

Malawi Request for a Country Needs Assessment by UN-REDD

Malawi Department of Forestry

12/19/2014



UN-REDD Country Needs Assessment Request
Malawi
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Acronyms

Department for International Development	DFID
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	GIZ
Food and Agriculture Programme of the United Nations	FAO
Government of Malawi	GoM
Japan International Cooperation Agency	JICA
Malawi Department of Forestry	DoF
Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife	DNPW
Malawi REDD+ Programme	MRP
Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program	MRRP
National Climate Change Programme	NCCP
Southern African Development Community	SADC
United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries	UN-REDD
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	UNFCCC
United States Agency for International Development	USAID
United States Environmental Protection Agency	US EPA
United States Forest Service	USFS
World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	FCPF

1. Country requesting assessment:

Malawi

2. UN-REDD Focal Point:

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3. Country Technical Focal Point:

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4. Coordinating United Nations Agencies and Other Participating Institutions:

Lead implementing institution:

- Department of Forestry

United Nations:

- United Nations Development Programme
- Food and Agriculture Organization

Other institutions:

- Government of Malawi
 - o Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy, and Mining
 - Forest Research Institute of Malawi
 - Environmental Affairs Department
 - Department of Energy Affairs
 - Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
 - o Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
 - Land Resources Conservation Department
 - Department of Crops
 - Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development
 - o Ministry of Lands and Housing
 - Department of Surveys
 - o Ministry of Information, Tourism, Wildlife and Culture

- Department of National Parks and Wildlife
 - Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
 - Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
 - National Statistics Office
 - National Herbarium
 - Academia
 - Chancellor College
 - Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Bunda College)
 - Mzuzu University
 - Civil Society
 - Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy
 - Co-ordination Union for the Rehabilitation of the Environment
 - Leadership for Environment and Development – Southern and Eastern Africa
 - Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust
 - Total Land Care
 - Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi
 - Development Partners and Programs
 - Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program (a joint effort of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States Forest Service (USFS), and Government of Malawi (GoM))
 - National Climate Change Programme (supported by the Flemish Government, Government of Japan, Global Environmental Facility, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and UNDP)

5. Objectives of the REDD+ readiness efforts or strategy:

The Government of Malawi (GoM) has made a robust, long-term investment in the pursuit of REDD+ readiness. At the request of the GoM, the Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program was established in August 2012 as a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and United States Forest Service (USFS). The primary objectives of the MRRP are as follows:

1. Secure Malawi's membership with a multilateral REDD+ body (e.g., World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and/or United Nations Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD)) and/or bilateral partner to support the pursuit of REDD+ readiness and implementation of REDD+ in Malawi,
2. Develop a zero-draft national REDD+ strategy,
3. Build capacity in REDD+ and climate change at the Malawi Department of Forestry and other relevant institutions.

Since its inception, the MRRP has made considerable strides toward the realization of these objectives, including the attainment of partnership status with the UN-REDD and the drafting of comprehensive

workplan that identifies and prioritizes 35 action items across seven domains.¹ Chief among the accomplishments that have defined Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness is the establishment of the Malawi REDD+ Program (MRP), the nationally-owned platform through which the processes of REDD+ readiness and implementation will be managed into the long-term.

Malawi does not yet have a national REDD+ strategy. As noted, a key objective of the MRRP is to develop a "zero-draft" strategy. The purposes of the "zero-draft" are to (1) provide guidance and direction for the MRP over the near term (5-years) and (2) to take an initial step toward a strategy design in the interest of gaining familiarity with and appreciation for the national strategy development process. The MRP and Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness are nascent, at least compared to most other REDD+ countries, and a considerable amount of experience and information upon which a strategy would ideally be built remains outstanding. The MRP workplan identifies many of these gaps and provides action items to address them. The central objective of the MRRP is to support the MRP to design an inclusive and participatory process through which stakeholders draft a long-term (i.e., 15+-year), national REDD+ strategy.

The core motivation of Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness is to build a REDD+ program that makes REDD+ work for Malawi as opposed to making Malawi work for REDD+. Malawi's REDD+ program should be distinctly Malawian in the sense that the strategy and follow-on implementation reflect the particular political, ecological, social, and economic attributes of Malawi, namely:

- High population growth,
- An economy defined by agriculture, both subsistence (the primary means of employment and sustenance for much of the population) and commercial (e.g., tobacco, tea, sugar, cotton, and coffee),
- Low forest cover and high deforestation rate,
- Fragmented and discontinuous forests dominated by Miombo woodlands,
- Near universal reliance on charcoal and fuelwood for cooking and heating,
- Dependence on hydroelectric power,
- Marginalized, capacity-constrained forestry sector,
- Tenuous, weak governance of the forest and natural resource management sectors,
- Crowded development arena, especially in natural resource management,
- Policy emphasis on – but limited implementation of – decentralization and community-based natural resource management

On a higher level, the strategy should emphasize Malawi's pursuit of forestry and natural resource management sectors built upon solid, transparent governance; sound, scientifically defensible data and data management; coherent policy; and lasting, genuine inclusion across all tiers of society and sectors.

¹ REDD+ Governance, Tracking REDD+ (scientific and technological components), REDD+ Communications and Outreach, Realizing REDD+ (analysis of strategy options), REDD+ Monitoring and Evaluation, REDD+ Strategy Development, and Malawi REDD+ Readiness program (items specific to the MRRP).

6. Country vision for REDD+:

With support of the MRRP, the MRP engaged in an intensive process by which a unifying vision and a shared suite of goals and principles were developed to steer the pursuit of REDD+ readiness and implementation of REDD+. That process resulted in the following:

- *Vision*

A Malawi where hills and valleys will be covered with bountiful forest landscapes that deliver a high and sustained quality of life for countless generations. From this abundance, mother Malawi will shed tears of joy that will quench the thirst of her sons and daughters and sustain herds of antelope and schools of chambo.

- *Common Goal*

Malawi will reduce emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation by at least X% and attain forest cover of at least Y% by 1st Jan 2030, contributing to enhanced ecosystems, improved livelihoods and sustainable economic growth.²

Underlying this vision and goal is a commitment to the “no regrets” pursuit of REDD+. The MRP does not view REDD+ as a means toward attaining carbon financing; rather, REDD+ is seen as a catalyst for robust, substantive, and lasting reform for Malawi’s natural resource management sector. Securing carbon financing would be an ancillary benefit to realizing a transformed natural resource management regime defined by the following non-exhaustive set of attributes:

- Sound and transparent governance across all tiers (e.g., national, regional, district, and community);
- Solid, in-country capacity to monitor, measure, and model changes in land use and their associated emissions;
- Sound and effective use of an extensive, growing, and well-managed library of data to inform policy;
- Cultivation of and adherence to a shared suite of environmental and social safeguards;
- Enhanced coordination both within government (especially among the various natural resource management agencies) and various sectors engaged in natural resource management (e.g., civil society, academia, private sector, media, and development partners), including the clarification of roles, responsibilities, and mandates;
- Thorough understanding and appreciation of drivers of land use change and the policy landscape in which the drivers are addressed,
- Pursuit of and participation in the sharing of REDD+ knowledge and data across the greater region, particularly neighboring miombo countries

² As of this writing, Malawi does not yet have an official definition of forestland – nor does it have formal categories and definitions for land cover and land use – precluding the use of precise figures for X and Y in the Common Goal.

7. Overview of the country's REDD+ readiness process and justification for CNA:

As noted, Malawi has pursued REDD+ readiness in earnest since the inception of the MRRP in August 2012. The following milestones have defined this pursuit:

- Design, launch, and maturation of the MRP,
- Design and implementation of an inclusive national governance framework composed of a comprehensive set of stakeholders, including GoM, civil society, academia, private sector, media, and development partners (appendix 1). All constituent bodies of this framework have an approved terms of reference that includes details on purpose, composition, functions, and relations with other parties. The REDD+ Secretariat has been operationalized and is based out of the Malawi Department of Forestry. The REDD+ Expert Group, the core deliberative and decision-making body of the MRP has convened seven times since its genesis in December 2012 (the body meets bi-monthly). Further, three thematic technical working groups have provided critical guidance to the REDD+ Secretariat, including the vetting of proposals and statements of work for MRP workplan activities and the agreements of short- and medium-term goals for relevant areas of interest. A fourth technical working group may soon be established that will focus on national strategy development
- REDD+ study tours to Zambia (February 2013) and Tanzania (July 2013) and an in-country study tour (February 2014) of ongoing or planned carbon financing and community forestry activities,
- Drafting and approval of the MRP workplan, a living document intended to provide a proposed trajectory for the MRP through August 2014; set and manage expectations; clearly delegate responsibility and ownership to a range of parties in the interest of sharing the workload, distributing tasks to the most appropriate parties for specific actions, and ensuring broad awareness and buy-in regarding “where we are”, “where we are going”, and “who does what” through August 2014; and provide partners with an overarching guidance framework and clear “entry points” to better guide and align support for and engagement in the Malawi REDD+ program,
- Securing of partnership status with UN-REDD, participation in 12th Policy Board session in Geneva, Switzerland, submission of informal request for Targeted Support through the regional UN-REDD office (Nairobi), and participation in REDD+ Academy workshop in June 2014;
- Drafting of the Government of Malawi Five-Year REDD+ Action Plan (2014-2019), a document that will guide REDD+ Readiness and the development of a National REDD+ strategy by 2019;

The MRP is now at a stage at which it can advance beyond the bilateral support provided by the MRRP through the solicitation of technical expertise from UN-REDD. Through the CNA mechanism, the MRP hopes to enhance its relationship with UN-REDD, diversify its development partner engagements, sustain and augment the program's momentum, and identify and prioritize areas of need that are critical to Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness.

These activities will be defined by genuine collaboration with stakeholders from the Malawi REDD+ program, thus adhering to the MRP's stated principles of Malawian ownership, coordination, inclusiveness and capacity building.ⁱ

The CNA will enrich and diversify the MRP on numerous fronts. First, through UN-REDD, the CNA experience will provide most welcome expertise and fresh perspectives to a program that, from the development side, has been largely defined by engagements by the USAID and the USFS. Second, in a similar vein, the analyses and new perspectives brought by UN-REDD will illuminate new needs and gaps and propose actions to address these gaps, thus supporting the MRP's steady growth and maturation.

8. Objective of the need assessment:

The CNA in Malawi should center on the following focal areas:

Broad Assessment of REDD+ Readiness in a Policy Context

This assessment will systematically identify existing capabilities and inventory the gaps and needs of Malawi's policy and legal frameworks that would either enable or endanger the successful implementation of REDD+ nation-wide. Approaches to address these needs and gaps would be provided as part of the assessment. Since no such assessment has ever been pursued to date, the MRP would benefit from a broad, high-level analysis of the country's forest and natural resource management policies, specifically in a REDD+ context. Inclusion of in-country partners throughout the assessment process is a high priority for the MRP, as capacity-building and ownership are paramount to its organizational goals. The process by which these gaps and needs are determined should be based, at least in part, on comprehensive interviews with stakeholders from the MRP complemented by desk reviews of literature and MRP materials. The following Output and Activities are proposed as part of the Broad Assessment of REDD+ Readiness in a Policy Context:

Output 1: Comprehensive Policy and Legal Frameworks Assessment

Activity 1.1 Inventory and typology of Malawi's programs, policies and laws in the land, natural resources, and forest management sectors, considering both mitigation and adaptation-focused programs and policies;

Activity 1.2 Identification and prioritization of needs at the program, policy and legal levels (e.g., human, technical, financial, legal needs, etc.) conducive to REDD+ and the broader natural resource sector;

Activity 1.3 Roadmap to fill the prioritized needs;

Activity 1.4 Validation workshop (combined with Output 2)

Output 1, under FAO's technical leadership, will cost an estimated USD 40,000 to cover consultants, international travel, in-country travel, operation fees, and events.

Guidance for REDD+ Strategy Development

The guidance on next steps for the drafting of a national REDD+ strategy, informed by the findings from the policy and legal frameworks assessment, will provide an assessment of capacities – capital (reports, data, strategies) and human resources (personnel) – within Malawi to develop a national REDD+ strategy and create a roadmap that guides Malawi's national strategy development. The analysis will reveal the gaps and needs that would impede the development of a national REDD+ strategy and provide a roadmap to address those urgent and outstanding issues. A summary of the lessons learned from the "zero-draft" 5-year Action Plan development process will also be completed as a key take-away. Specifically, the following Output and Activities are proposed as part of the Guidance for REDD+ Strategy Development:

Output 2: Assessment of Strategy-Building Capacity and Creation of Strategy Roadmap

Activity 2.1 Based on the "zero-draft" 5-year Action Plan development process, provide an assessment of capacities and needs within Malawi to develop a long-term national REDD+ strategy;

Activity 2.2 Prepare a Roadmap, including proposed multi-stakeholder arrangements, for building a long-term national REDD+ strategy. This roadmap and its multi-stakeholder arrangements shall be built from the CNA as a whole, as well as from outcomes of the ICA activities to be conducted through the UN-REDD Targeted Support mechanism;

Activity 2.3 Communications and awareness-raising event which includes a high-level assessment of the awareness of REDD+ within Malawi among governmental officials and other stakeholders (possibly implemented as part of validation workshop);

Activity 2.4 Validation workshop (combined with Output 1)

Output 2, under UNDP's technical leadership will cost an estimated USD 25,000 to cover consultants, international travel, in-country travel, operation fees, and events.

9. Scope of the needs assessment:

As noted in the previous section, the scope of the CNA in Malawi should have two fronts. The first would provide a broad-level policy and legal assessment of REDD+ readiness. A thorough assessment of needs and gaps at this formative stage in Malawi’s readiness process would do much to guide the process’ development and maturation at a time when such guidance is of especial need.

The second front would be an assessment of gaps and needs for the development of a national REDD+ strategy. The assessment would be defined by research and analysis of (1) the findings from the general, broad-level policy assessment, (2) takeaways and lessons learned from the “zero-draft” strategy effort, and (3) the findings of the awareness assessment of REDD+ in Malawi.

A review of relevant initiatives, particularly in terms of the Policies, Measures, and Projects/Programs for emissions reductions proposed as part of their recommendations, may help to link the policy and legal analysis of the CNA (Output 1) with the strategy capacity assessment and roadmap (Output 2), as well as provide a foundation for the investigations taking place under Targeted Support. The forestry and natural resource management arena includes a considerable number of projects and programs, the results of which (including lessons learned and takeaways) are relevant to the CNA. A non-exhaustive list of such initiatives that the CNA analysis can consider includes:

Initiative	Partners	Completed, Ongoing, Planned
Malawi REDD+ Readiness Program	DoF, USAID, USFS	Ongoing
National Climate Change Programme	Environmental Affairs Department, FICA, GoJ, GEF, UNDP, UNITAR	Ongoing
Kulera Biodiversity Project	DNPW, USAID, TerraGlobal Capital, Verified Carbon Standard	Completed
Trees of Hope	Clinton Foundation, Plan Vivo	Ongoing
Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi (PERFORM)	USAID	Ongoing
Shire River Basin Management Programme	GoM, World Bank,	Ongoing

	Millennium Challenge Corporation	
Integrated Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (IFMSLP)	DoF, European Union	Completed
Community Partnerships for Sustainable Resource Management in Malawi (COMPASS)	DoF, USAID	Completed
Forest Preservation Programme	DoF, JICA	Completed
Dzalanyama Forest Reserve Conservation Project	DoF, JICA	Ongoing
Capacity Development for REDD+ / Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project in Eastern and Southern Africa	US EPA, Thünen Institute	Ongoing
Development of Integrated MRV Systems for REDD+ in the SADC Region	SADC, GIZ, DoF	Completed

10. Workplan and budget:

Revised Workplan and timeline:

Activity	February 2014		March 2014				April 2014				May 2014				June 2014				July 2015				August 2015				September 2015	
	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	
Development of comprehensive CNA workplan and budget	■	■																										
Inception workshop and resultant report			■	■	■																							
Output 1: Comprehensive Policy and Legal Frameworks Assessment			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
Activity 1.1: Inventory and typology of Malawi's NRM programs, policies laws			■	■	■	■																						
Activity 1.2: Identification and prioritization of needs at the program, policy and legal levels							■	■																				
Activity 1.3 Roadmap to fill the prioritized needs in NRM programs, policies and laws									■	■																		
Output 2: Assessment of Strategy-Building Capacity and Creation of Strategy Roadmap											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Activity 2.1: Assess capacities and needs within Malawi to develop a national REDD+ strategy.											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Activity 2.2: Prepare strategy Roadmap																												
Activity 2.3: Communications assessment and awareness event																												
Synthesis and report writing, + review of relevant initiatives											■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Validation workshop for combined Outputs 1 and 2																												
Prepare final report																												
Close-out workshop and dissemination																												

The anticipated budget for the implementation of the CNA in Malawi would be \$64,675 USD. The approximate budget for Output 2 under UNDP is approximately USD 25,000, while the approximate budget for Output 1 under FAO totals USD 40,000.

The anticipated budget for the implementation of the CNA in Malawi would be \$64,675 USD.

Activity	Cost USD
Consultant fee (estimated at 2 consultants at \$320/day at 45 days)	\$28,800
Communications (e.g., printing, mobile phone, internet)	\$3,000
International Travel	\$5,500
Local Travel (e.g., car rental, fuel) (estimated at \$125/day)	\$5,625
Accommodation (\$1,000/month)	\$6,750
Inception workshop	\$5,000
Validation workshop	\$5,000
Close-out workshop	\$5,000
Sub-total	\$64,675

ⁱ The MRP Workplan includes a suite of principles including **Malawian Ownership** (“The Malawi REDD+ Program should be owned by the Malawi REDD+ community (including the Government of Malawi) to the extent that program partners contribute to a well-designed REDD+ program rather than steer the REDD+ process.”), **Coordinate with Other Programs and Strategies to Maximize Complementarities and Avoid Redundancy and Duplication of Effort** (“The Malawi REDD+ Program should commit to coordinating all REDD+ efforts to ensure that they adhere to stated principles, priorities, standards, and protocols; contribute to articulated vision and targets; and are additional (or, not redundant) and/or complimentary. Further, the Malawi REDD+ program should coordinate with the Government of Malawi and other parties (e.g., bilateral or multilateral partners, development partners, civil society, private sector, etc.) to leverage complementarities between projects and programs and protect against conflicting actions (especially with programs and/or activities from other sectors. Finally, the Malawi REDD+ Program should align with Malawi’s Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS)”), **Stakeholder Inclusion and Gender Equity** (“The Malawi REDD+ Program should commit to an inclusive REDD+ process defined by genuine efforts to engage stakeholders of any scale (e.g., national, regional, district, community), gender, socioeconomic background, and/or sector (e.g., civil society, private sector, academia, Government of Malawi, etc.”), and **Capacity Development** (“The Malawi REDD+ Program should commit to leveraging REDD+ as a means for in-country capacity building across all sectors across all relevant focus areas (e.g., governance, science and technical, communications, etc.”).