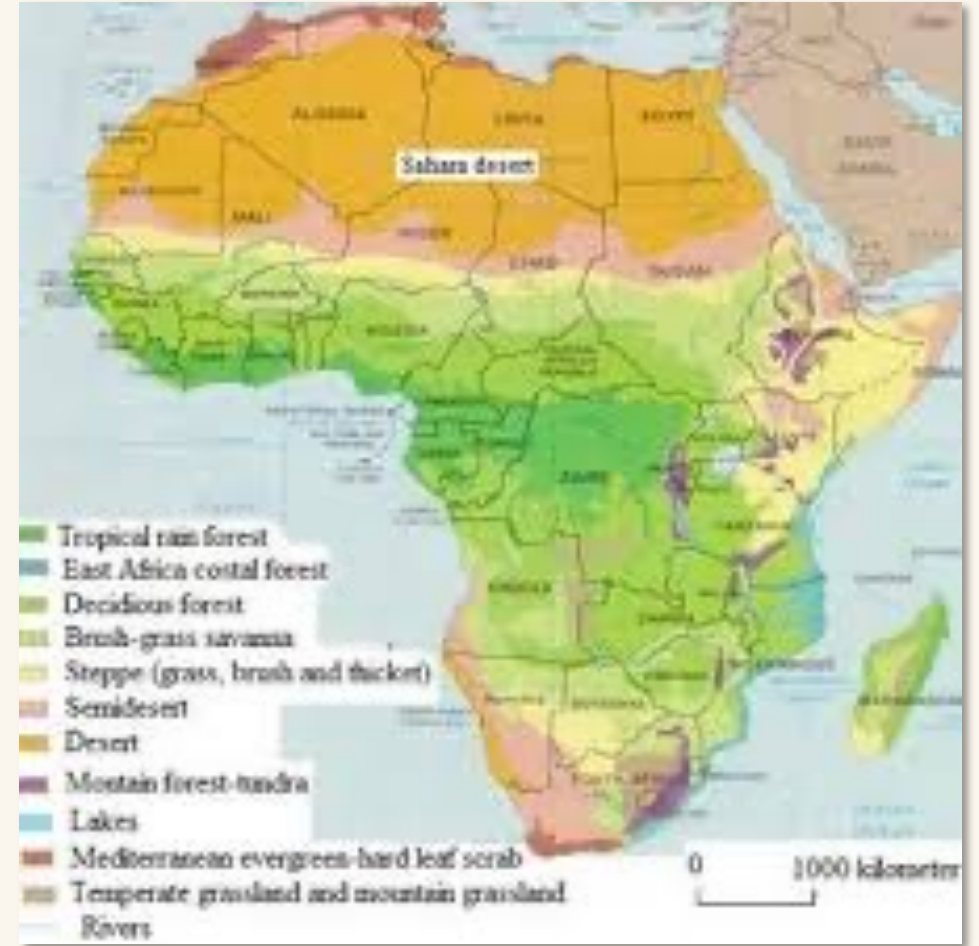
# WHERE WE ARE







# 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

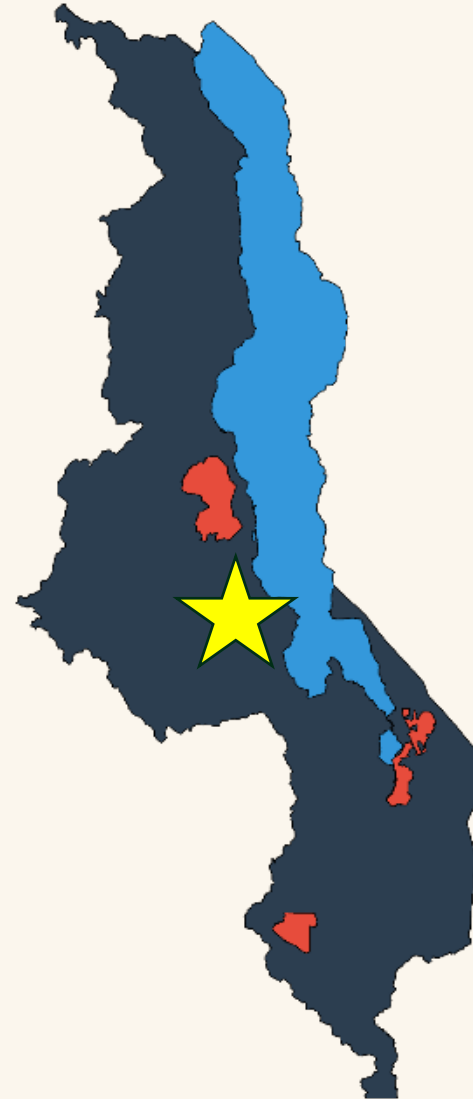
- Fewer water sources → Increased competition
- Poaching
- Destruction of crops





## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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!!!**

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