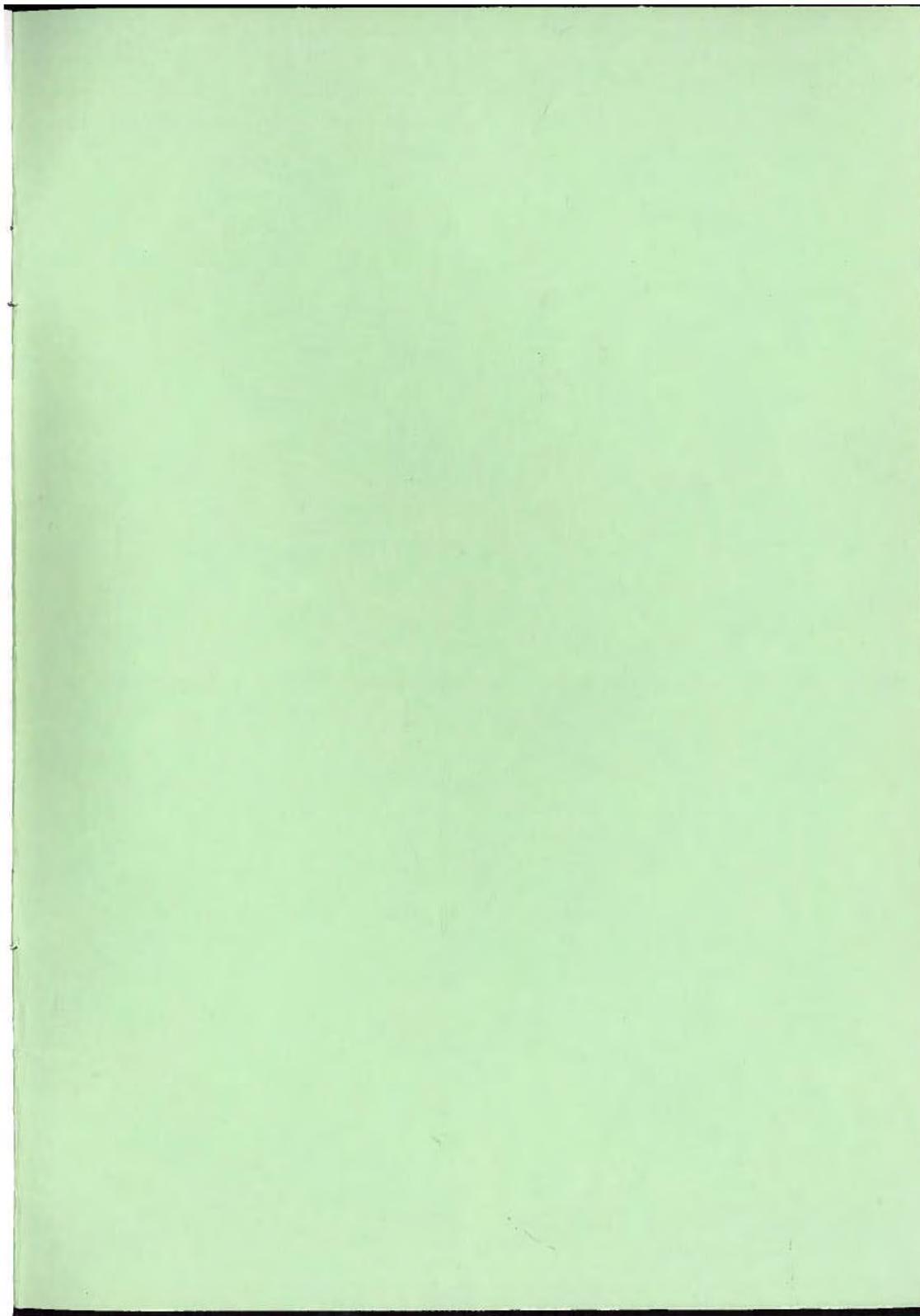


**NATURAL
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**



**United States Agency for
International Development**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2



Conservation & Development Over the last twenty years, small community groups and local NGOs have pioneered the concept of integrating conservation with development. Only more recently have national governments, donors and international conservation groups promoted environmentally sustainable development as a major objective. This trend has occurred against a backdrop of increased world awareness of how population pressures, inappropriate economic policies, over-harvesting, introduction of exotic species and pollution affect the environment. On the African continent, environmental concerns have resulted in important changes in the way people and governments view their resource endowment. Yet, few developing nations have the capacity to build and maintain an institutional framework for sustainable development while concurrently struggling with the growing pains of democratic transition.

A fundamental problem confronting sustainable natural resource use in Malawi is the high ratio of people to natural resources. Malawi has the highest population density in southern Africa and the fifth highest population density in Africa. With most Malawians depending on agriculture for their food, energy and income, population pressure places enormous demands on the country's natural resources. Between 1972 and 1990 total forest cover declined an estimated 41%. Soil erosion, estimated to average 20 tons per hectare annually, is having a disastrous effect on soil fertility. Offtake from the fisheries sector, which provides 70% of the animal protein in the nation's diet, has markedly deteriorated in recent years. With 60% of households living in poverty, most families lack the resources to adopt more appropriate resource use practices - even though this would provide increased incomes over time.

Recognizing the importance of addressing environmental problems, in 1994 Malawi adopted a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) which documented the depletion of Malawi's natural resources and outlined environmental mitigation strategies. To operationalize the NEAP, Malawi subsequently began preparation of Environmental Support Program which currently provides the framework for donor-funded natural resource management (NRM) activities in Malawi.

In early 1996, the Government of Malawi (GOM) approved a comprehensive national environmental policy, which places emphasis on the management of natural resources by communities. Additionally, the President of Malawi signed into law the nation's first national Environment Management Act, which clarifies institutional roles with respect to the

environment, requires the adoption of a system for conducting environmental impact assessments, and provides the requisite architecture for a program of sectoral policy, institutional and legislative reform in favor of the environment.

While these important efforts are building a foundation for sustainable development in Malawi, their positive impact is reduced because of the highly cross-sectoral nature of environmental problems, the lack of environmental awareness, the weak legal and enforcement capacity, and major budgetary limitations.

The United States Government, through USAID/Malawi, and other donors are supporting complementary efforts to help Malawi address these and related problems. U.S. Government environmental support to Malawi falls under what USAID has come to call Strategic Objective Two: Increased sustainable use, conservation and management of renewable natural resources. The major funding vehicle for this objective is the five-year, \$40 million Natural Resource Management and Environmental Support Program (NATURE), which began in January 1996.

Partnership Approach - USAID's approach to NRM emphasizes the importance of participation in the development process. NATURE activity designs require the establishment of partnerships drawn from government agencies, academia, NGOs, community groups, the private sector, women and youth, and donor organizations. Such partnerships build upon the comparative strengths of participants, provide a means to balance the interests of involved parties, insure that the development process proceeds at a pace and in a form which reflects local conditions and capacities, and helps ensure the sustainability of benefits.

SO2: Strategic Objective Two

Financial assistance under NATURE is divided into two components: GOM budgetary support of \$30.5 million and traditional project assistance of \$9.5 million. Results to be achieved are tied to the following objectives:

- Unifying national & sectoral policy/legislative framework established for governing natural resource use;
- Capacity of communities to manage natural resources improved;

- Capacity of protected area management structures strengthened;
- Field-level support programs improved; and
- Capacity of national NRM institutions strengthened.

*B*udgetary support is geared toward the development and implementation of a policy and legislative reform agenda; establishment of a performance based budgeting system for priority NRM activities; creation of an endowment fund to ensure a sustainable source of NRM financing; and general budgetary support for national environmental objectives. Funds are disbursed in tranches upon the Government's satisfactory achievement of agreed upon milestones. As of the first quarter of 1997, USAID had disbursed \$5 million in NATURE budgetary support. NATURE Project Assistance complements the budgetary support by providing technical and management assistance for the activities noted above and for financing efforts in agroforestry/soil conservation, environmental monitoring, public land utilization, and community based natural resource management.

NATURE ACTIVITIES

Policy, Legislation and Institutional Reform - A major factor constraining improved natural resource management in Malawi is the lack of a coherent policy, legislative and administrative framework within which to implement improved resource management programs. Sector policy developments have been driven at widely differing rates on a department-by-department basis, with little cross-sectoral coordination or harmonization with the newly approved National Environment Policy or the Environment Management Act. Legal reforms are long overdue in some sectors, and the few recent changes which have been effected have failed to keep pace with the advances in policy formulation. Importantly, the new customer focus to Malawi's natural resource policies has not yet been matched by comparable institutional reforms needed to forge partnerships between government, non-governmental organizations, the rural population and the private sector on which the implementation of these policies will increasingly depend.

*W*ith financial and technical support from USAID and UNDP, the GOM, under the auspices of the Ministry of Research and Environmental Affairs (MOREA), completed a budgeted, time-bound Action Plan to undertake a sweeping sector-level policy, legislative and institutional reform program in the fields of the environment and natural resources management.

Implementation of the plan is now underway. While USAID and UNDP have already made major commitments to assisting the GOM in this reform process, there exists ample scope for participation by additional donors. Participating GOM institutions include:

Ministry of Lands and Valuation

Ministry of Natural Resources (Departments of National Parks and Wildlife, of Forestry, and of Fisheries)

Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

Ministry of Research and Environmental Affairs

Agroforestry - The Malawi Agroforestry Extension Project (MAFE) is designed to promote the integration of research-proven sustainable agroforestry practices into village/family farming systems. It focusses on four objectives:

- Establishment of an agroforestry support network to provide technical, training, and information services for public, NGO and private sector practitioners;
- Expansion in the supply of agroforestry planting materials;
- Development and implementation of a policy framework to guide and coordinate agroforestry research and extension; and
- Testing, adapting and evaluating prototype agroforestry technologies at the farm level in various agro-ecological zones.

MAFE is implemented under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture with funding provided through a grant to Washington State University. The grant period is from August 1992 to September 2000.

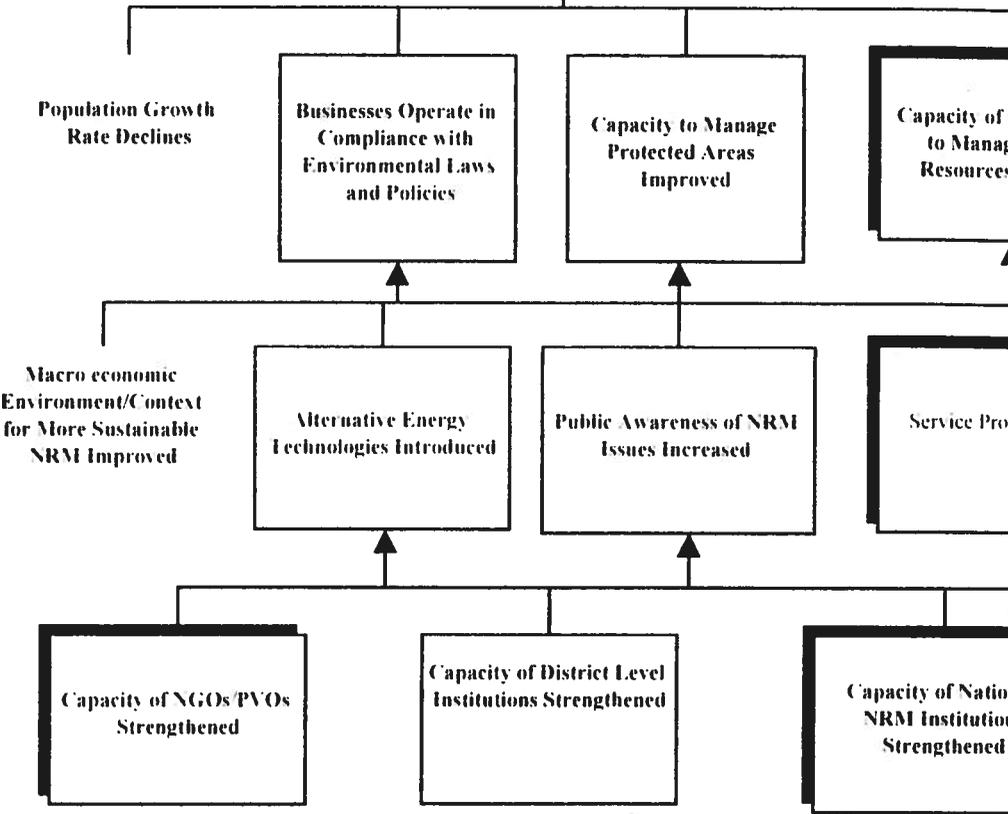
Environmental Monitoring - The Malawi Environmental Monitoring Program (MEMP) is building a national capacity for providing environmental information to: 1) answer questions about environmental conditions in specific situations for use in guiding mitigation measures; and 2) support a viable Environmental Information System which can guide policy decisions. Anticipated MEMP results include:

(Cont. on page 7)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2
RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Strategic Objective 2:
 Increased Sustainable Use,
 Conservation, and Management
 of Natural Resources

Indicators
 --Land and area under improv
 conservation practices
 --Land and area under commu
 management (CBNRM)
 --Protected areas under im



Indicators (Preliminary)
 --NGOs with staff trained in Participatory Rural Appraisal
 --NGOs implementing strategic plans

Shaded boxes reflect areas which USAID current

SO2 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK and MONITORING & EVALUATION PARAMETERS

and agroforestry/soil
community-based natural resource
improved management practices

Communities
Natural
Improved

Indicators (Preliminary)

- CBNRM strategy operational
- Community NRM structures operational
- Protected areas/communities with operational "revenue sharing" programs

Programs Improved

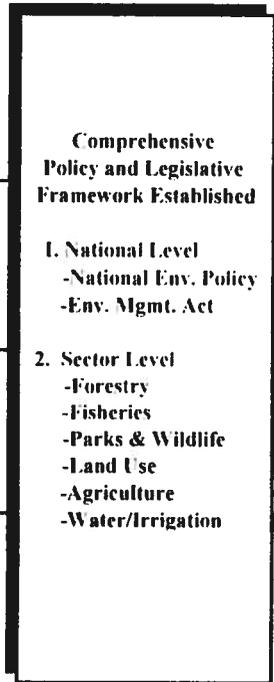
Indicators

- Agroforestry technologies & support services tested, evaluated & adapted at farm level
- Agroforestry support network developed
- Agroforestry extension & training strengthened
- Supply/distribution of agroforestry planting materials increased

Legal
is

Indicators

- Performance-based budgeting program operational for priority NRM programs
- Prototype EIS developed and applied
- National endowment fund established
- Research & training strengthened
- Compliance & enforcement improved
- Characterization of public lands completed



Indicators

- National-level policies approved/ passed by Parliament
- Sectoral policies & legislation updated

ly supports or plans to support



- Prototype Environmental Information System developed and applied;
- Environmental research and training strengthened;
- Intensive catchment monitoring program developed, implemented and evaluated; and
- Environmental monitoring technologies/approaches expanded and evaluated.

MEMP is implemented under the direction of the Ministry of Research and Environmental Affairs (MOREA). Technical support is provided under a grant with the University of Arizona and Clark University. Duration of the activity is from March 1993 to September 1998.

Assessment of Public Lands - Population pressure combined with Malawi's new democratic structures are focussing intense attention on sensitive land tenure issues. Under guidance from the Ministry of Lands and Valuation, three major land utilization studies are underway which cover: customary land use (supported by the European Union), estate land use (supported by the UK-ODA) and public land use (supported by USAID). In addition, the President recently established the Presidential Commission of Enquiry on Land Policy Reform to make recommendations for promoting equitable access to land, security of title to land and improved land administration.

The public land utilization study (PLUS) is designed to provide a comprehensive characterization of environmental status and optional use scenarios for publicly-held lands in Malawi. As a result of this activity, policy-makers will be better informed about the likely consequences of changes in tenure or use status of public lands. The study examines all public lands extensively and five specific protected areas intensively. The latter include the Zomba Forest Reserve, Mulanje Forest Reserve, Liwonde National Park, Dzalanyama Forest Reserve/Agricultural Scheme, and the Vwaza Wildlife Reserve. Technical Support is provided by the University of Arizona. Work began in March 1996 and is scheduled for completion in September 1997.

Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) - Several Malawian organizations are either engaged in or are planning activities to strengthen the capacity of communities to manage their

natural resources. These programs are generating various CBNRM models that can reflect local conditions and test various approaches. The programs, however, are commonly carried out in isolation so that lessons learned are not shared, technical support and training programs are not coordinated, policy issues are poorly vetted, and generally, the systemic constraints to the adoption of CBNRM are unaddressed. Therefore, CBNRM stakeholders and USAID are developing an initiative designed to "strengthen the institutional framework in which CBNRM programs are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated." Anticipated results include:

- Effective CBNRM administrative and technical services capacity established;
- Functioning liaison, communication and information exchange mechanisms between/among domestic and regional CBNRM programs established;
- Community mobilization skills within government, NGOs and community groups improved;
- Policy and legislative reform in favor of CBNRM supported;
- Research applicable to CBNRM produced and disseminated; and
- Limited CBNRM grant management services established to exploit special circumstances.

Overall implementation guidance will be provided by a national CBNRM Steering Committee, with Government liaison provided by MOREA and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Proposed duration of the activity is from January 1998 to December 2002.

Natural Resource Endowment Fund - The objective of this fund is to provide a sustainable source of financing for conservation and natural resource management. The concept reflects the uncertainty of future donor financing and the need for leveraging private sector financial resources. An active Endowment Fund Working Group has been established to identify and address issues relating to the creation and operation of the Fund. The Group will hire a full-time coordinator by June 1997. Working Group Members include:

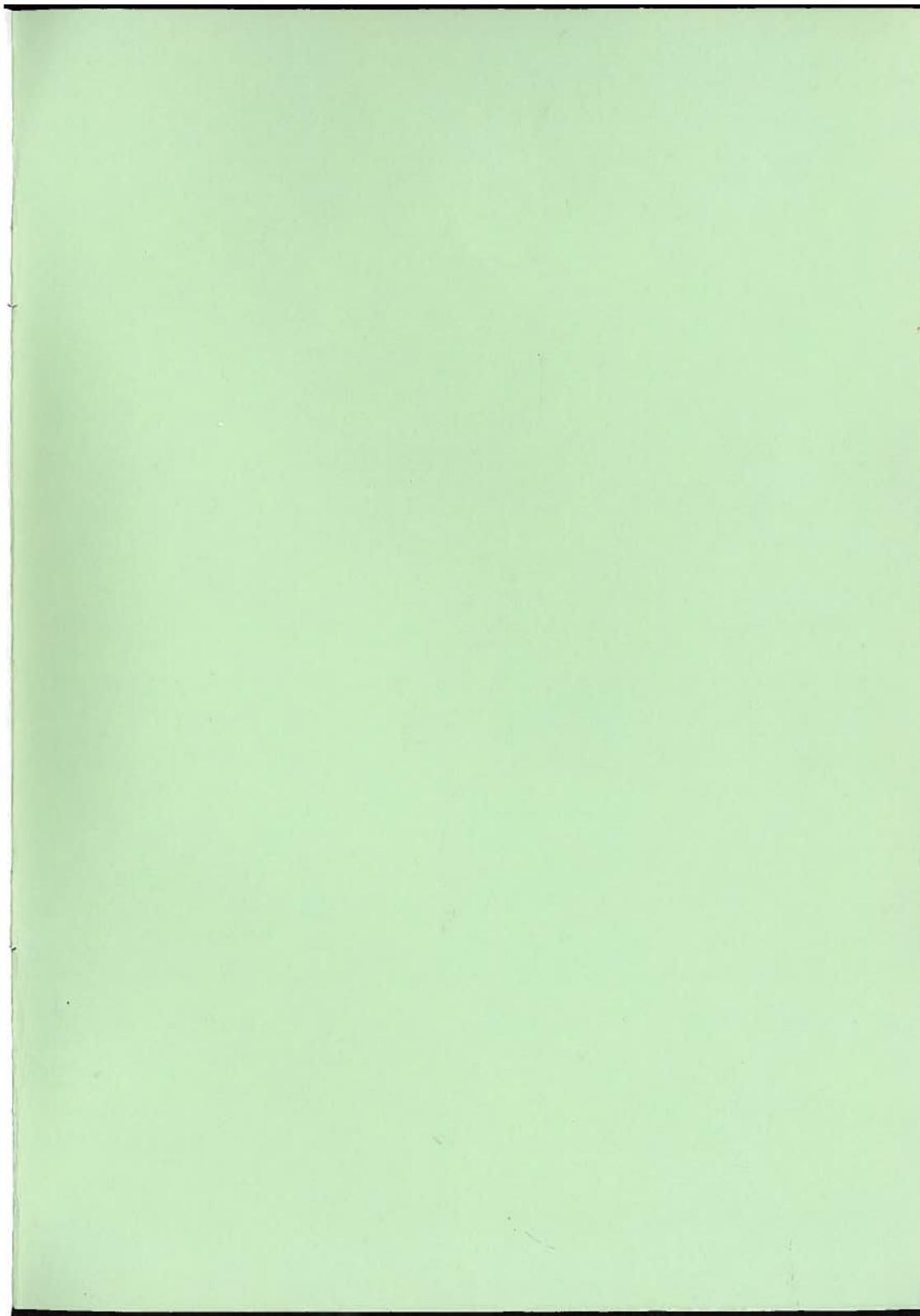
Chair:	Mr. C.W. Guta	Malawi Industrial Research and Technology Development Center
Vice Chair:	Dr. E.Y. Sambo	Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (Chair)
Members:	Mr. J. Mononga Mr. K. Hassen	Commercial Bank of Malawi Commercial Bank of Malawi (Chairman) Wildlife Research and Management Board (Chairman)
	Dr. C. Dudley Mr. T. Shaba	Wildlife Society of Malawi Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE)
	Mr. C. Ndhlovu	Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries & Environmental Affairs
Ex-officio:	Dept. of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Finance, USAID, UNDP	

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