



# MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI (MCHF)

Fiscal Year 2020 Second Quarter Report  
(January – March 2020)

**APRIL 2020**

This document was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development and United Kingdom Department for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech for the Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF) Activity.

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*Cover Photo: A plantation employee standing in front of an improved charcoal kiln, loading sustainable charcoal into a bag. This sustainable charcoal is sold in Malawi's urban areas.*

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## **DISCLAIMER**

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AE	Alternative Energy
AEFFECT	Alternative Energy and Fuel-Efficient Cooking Technologies
AMELP	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
ANRM	Agriculture and Natural Resources Management
AWP	Annual Work Plan
DEC	District Executive Committee
DESC	District Environment Sub-Committee
DoF	Department of Forestry
DoEA	Department of Energy Affairs
FR	Forest Reserve
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FY	Fiscal Year
GoM	Government of Malawi
IACCWC	Interagency Committee on Combatting Wildlife Crime
IT	Information Technology
LGAP	Local Government Accountability Project
LOA	Life of Activity
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LWT	Lilongwe Wildlife Trust
MCHF	Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests in Malawi
MERA	Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority
MPCC	Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus
NCSC	National Cookstove Steering Committee
PEA	Political Economy Analysis
PERFORM	Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi Activity
REDD+	Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAEP	Southern Africa Energy Program
SEED CMC	Secondary Education Expansion for Development Contract Management Consultant
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SoW	Scope of Work
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WAG	Wildlife Action Group
WDDU	Wildlife Detection Dog Unit
WG	Working Group

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As agreed with USAID/Malawi, the structure and content of Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests' (MCHF) Quarterly Reports would evolve over the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2020 (FY2020). The First Quarter (Q1) Report focused primarily on project start-up, inclusive of work planning activities. This Second Quarter (Q2) Report has been broadened to present progress on both project start-up and the design and implementation of key activities by objective. The Third Quarter (Q3) Report, and subsequent reports, will follow a more traditional periodic reporting structure focused on presenting progress in the design and implementation of key activities, by objective and intermediate result.

# I.0 INTRODUCTION

MCHF is a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom Department for International Development. The activity is implemented by Tetra Tech in association with five subcontractors: Winrock International, Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), World Resources Institute (WRI) and mHub.

## I.1 BACKGROUND

The main threats to Malawi's forests include unsustainable harvesting for wood fuels to meet construction and energy needs (charcoal and firewood for cooking, fish smoking, brick making, and tobacco curing), agriculture and settlement expansion in forested areas, and harmful bushfires. High population density and growth are deteriorating the situation. Charcoal production is currently the single most significant driver of forest degradation. More than 96% of households rely on charcoal and firewood as their primary cooking fuel. Most research agrees that charcoal and firewood will continue to be a significant source of energy in Malawi for the foreseeable future, in large part due to the lack of available alternative energies (AE) for cooking, coupled with the population growth, rapid urbanization, and relative high prices of existing AEs. While local energy supply-demand imbalances have existed in parts of the country for years (especially around Blantyre and Lilongwe) it is projected that the national, annual demand for wood fuels exceeded sustainable supply in/around 2019.

The lack of income-generating opportunities in rural areas is the primary cause for urbanization in Malawi. While charcoal contributes to rural livelihoods, production is largely illegal and occurs increasingly within Forest Reserves and other critical water catchment areas. Illegal and unsustainable charcoal production, transportation and marketing drive widespread corruption along the charcoal value chain. In addition to domestic charcoal, charcoal produced in Mozambique and Zambia is also illegally transported and marketed in Malawi to meet Malawi's urban wood fuel demand, especially in Blantyre and Lilongwe. Malawi needs to implement innovative solutions that balance citizens' energy needs and promote the proper management and utilization of forestry resources.

The MCHF activity has been designed to promote sustainable forest management in Malawi in select landscapes, support sustainable cooking energy options in select urban demand centers, maintain forest cover, and to reduce land-based emissions. By increasing demand for alternative cooking energy options and efficient cooking technologies and increasing the supply of sustainable wood fuels from well-managed forest resources, MCHF will help Malawi reduce unsustainable tree cutting in both public and customary forests, improve forest cover, and conserve associated watersheds.

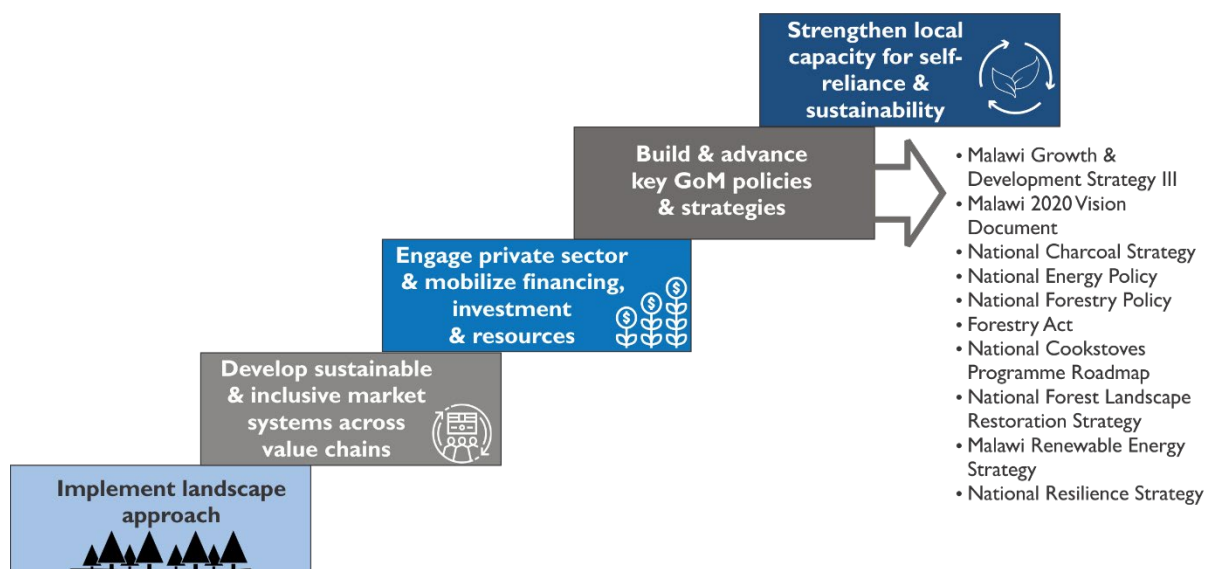
MCHF builds on the strong foundation laid by the USAID/Malawi-funded Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi (PERFORM) activity, which supported effective governance and forest management processes, built Malawi's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) readiness capacity, and promoted low-emissions land use opportunities. Whereas PERFORM's work was anchored around select forest reserves, MCHF applies a landscape approach that incorporates interventions across multiple geographic scales and land use types, including urban and peri-urban areas, forest reserves, plantations, customary land, and smallholder farms, to address wood fuel supply and demand dynamics holistically. The activity also builds system-level resilience through an integrated land use management framework that seeks to integrate policies across sectors in order to harmonize development and conservation objectives.



The MCHF strategy (Figure 1) will reduce unsustainable wood fuel demand, increase sustainable wood fuel supply, and strengthen Malawi’s business and regulatory enabling environment by:

1. **Implementing a landscape approach** that addresses wood fuel supply and demand and reduces underlying drivers of forest cover loss;
2. **Developing inclusive and sustainable market systems across AE, sustainable charcoal, and forestry value chains** by engaging a wide range of actors within each value chain, identifying leverage points that overcome market constraints, and facilitating market-based solutions that utilize local systems and resources;
3. **Engaging the private sector and mobilizing financing, investment, and additional resources** that activate and increase investments for alternative fuels, fuel-efficient (FE) technology, and improved forest governance and forest landscape restoration;
4. **Building on and advancing key Government of Malawi (GoM) policies and strategies**, particularly the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, Malawi 2020 Vision Document, National Charcoal Strategy (NCS), National Energy Policy (NEP), National Forestry Policy, Forestry Act, National Cookstoves Programme Roadmap, National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLRS), National Resilience Strategy, and Malawi Renewable Energy Strategy; and
5. **Strengthening local capacity for self-reliance and sustainability** by prioritizing local partners, working with and through GoM institutions, implementing facilitative market system approaches, and supporting human and institutional capacity development.

**FIGURE 1. MCHF STRATEGY**



## 1.2 KEY OPERATING ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS

Through the development of the MCHF Life of Activity (LOA) Performance Work Statement, the Activity Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP), and the FY2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP), MCHF has identified the key assumptions and risks with the greatest potential to impact MCHF implementation and achievement of results. The key operating assumptions are summarized as follows:

- The success of Objective I is premised on the performance of a viable market systems approach. This assumes the macroeconomic performance does not deteriorate significantly.

- The success of Objectives 2 and 4 requires consistent and meaningful commitment from the Department of Forestry (DoF). This includes a commitment to increasing staffing levels, both at the District-level (nationally the DoF staffing vacancy rate exceeds 50%, and is much higher at the sub-district/forestry assistant level), and at the national level (specifically for the Monitoring Unit), and a commitment to allocate financial resources to support implementation of key activities, including but not limited to the National Forest Inventory and forest/Forest Landscape Restoration monitoring.
- Objective 3 assumes maintaining sustained political will and commitment to address illegal and unsustainable charcoal production, transportation, and marketing from multiple GoM Ministries/Departments/Services, at various scales.
- Objective 5 targets for integration activities and leverage are considerable, and MCHF has proposed to work with a wide range of partners to achieve and meet these targets.

Presently, the most urgent risk to MCHF implementation, results and sustained impact is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which toward the end of the reporting period began limiting mobility, engagement and technical delivery. Travel restrictions stemming from the global COVID-19 pandemic forced MCHF to postpone five short-term assignments scheduled to begin in the last three weeks of March, which were designed to support implementation of formative activities under Objectives 1 through 4. Possible impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on MCHF will be factored into a revised FY2020 Annual Work Plan, which will be submitted for final approval in May.

Beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, donor commitment to MCHF focal areas and private sector interest in the Malawian market are tied to Malawi's continued stability and security. In addition, MCHF implementation and delivery of results may be influenced by weather/climatic factors well beyond the control of MCHF (as was the case with the El Niño-related drought in 2015/2016). The inability to predict with precision future extreme weather and climate-related shocks presents a degree of uncertainty that may impact project results and require programming adjustments.

## 2.0 PROJECT START UP AND PROGRESS

During the second quarter MCHF continued implementing scheduled start up activities. This section summarizes progress made in start up activities made during the quarter.

### 2.1 PROJECT DELIVERABLES

During the reporting period MCHF submitted all project deliverables on schedule (see Appendix 2: MCHF Deliverable Tracker), including foundational products such as the FY2020 Annual Work Plan (AWP), Activity Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan (AMELP), Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP), Baseline Report, and Grants Management Plan (GMP). MCHF presented the draft FY2020 AWP to USAID on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Feedback received during and after the presentation, together with written feedback on the AMELP (received on 31<sup>st</sup> March), and the USAID/Malawi Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) Results Framework (received on 21<sup>st</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April) will be used to revise and finalize these deliverables in the May.

### 2.2 STAFFING

During the quarter MCHF recruited for all remaining project vacancies, both for Lilongwe-based and field-based positions. This recruitment sought to identify well qualified staff for the following vacancies:

- Communications Specialist
- Private Sector Engagement Specialist
- Social Marketing & Behavior Change Specialist
- Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Assistant
- Drivers
- Forestry Coordinators
- Forest Friendly Product and Market Development Coordinators
- Alternative Energy and Fuel-Efficient Cooking Technologies Coordinators

Prior to the end of the quarter this recruitment had identified well qualified for all vacancies except for the Private Sector Engagement Specialist. After an unsuccessful recruitment effort early in the quarter for this role, the position description was revised and re-advertised. Contracting of successful candidates for all remaining vacancies will be completed in the third quarter, as soon as the COVID-19 situation improves and MCHF resumes a regular, in-office work schedule.

### 2.3 IN COUNTRY OPERATIONS

Throughout the quarter Tetra Tech continued efforts to establish the MCHF office and build the capacity of project staff. Two specific areas of focus are highlighted below:

- IT system: Tetra Tech's Information Technology (IT) Specialist supported the establishment of the MCHF IT system during the quarter. Between 29<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March, the IT Specialist configured project laptops, established an office network, and configured staff access to Tetra Tech's cloud-based file management system, Egnyte. The IT Specialist also provided computers and Egnyte training to project staff.
- Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Protect and Respect Training: With corporate (non-project) funding, Tetra Tech delivered a training to both the MCHF and the USAID/Malawi-funded Secondary Education Expansion for Development Construction

Management Consultant (SEED CMC) projects titled Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Protect and Respect. Designed to both review the types of behavior that contribute to a respectful workplace and to increase staff knowledge of the Tetra Tech policies and procedures that are in place to protect staff and beneficiaries from sexual exploitation and abuse, the training was delivered in two parts. Part one was provided to the MCHF and SEED CMC leadership teams on 11<sup>th</sup> February, and part two was delivered to the full MCHF and SEED CMC teams on 12<sup>th</sup> February. The training was delivered by two Tetra Tech ARD home office staff, the Senior Director of Human Resources, and the Project Process and Systems Manager.

## **2.4 CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL START UP**

During the quarter, MCHF continued a committed process of engagement with the Government of Malawi. This included engagement with key national-level stakeholders (Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Services) to review and revise the draft FY2020 AWP and AMELP, and with sub-national stakeholders (District and City Councils) to introduce MCHF and to solicit input into the design of project activities. A brief summary of the timeline for this cross-cutting engagement with the GoM is presented below:

- 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January 2020: In addition to regular one-on-one meetings with national government partners, MCHF held a two-day workshop with key national government stakeholders (Department of Forestry, Department of Energy Affairs, Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Malawi Police Service, Ministry of Justice) to present and solicit feedback to revise the draft FY2020 AWP.
- 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020: The team introduced the MCHF activity to the Salima District Environment Sub-Committee (DESC) and was scheduled to present to the District Executive Committee (DEC) on 5<sup>th</sup> March. The presentation to the DEC was postponed to accommodate a Salima District Council budget preparation meeting, and was later further postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020: The team introduced the MCHF activity to Lilongwe City Council. The presentation focused primarily on Objective 1. During the meeting, the activity was endorsed by the Lilongwe City Council.
- 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March 2020: The team introduced the MCHF activity to the Mzimba DESC (17<sup>th</sup> March) and to the DEC (18<sup>th</sup> March). During these meetings, the DESC and DEC endorsed the activity for implementation.
- 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020: MCHF introduced the activity to the Nkhata Bay DESC. A follow-on presentation to the DEC scheduled for the last week of March was postponed due to restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020: The MCHF team introduced the activity to the Dedza DESC (on 24<sup>th</sup> March) and the DEC (26<sup>th</sup> March); the Dedza DESC and DEC endorsed the activity for implementation.

## 3.0 ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 OBJECTIVE 1: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND EFFICIENT COOKING TECHNOLOGIES ADOPTED TO REDUCE UNSUSTAINABLE WOOD FUEL DEMAND

#### 3.1.1 CONSUMER MARKET RESEARCH

To inform activity design and implementation for enhanced urban consumer demand and scaled-up adoption of alternative cooking energies and fuel-efficient cooking technologies, MCHF developed and finalized a Scope of Work (SoW) for Urban Cooking Energy Consumer Market Research and Baseline Survey. The SoW included the data requirements and sampling design for Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu, Zomba and Salima. The request for proposals (RFP) was released to five firms on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with a deadline for proposal submission on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020. The proposal review and contracting process is expected to be completed next quarter, with data collection beginning as soon as possible after the firm-fixed price subcontract is signed (note: the timeline for implementation of the Urban Cooking Energy Consumer Market Research and Baseline Survey will depend on the COVID-19 situation).

#### 3.1.2 ENGAGEMENT OF A PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANT

In effort to develop innovative consumer financing strategies, during the quarter MCHF engaged a Private Sector Engagement - Fuel Efficient Technologies and Alternative Energies consultant to: i) design the Results-Based Finance (RBF)/Performance-Based Grants (PBG) “window” of the MCHF grants program; ii) develop urban cooking energy “market information” packages that can be used to quantify Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and improved cookstove market potential in Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba, and then stimulate entrepreneurial interest; and, iii) use the above, and other available data and analysis, to engage Financial Institutions (FI), and possibly select micro-finance institutions (MFI), to raise awareness of the viability of the urban cooking energy sector. As part of this effort, over the next quarter MCHF will engage the selected FIs, including those associated with the Southern Africa Energy Program (SAEP) Kick-Starter Program, to identify a subset of FIs interested in designing packages specifically for the urban cooking energy sector.

From 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the consultant, supported by MCHF’s Alternative Energy and Fuel-Efficient Cooking Technology (AEFECT) Specialist, met numerous stakeholders to collect information and to inform the design of MCHF results-based financing. A second round of in-person consultations scheduled for the week of 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March was postponed due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, and a number of these scheduled consultations were conducted remotely. Some of the stakeholders consulted (in person or remotely) included SAEP, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Maeve, Concern Universal Microfinance Operations (CUMO) and energy experts including researchers in clean energy. The consultant’s assignment was scheduled for completion by the end of June 2020; however, this deadline may be extended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 3.1.3 POLITICAL ECONOMY ANALYSIS

During the quarter MCHF developed and finalized an activity scope of work for the planned political economy analysis (PEA) on charcoal and, completed recruitment and contracting of the Charcoal PEA team. The core team is comprised of a PEA Lead, PEA Advisor, PEA Consultant, and two Forestry Specialists. This core team is supplemented by members of the MCHF team, including the Deputy Chief of Party and the Regulation and Enforcement Specialist. The PEA was initiated, as scheduled, in early March. However, the planned mobilization of the PEA Lead and the PEA Advisor was postponed due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the balance

of the month the PEA team worked remotely to draft the Charcoal PEA methodology, and to adapt the draft Charcoal PEA workplan in an effort to identify ways to advance aspects of the PEA implementation remotely, in light of the current COVID-19 related restrictions.

### 3.1.4 NATIONAL COOKSTOVE STEERING COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

During the quarter, MCHF participated in the quarterly National Cookstove Steering Committee (NCSC) meeting and assumed support for two of the three NCSC Working Groups (WG), specifically WG2: Charcoal and Alternative Biomass/Improved Charcoal and Alternative Biomass Stoves and WG3: LPG. The new WGs have been established to serve as communities of practice and eventually “Trade Associations” for fuel/stove specific value chain actors. The first two WG meetings were held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. A second WG2 meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> January, during which members participated in interactive site visits to charcoal and alternative biomass producers, and stove producers, in greater Lilongwe. This was followed by a presentation and discussion on carbonization. The second WG3 meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> March and was organized to brief members on recent meetings with Department of Energy Affairs (DoEA) and Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA), and to provide an opportunity for LPG importers, distributors, and regulators to engage directly.

Beyond the WG meetings MCHF conducted a series of consultations with the DoEA and MERA as follows:

- On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, MCHF participated in an NCSC coordination meeting with the Department of Energy Affairs Assistant Director, Mr. Joseph Kalowekamo, and other departmental staff. The meeting was held to brief the Department on the new structure of the NCSC WGs, and to highlight key issues and next steps emerging from the NCSC meetings on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- On 31<sup>st</sup> January MCHF, accompanied by the NCSC WG 3 Chairperson, met with the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA) and the newly established LPG Unit within the Department of Liquid Fuels and Gas. The team met with MERA’s new Senior Gas Specialist, Mr. Mgawa Mkandawire, and Gas Specialist, Mr. Macjessie Muula. The goal of the meeting was to present MCHF, highlight the newly formed NCSC WG3, and discuss the regulatory challenges impacting LPG importers and distributors that were highlighted during the WG3 meeting.

### 3.1.5 ALTERNATIVE COOKING ENERGY AND FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKING TECHNOLOGY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In the second quarter of FY2020, MCHF networked broadly to identify businesses and other organizations promoting LPG, sustainable charcoal/biomass energy and/or improved cookstoves. In follow-up, MCHF’s AEFECT Specialist and Chief of Party (COP) visited more than ten of these enterprises/organizations between mid-February and early-March, to formally introduce MCHF to these stakeholders and to understand the scope of their operations. As part of this process MCHF made these stakeholders aware of the fuel and stove testing that will be supported by the project in the coming months, forming the first step in the two-step process to identify the “best bet” biomass fuels and improved stoves. By design, the first step will identify the biomass fuels and stoves that compete well against the baseline—illegal charcoal and the Malawian Jiko Stove, and the second step will assess the financial viability of the enterprise/business model. MCHF expects that more than 30 locally produced biomass energies and stoves will be assessed through this process, with the finalized results expected in the third quarter.

### 3.1.6 LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION ON ALTERNATIVE COOKING ENERGY AND FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKING TECHNOLOGY

During the quarter, MCHF supported a live panel discussion that brought together key suppliers and distributors in Malawi’s LPG sector: Afrox Limited, Delta Gas Energy Limited and 265 Energy. These

key actors discussed whether LPG can become an alternative to charcoal during the live panel discussion. Two veteran LPG users also participated in the discussion and shared their experiences using LPG, and highlighting how LPG can serve as an immediate solution to replace illegal charcoal. The panel discussion was aired live on Zodiak Broadcasting Cooperation on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 6:30 to 7:30PM. A Communications Consultant facilitated the live panel discussion, drafted and developed questions for the panelists, and developed and disseminated social media fliers to advertise the panel discussion prior to the air date.

## **3.2 OBJECTIVE 2: LOCAL DELIVERY OF FORESTRY SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF FORESTRY RESOURCES IN TARGETED AREAS IMPROVED**

### **3.2.1 FINAL SELECTION OF FOCAL LANDSCAPES, FOREST RESERVES AND PLANTATIONS**

During the quarter, MCHF engaged the DoF and USAID to finalize the selection of focal landscapes, Forest Reserves (FR) and plantations. The FRs and plantations selected within the Northern and Central landscapes are reflected in the table below. Building on this final selection, MCHF worked with the DoF, the relevant District Councils, and other sources to collect and collate information on the Districts (e.g., District Development Plans, Socio-Economic Profiles, etc.), Forest Reserves (e.g., management plans, management/concession agreements, etc.) and plantations (e.g., management status, concessionaires, etc.).

TABLE I. LIST OF MCHF FOREST RESERVES AND FOREST PLANTATIONS

CENTRAL LANDSCAPE	NORTHERN LANDSCAPE
Dzalanyama FR (including Dzalanyama and Katete Plantations) Dedza-Salima Escarpment FR Mua-Livulezi FR Thuma FR	Bunganya FR Kaning'ina FR Perekezi FR Viphya Plantation

### **3.2.2 ENGAGEMENT WITH DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS**

During the quarter MCHF engaged regularly with District-level stakeholders. This included consultations and site visits with District and Zonal Forestry Offices to selected Forest Reserves and plantations, and structured engagements with Districts Councils to introduce MCHF, solicit their input into design of activities, and seek endorsement for the project to operate in the District [the timeline and status of these engagements with the respective District Environment Sub-Committees (DESCs) and District Executive Committees (DECs) was presented in Section 2.4].

### **3.2.3 LANDSCAPE RESOURCE, DATA COLLECTION, AND LANDSCAPE LEVEL PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

In addition to the collection and collation of District/FR/plantation specific information (described in Section 3.2.1), in the second quarter MCHF also compiled the various geospatial datasets (e.g., from the National FLR Assessment; Woodfuel Demand, Supply and Sustainability Analysis; and the USGS Land Use/Land Cover and Tree Density on Farm), and began assessing how to best combine these data to inform the landscape restoration action planning process, and as part of this, broader site-based activity design and implementation (discussed further in Section 3.2.3). In the third quarter, the information and data assembled will be presented back to stakeholders for validation, and subsequently will be used with stakeholders to inform development of landscape restoration action plans. To guide this process MCHF developed a draft standard operating procedure (SOP), which was circulated to GoM counterparts for review and comment, and will be revised and finalized in the first half of the third quarter, prior to being rolled-out (travel permitting).

### **3.3 OBJECTIVE 3: REGULATORY AND ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORKS STRENGTHENED TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE WOODFUEL PRODUCTION AND USE**

#### **3.3.1 SUPPORT FOR PRIORITY LEGAL AND REGULATORY REFORMS**

The Forestry Act Amendment Bill, which was developed with support from PERFORM, was tabled in the 10<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February Parliamentary sitting. In an effort to support the Bill to be passed by Parliament, and ultimately enacted, MCHF assisted the DoF to engage with Parliamentarians (through the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus—MPCC, and the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resources—PCCCNr) in advance of the Parliamentary sitting. MCHF worked with the DoF to organize a workshop to sensitize Parliamentarians. Specifically, MCHF assisted with talking points and presentations to provide context for the Forestry Act Amendment Bill, highlight the proposed changes, and advocate for passage. The DoF, assisted by Dr. Magombo of the National Herbarium and Botanical Garden, made the presentations to Parliamentarians, and responded to questions. This timely engagement assisted in the final push for passage of the Bill, which was overwhelmingly passed in Parliament on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. In the next quarter, in anticipation of the Bill being assented by the President (at which point it will become law), MCHF will work with the DoF to begin developing subsidiary legislation and guidelines prioritized by the DoF. This is expected to include Charcoal Regulations, and Charcoal Licensing Guidelines.

#### **3.3.2 MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AT TREE PLANTING WITH THE PCCCNr**

During FY2020 Q2, MCHF provided logistical support for seven media houses to join the PCCCNr in a tree planting exercise on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This exercise was co-led by the DoF and provided Members of Parliament (MPs) an opportunity to talk about the recently passed Forestry Act Amendment Bill, and how this will help to address pressing issues in the forestry sector. The exercise, which took place in Ntcheu district, resulted in media coverage by MBC TV, Times TV, Rainbow TV, Zodiak Broadcasting Station, and The Nation newspaper.

#### **3.3.3 ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON COMBATTING WILDLIFE CRIME**

During the quarter, MCHF engaged with the Interagency Committee on Combatting Wildlife Crime (IACCWC), which is a network of government enforcement agencies, including: DoF, Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), Financial Intelligence Authority, Malawi Revenue Authority, Anti-corruption Bureau, Malawi Judiciary, Malawi Police Services, Department of Immigration and the Malawi Defense Force. Honorary members of the agency who work in the environmental sector include: LWT, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Wildlife Action Group and Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi. The meeting provided an opportunity to broadly introduce the IACCWC to MCHF, and more specifically the scope of planned forestry regulation and enforcement activities through Objective Three. The relationship between members of the IACCWC will be crucial for forestry crime related investigations, especially in terms of information sharing. The meeting was held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Lifupa Lodge in Kasungu National Park.

#### **3.3.4 PARTICIPATION IN PROSECUTORS CASE REVIEW MEETING**

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, MCHF's Regulatory Enforcement Specialist attended a Prosecutors of Wildlife Case Review Meeting held in Lilongwe. At this meeting, MCHF was introduced to the Head of Prosecutions of Malawi Police Services. The introduction, and follow-up meetings, helped the Head of Prosecutions to understand the MCHF goal and objectives, and provided the opportunity for him to highlight the procedures and protocols that will need to be observed when supporting prosecution related activities in the forestry sector.



### 3.3.5 CEDAR TRAINING PILOT WITH WILDLIFE DETECTION DOG UNIT

In the last month of the quarter, MCHF supported the Wildlife Detection Dog Unit (WDDU) to pilot a training for dogs to detect protected tree species. During the training, members of the WDDU were introduced to Gmelina (*Gmelina arborea*), to teach them how to differentiate the scent of the protected species (Mulanje Cedar) against species that are not listed as protected species (*Gmelina*). The pilot was part of a larger series of activities planned under the enforcement mandate. The trained dogs will contribute to the fight against illegal transportation of forestry products sourced from protected species. Future training sessions will include the introduction of a broader portfolio of wood samples (e.g., Rosewood).

## 3.4 OBJECTIVE 4: GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI'S IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT IN REDD+ AND/OR OTHER LAND USE INCREASED

### 3.4.1 COMPILATION AND REVIEW OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND DATA

Through the second quarter, MCHF continued to compile and review all relevant national strategies, policies and other resources related to forest and landscape management and monitoring, including but not limited to the: National Forest Policy, National Charcoal Strategy, National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy, National REDD+ Strategy, and National Resilience Strategy. As part of this process, MCHF reviewed indicator frameworks associated with these strategic resources and began working with the DoF to rationalize a comprehensive indicator framework for forest and landscape monitoring that the GoM can apply nationally, and which integrates national and district data.

As noted in Section 3.2, in addition to the collection and collation of District/FR/plantation specific information (described in Section 3.2.1), in the second quarter MCHF also compiled the various geospatial datasets (e.g., from the National FLR Assessment; Woodfuel Demand, Supply and Sustainability Analysis; and the USGS Land Use/Land Cover and Tree Density on Farm), and began assessing how to best combine these data to inform the landscape restoration action planning process, and as part of this, broader site-based activity design and implementation. In the third quarter, the information and data assembled will be presented back to stakeholders for validation, and subsequently will be used with stakeholders to inform development of landscape restoration action plans. To guide this process, MCHF developed a draft standard operating procedure (SOP), which was circulated to GoM counterparts for review and comment and will be revised and finalized in the first half of the third quarter, prior to being rolled-out (travel permitting).

### 3.4.2 GOM CAPACITY BUILDING TO IMPROVE NATIONAL TRACKING OF FOREST COVER

The scheduled capacity building workshop to improve national tracking of forest cover was postponed due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. In the third quarter MCHF will work to refine training materials and will engage with the DoF and others to strategize on methods to build capacity of field staff and GoM personnel through remote trainings.

## 3.5 OBJECTIVE 5: INTERVENTIONS LEVERAGED WITH USAID AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Throughout the second quarter MCHF continued engaging with a wide range of development partners, implementing partners, private entities and other actors to identify win-win integration opportunities that will leverage resources (material, technical and financial), expand implementation, and help to sustain activities and results. While these integration activities will continue to evolve over the balance of FY2020, we highlight a few integration activities below.

### 3.5.1 NCSC INTEGRATION WITH GIZ ENERGIZING DEVELOPMENT AND IRISH EMBASSY

During the quarter, integration with GIZ Energizing Development and Irish Embassy (through United Purpose) to support the NCSC commenced. Through the restructured NCSC Working Group structure, MCHF assumed leadership for two of the three Working Groups: WG2 & WG3. Through this arrangement, MCHF staff serve in a leadership capacity for the two WGs and coordinate communications with WG members. In addition, MCHF provided support for the design and planning of the 2020 Cleaner Cooking Camp, which was scheduled to be held in Lilongwe from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of March, but was postponed due to restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.5.2. ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT**

MCHF engaged with the USAID and UK aid co-funded Local Government Accountability Project (LGAP) on 28<sup>th</sup> February to discuss integration opportunities. The area of focus proposed by MCHF was collaboration on the harmonization of District Council Forestry Bylaws and the Forest Act Amendment Bill. In addition, members of the MCHF team participated in an LGAP-led Training of Trainers Orientation Meeting (13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February) for District Council Service Committees, held in Lilongwe and facilitated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. At this event, MCHF expressed interest in working with the Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (ANRM) Service Committee, which currently lacks any forestry focus. A follow-on meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to further clarify the timeline and approach. If accepted, MCHF will support the design and delivery of the training materials to the ANRM Service Committees within MCHF target districts.

## **3.6 CROSS-CUTTING PROJECT SUPPORT**

In accordance with the contract, MCHF made considerable advances in cross-cutting project activities during the second quarter, including the efforts highlighted below:

### **3.6.1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

During the reporting period, MCHF developed the draft AMELP, and submitted this to USAID and DFID on January 7<sup>th</sup>. DFID provided feedback between late-January and early-February, which resulted in MCHF making slight modifications to a project indicator to enable reporting on the United Kingdom's International Climate Finance Key Performance Indicator 2 (Number of people with improved access to clean energy). USAID provided feedback on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and supplemental feedback on March 31<sup>st</sup>. USAID then provided the Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) Results Framework on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and an excerpt of CDCS indicators on April 29<sup>th</sup>. MCHF will revise the AMELP to incorporate this feedback, "map" MCHF to USAID/Malawi's CDCS, and will submit for final approval in the Third Quarter.

### **3.6.2. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

During the reporting period, MCHF used the life-of-project Performance Work Statement and the draft FY2020 AWP to draft the EMMP (screening activities against the Mission's Sustainable Livelihoods IEE), and submitted this to USAID on January 9<sup>th</sup>. USAID reviewed the draft, and provided feedback on February 13<sup>th</sup>. MCHF reviewed the comments, revised the EMMP, and resubmitted the EMMP on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. USAID reviewed the revised EMMP and provided final comments on March 20<sup>th</sup>. MCHF will make final revisions to the EMMP, addressing USAID's final comments, and will resubmit in the Third Quarter. MCHF will report on implementation of the EMMP in future Quarterly/Annual Reports. (Note: The Sustainable Livelihoods IEE recommended a "deferral" for sustainable/green charcoal activities. As indicated in the EMMP, MCHF notified USAID of the need for an amendment to the governing IEE. In the interim, MCHF shall not implement sustainable/green charcoal activities until an amended IEE is approved by the BEO, after which MCHF shall add amended mitigation measures to the current EMMP.)

### 3.6.3. GRANTS MANAGEMENT

During the reporting period, MCHF developed the draft Grants Under Contract Manual, and submitted this to USAID on January 7<sup>th</sup>. USAID reviewed and provided feedback to MCHF on February 25<sup>th</sup> (verbally) and March 3<sup>rd</sup> (scanned with handwritten comments). MCHF will revise and submit to USAID for approval in the Third Quarter.

## 4.0 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: INTERNATIONAL SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETED

NAME	ROLE	ORGANIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
Mike Clennon	MCHF IT Setup	Tetra Tech	29 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Dr. John Fay	Private Sector Engagement Consultant	Tetra Tech	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020

## APPENDIX 2: MCHF DELIVERABLE TRACKER

NO.	REPORT/DELIVERABLE TITLE	DATE DUE	REVISED DUE DATE (IF ANY)	DATE SUBMITTED	DATE OF COMMENT (IF ANY)	DATE OF FINAL SUBMITTAL (IF ANY)	DATE APPROVED (WRITTEN)
FY2020							
1	Mobilization Plan	30-Oct-19		30-Oct-19			26-Nov-19
2	Monthly Update Report (October 2020)	15-Nov-19		15-Nov-19			19-Nov-19
3	Draft FY2020 Annual Work Plan	29-Nov-19		29-Nov-19	18-Dec-20		N/A
4	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)	29-Nov-19	09-Jan-20	09-Jan-20	13-Feb-20 20-Mar-20	23-Feb-20	
5	Monthly Update Report (November 2020)	15-Dec-19		12-Dec-19			12-Dec-2019
6	Quarter 1 Accruals	15-Dec-19		13-Dec-19			N/A
7	Activity Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Plan (AMELP)	29-Dec-19	09-Jan-20	07-Jan-20	31-Jan-20 31-Mar-20		
8	Final FY2020 Annual Work Plan	29-Dec-19	20-Jan-20	20-Jan-20			
9	Baseline Report	29-Dec-19	09-Jan-20	09-Jan-20			04-Mar-20
10	Grants Under Contract (GUC) Manual (Grants Management Plan)	29-Dec-19	09-Jan-20	07-Jan-20	25-Feb-20 (verbal) 03-Mar-20 (written)		
11	Quarter 1 Progress Report	31-Jan-20		30-Jan-20			12-Feb-20
12	Quarter 1 Financial Report	31-Jan-20		30-Jan-20			12-Feb-20
13	Monthly Update Report (January 2020)	15-Feb-20		15-Feb-20			18-Feb-20
14	Monthly Update Report (February 2020)	15-Mar-20		15-Mar-20			16-Mar-20
15	Quarter 2 Accruals	16-Mar-20		16-Mar-20			N/A

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