

Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Voluntary National Report on progress towards the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the voluntary national report to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Before you start, please take note of the following important information:

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the UNFF secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting. It further requested that the secretariat explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries.
2. In fulfilling this mandate, the UNFF Secretariat has amended the format, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from Members of the Forum and in consultation with the advisory group on reporting. The secretariat has also established an online reporting platform for the submission of voluntary national reports to the Forum.
3. The amended format is structured around the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and builds on the previous format that was used for reporting to the UNFF15.
4. The amended format consists of twelve sections, each with several questions:
 1. General information
 2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets
 3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets
 4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets
 5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets
 6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets
 7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets
 8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets
 9. Voluntary National Contributions
 10. Other questions: Gender equality
 11. Other questions: International Day of Forests
 12. Success stories

To download a PDF file of the amended voluntary report format, click here [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)

5. In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, you are kindly invited to consult experts from relevant national ministries, the national focal points for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), Rio Conventions, other member organizations of the CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or that is not available in other international databases, is requested.
6. In completing the national report, you may include actions by the Government, as well as the private sector, communities, civil society, or other stakeholders. The year 2020 is used as a baseline, so please include all actions taken since this date. Where applicable, please indicate the source of information, or provide a weblink as reference.
7. All terms used in this amended format are consistent with terms and definitions used by the FAO Forest Resources Assessment.
8. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)) for more in-depth guidance when completing the national report. Other helpful resources include:
[Global Forest Goals and targets \(E/RES/2017/4\)](#)
[Sustainable Development Goals and targets \(A/RES/70/1\)](#)
9. The deadline for submission of the national reports to the UNFF secretariat is 30 June 2025.

Instructions for using the online reporting platform

1. A dedicated link has been provided to the main UNFF national focal point from each country to complete their national report. You may share the link with other national officials, experts from your own country and other relevant departments to collaborate on a single national report. To avoid accidentally deleting or overwriting completed sections of the report, please ensure no two people are working on the same section of the format at the same time. Please do not share the dedicated link with anyone not involved in completing the UNFF national report for your country.
2. The reporting format is available in English, Spanish and French. Please select the language using the menu located in the top right corner of the page.
3. You are given the flexibility to pause and resume completion of the national report. Your responses will be automatically saved, and you may return to the report at any time before the deadline for submission. To return to the report, please click on the link in the original email. If you are working with a weak internet signal, you may want to connect using an Ethernet cable instead of Wi-Fi to ensure a more stable connection.
4. You are invited to use the Section Navigator to move between sections of the survey. Click on the 'Answer' button next to each Section to navigate to the questions in that Section. Once inside the section, use the 'Save and continue' button to proceed within the section and the 'Back' button to return to previous questions.
5. By clicking 'Review and Download' in the Section Navigator, you will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses. After download, you can return to the questions to amend your answers, if necessary.
6. Prior to submission, you will be prompted to upload a cover letter conveying this as the official national report for your country. This step is mandatory. The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The cover letter size should not exceed 2MB.
7. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a PDF copy of the national report.
8. In case of any questions or technical issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) from the UNFF secretariat.

1. General information

1. Country:

This question is required

MALAWI

2. UNFF National Focal Point:

(The national focal point will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

This question is required

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**3. Contact person for the present national report, if different from the UNFF National Focal Point:
(The contact person will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)**

Name: : Titus Zulu
Title: : Director of Forestry
Address: : P.O Box 30048, Lilongwe, Malawi
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**4. Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report:
(up to five)**

Institution Name:

Department of Economic Planning and Development

Email address:

Address:

Institution Name:

Department of Land Resources and Conservation

Email address:

Address:

Institution Name:

• Environmental Affairs Department

Email address:

Address:

Institution Name:

Department of Community Services

Email address:

Address:

Institution Name:

Ministry of Lands

Email address:

Address:

2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

Target 1.2: The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

Target 1.3: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

Target 1.4: The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

5. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Rehabilitate government plantations

Brief description of the action:

To promote sustainable wood, timber and poles production in Malawi to meet increasing demand of biomass energy and timber for construction, the Department of Forestry (DoF) is rehabilitating 21 state owned forest reserves covering a total area of 67,300 hectares (ha). The department promotes large scale commercial cultivation of fast-growing tree species and/or alternative feedstock suitable for charcoal and commercial firewood production in these plantations. These forest plantations are managed through signing concession agreements with small-scale and large-scale operators for efficient and effective management of these plantations with the remaining area being managed by government through the DoF

Main results achieved for the action:

15,123.05 hectares has been replanted in government plantations

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.3
2.4

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b
Other, please specify: 6.5

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Customary estates and forest reserves managed through natural regeneration

Brief description of the action:

The action recognizes natural regeneration management as a quick and cost-effective means of degraded landscapes. A combination of assisted natural regeneration in farmlands, forest reserves, river lines and streambanks, Village Forest Areas, woodlots, hilly areas and other areas on customary estates. The initiative does not only increase the forest area but also enhance biodiversity, improve forest structure, support sustainable land use, increase carbon sequestration and improve livelihoods and increased access to forest products to local communities

Main results achieved for the action:

42,045.69 hectares on customary estates and in forest reserves is under natural regeneration management.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.3
2.4

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b
Other, please specify: 6.5

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Degraded landscapes on customary estates restored through tree planting

Brief description of the action:

DoF through local district councils, developmental partners and other stakeholders are promoted tree planting in different patterns including individual, woodlots, communal woodlots, agroforestry, hedge planting and other planting pattern on customary estates through tree planting. The initiative promotes community-based forest management as stipulated in National Forestry Policy, (2016). This intervention focuses to increase forest cover, improve livelihood on forest-based enterprises

Main results achieved for the action:

220,105,782 seedlings equivalent to 88,042.31 hectares has been planted on customary estates as woodlots, scattered planting, hedge planting and agroforestry.

Tree planting and natural regeneration management on customary estates has resulted into establishment of 574 Village Forest Areas (VFAs). In addition, to enhance management of forest resources, 1,303 Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) have been revamped or formed.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.3
2.4

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b
Other, please specify: 6.5

Weblink:

Target 1.2: The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

6. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Implementation of REDD+ initiatives

Brief description of the action:

1. The government of Malawi developed a Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative in 2019. The primary goal of this National REDD+ Strategy is to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Additionally, this National REDD+ Strategy strives to increase forest cover which will contribute to enhanced ecosystems, improved livelihoods, and sustainable economic growth. Two main mitigation options have been proposed for the forestry sector which are in accordance with the Government of Malawi REDD+ Programme Action Plan: protection and conservation (of existing forests); and afforestation (covering tree planting, as well as natural and assisted regeneration).

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Implementation of REDD+ initiatives: Same achievements as in Target 1.1

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
2.3
2.4
2.5
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Promote Community Based Forest Management

Brief description of the action:

2. Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) is an approach to forest management that involves local communities in the decision-making process, ensuring that their needs and interests are taken into account. This approach recognizes the rights and responsibilities of local communities in managing their forests. CBFM fosters community engagement and participation in forest management, ensuring that local communities are invested in maintaining healthy forests. The approach reduces emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, which account for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions. Since the approach focused on managing and maintaining healthy forests, CBFM enhances carbon sequestration, contributing to climate change mitigation.

Main results achieved for the action:

A total of 17,406 farmer and staff trainings conducted in different areas including sustainable forest management, nursery management and non-wood forest products production and processing as sustainable livelihoods options.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
2.3
2.4
2.5
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Promote stakeholder participation in the management and conservation of forests

Brief description of the action:

The DoF recognizes that the management and conservation of forest resources is multi-sectoral in nature and in order to increase carbon stock while reducing deforestation and degradation, a collaborative approach is vital. In that regards, the DoF developed an initiative to enhance stakeholder participation in the management of forest reserves, forests on customary estates and forest plantations. The initiative is called "Adopt a forest approach" and a number of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with banks to manage a number of forest reserves and forests on customary estates. Natural regeneration management, enrichment planting and law enforcement activities are some of the efforts made to enhance and manage carbon stocks.

Main results achieved for the action:

3. Private Sector participation: The DoF has engaged private companies under concessions such as Raiply Malawi Limited, Total Land Care, Reformed Timber Millers Union, Wildlife Action Group (WAG), African Parks, Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT), and National Bank of Malawi among others.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
2.3
2.4
2.5
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 1.3: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

7. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Reforestation/Afforestation initiatives

Brief description of the action:

Reforestation/Afforestation initiatives: The DoF is promoting actions aimed at improving ecosystem services through restoration of catchment areas including streams and riverbanks. These actions include replanting government plantation aimed at increasing supply of fuelwood and poles while increasing above and below carbon. Customary estates tree planting through woodlot establishment, establishment and management of Village Forest Areas (VFAs), scattered tree planting, fruit planting and hedge planting. These tree planting activities are championed by the National Forest Season launch each year which runs between 15th December to 15 April and is inaugurated by the Head of state.

Main results achieved for the action:

Reforestation and afforestation, Same achievements as in target 1.1, achievement 1 and 3.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Natural Regeneration Management

Brief description of the action:

Natural Regeneration Management: The DoF recognize natural regeneration as a quick way of ensuring forests and sustainably managed. The principle of natural resources management aimed at ensuring species richness and abundance while making zero or less disturbance to natural systems. The implementation of natural resources ensures that forest cover is enhanced and increased while maintaining flow of ecosystem services. The DoF promotes this initiative in both forest reserves and natural forests on customary estates.

Main results achieved for the action:

Natural regeneration same achievement as in 1.1 action 2

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.3
2.4
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Capacity Building trainings

Brief description of the action:

Training and Capacity building: Staff and local communities including village natural resources management committees, Catchment management committees and individuals among others are being trained in sustainable forest management to enhance conservation while improving livelihoods. On staff trainings, a number of trainings have been offered to staff to enhance their knowledge and understanding on sustainable forest management.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Trained 9 officers to Masters of Science in Forestry related courses with support from Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP).
2. Trained 200 forest Guards in law enforcement at Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife (MCFW).
3. Trained 79 officers in General Forestry Course at MCFW and 135 Officers are currently being trained.
4. Trained 40 Forestry Assistant to Diploma Course in Forestry at MCFW with support from MWASIP.
5. Trained 17 officers into GIS short courses with support from MWASIP

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 2.3
- 2.4
- 2.5
- 6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:

Target 1.4: The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

8. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Research and Development

Brief description of the action:

Research and Development: The DoF through Forestry Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM) has conducted research targeting trees on farm, plantations, seed and tree improvement and indigenous woodlands. The objectives of the research are to support adoption of improved seeds that are resistant to climate shocks, development of propagation technologies that are adaptable to climate change including drought tolerant and floods tolerant varieties. Not only that, research on Projection of the Effectiveness of Alternative Forest Management Strategies in Climate Change Mitigation in Malawi, Identification of Nine Natural Enemies of non-native Invasive Eucalyptus Insect Pests in Sub-Saharan Africa Journal of Southern Forests, Behavioural change of Bemisia tabaci and Trialeurodes vaporariorum (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae) infected by Lecanicillium muscarium (Hypocreales: Dave Moyo, Suzuka Ishukura. Cordycipitaceae) were conducted. In addition, surveys on market linkages and trials for some new varieties are being conducted.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. FRIM has conducted a number of research studies including research the development of bamboo Rattan strategy and action plan, research on effect of seed collection of times and pre-sowing treatments on germination Dispyros kirkii, comparing growth performance of pine species from Malawi and South Africa, assessment of pretreatment methods and propagation methods for different species among others. Not only that, the studies have resulted into the review of silvicultural guidebook. In addition, FRIM in collaboration with Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife (MCFW) has supported communities with trainings on local seed collection to enhance adaptability.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 2.3
- 2.4
- 2.5
- 3.3
- 4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2
- 15.b
- Other, please specify: 1

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Promotion of non-timber forest products

Brief description of the action:

The department through stakeholders is promoting non-timber forest product-based enterprises including beekeeping production, mushroom production among others. The developmental projects are providing materials, trainings and linkages to the market to improve marketing of these resources so as it may serve as one of the adaptation strategies

Main results achieved for the action:

Communities through the developmental projects like Malawi Watershed Services (MWASIP) is supporting communities with matching grants as a way of uplifting their livelihoods. This has been done as a way of enhancing livelihoods and an adaptation strategy to climate shocks and as a support for their restoration efforts.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.3
4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 1 Challenges

9. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 1 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

1. Lack of financial resources to collect all related data. The goal is multisectoral in nature as such it requires data from different stakeholders including departments of Land Resources Management and Conservation and Surveys. However, due to lack of resources only data from the department of forestry has been computed.
2. Lack of data management system to upload and store all data related to restoration making it difficult to compute some data for the past years.

3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

Target 2.2: Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

Target 2.4: The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased

Target 2.5: The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

10. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Provision of alternative sources of livelihoods.

Brief description of the action:

Many people in Malawi rely on forests for their livelihoods due to the lack of alternative income sources. To address this challenge and reduce pressure on natural resources, various initiatives have been implemented to provide alternative livelihood opportunities. One effective approach has been the provision of employment opportunities, particularly around protected areas, where many people including women and the youth have been engaged in casual labor in various silvicultural operations. This strategy has helped decrease reliance on forests by offering stable income sources.

Main results achieved for the action:

Reduced pressure on Natural resources: Employment opportunities in casual labor, particularly around protected areas, have provided alternative income sources, thereby reducing over-reliance on forest resources for income.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Commercialization of non-timber forest products and provision of grants

Brief description of the action:

Support for the commercialization of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as honey, mushrooms, wild fruits and medicinal plants have enabled many rural communities to generate alternative revenue streams. These efforts have enhanced economic resilience while promoting sustainable forest conservation. Several projects, including the Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP) and the Transforming Landscapes and Livelihoods Project (TLLP), have played a crucial role in reducing dependency on natural resources by providing grants to individuals, empowering them to become self-reliant and pursue sustainable economic activities. The Performance based Grants (PBG) under the MWASIP project have enabled communities to trigger some funds for their well-being while restoring degraded landscapes on the other hand.

Main results achieved for the action:

Community empowerment: Grant programs under projects such as the Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP) and the Transforming Landscapes and Livelihoods Project (TLLP) have enabled individuals to start small businesses, reducing their reliance on unsustainable forest exploitation.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 2.2: Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

11. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Promotion of Green Value Chains

Brief description of the action:

The Green Value Chains (GVC) initiative, supported by Transforming Landscapes and Livelihood Project (TLLP), focuses on integrating small-scale forestry enterprises into sustainable value chains by improving access to finance, enhancing market linkages, and promoting environmentally friendly business practices. This program ensures that forest-based enterprises can contribute to economic growth while maintaining sustainable land-use practices. The project is focusing on GVCs for neglected and underutilized species (NUS) and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) that have high potential for local and national markets, as well as for export. The project recognizes and promotes the following GVCs; pigeon peas, baobab, moringa, mushroom, honey, sorghum and sustainable firewood. The project is also supporting the development of community protocols for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for the communities and capacity building of farmers on ABS and business management.

Main results achieved for the action:

Increased financial access for small-scale forest enterprises through partnerships with microfinance institutions.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
2.1
2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Introduction of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

Brief description of the action:

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a crucial role in Malawi's economy, contributing significantly to employment, income generation, and poverty alleviation. One of the MSMEs in Malawi is the Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprise Programme (FARMSE). FARMSE aims to increase access to sustainable financial services for rural households and MSMEs. The program focuses on developing both informal and formal financial services tailored to the needs of the rural poor, emphasizing savings and credit for on- and off-farm enterprises, including small-scale forestry businesses. For instance, the Sustainable Village Savings and Loans project targets Nkhotakota and Nkhata Bay districts, aiming to improve financial services for 37,500 beneficiaries.

Main results achieved for the action:

Increased number of small-scale forestry enterprises accessing affordable credit, fostering business growth and employment.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 2.1
- 2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.1

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Promotion of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

Brief description of the action:

Commercialization of Non-Timber Forest Products to support small-scale forest enterprises. Products such as honey, mushrooms, and wild fruits have been identified for their market potential. Efforts include capacity building, facilitating market access and integrating these products into value chains, thereby enhancing income for forest-dependent communities

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Strengthened market linkages, leading to improved trade opportunities for neglected and underutilized species (NUS) and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).
2. Improved integration of NTFPs into value chains, ensuring sustainability and long-term economic benefits for small-scale forest enterprises.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 2.1
- 2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.1

Weblink:

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

12. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Participation in the Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

Brief description of the action:

Malawi committed to restoring 4.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 as her contribution to the Bonn Challenge and AFR100. This initiative focuses on enhancing food security, alleviating poverty and combating climate change through forest landscape restoration. Efforts under this commitment have included the promotion of agroforestry and sustainable land management practices, contributing to improved food security and resilience against climate change.

Main results achieved for the action:

Reduced dependency on chemical fertilizers: The use of nitrogen-fixing trees has helped mitigate the high costs of synthetic fertilizers, making farming more sustainable and affordable.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Promotion of Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and Agroforestry technologies

Brief description of the action:

In Malawi, FMNR has been promoted to improve soil fertility, increase crop yields, and enhance food security. The adoption of FMNR practices has led to improved soil health, increased availability of firewood, and enhanced resilience of farming systems, thereby contributing to food security. On the other hand, Malawi has expanded agroforestry to enhance food security by integrating trees into farming systems.

Farmers practicing agroforestry have reported improved food diversity, better soil health and increased income from selling surplus fruit. Government and NGOs support the initiative through training, extension services, and seedling distribution, particularly during the National Forest Season (launched by the State President annually). Programs like Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works among others has helped the implementation of the technology.

Main results achieved for the action:

Improved crop yields: Farmers practicing agroforestry have reported increased maize and legume production due to enhanced soil fertility.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

Target 2.4: The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased

13. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy

Brief description of the action:

The NFLRS aims to restore 4.5 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2030. The strategy emphasizes sustainable forest management, community involvement, and the promotion of forest-based enterprises to boost economic development and environmental conservation. Implementation of the NFLRS has led to the rehabilitation of over 35,000 hectares of degraded watersheds through soil and water conservation measures, community forest rehabilitation, and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. These efforts have improved ecosystem services, enhanced biodiversity and provided economic benefits to local communities.

Main results achieved for the action:

Enhanced biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, leading to improved soil fertility and water retention.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
3.2
3.3
4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
Other, please specify: 13

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Community Forestry Initiatives

Brief description of the action:

Malawi has embraced community forestry, a participatory approach where local communities actively engage in forest management and land-use decisions. This model integrates traditional ecological knowledge with modern management practices, aiming to protect community livelihoods, reduce poverty and promote sustainable land management. Such initiatives have been recognized for their contributions to climate resilience, forest regeneration and socio-economic development.

The introduction of Forest Co-Management Agreements has enabled local communities to take part in sustainable forest management while benefiting from forest resources.

Main results achieved for the action:

Increased community participation and local governance structure in the conservation and management of forest resources through benefit sharing mechanisms

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 3.2
- 3.3
- 4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.2
- Other, please specify: 13

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

Brief description of the action:

Malawi with support from UNDP has drafted the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) pending endorsement. The schemes will enhance the economic and environmental benefits of forests. Key initiatives within the framework include carbon credit projects, where communities earn income by planting and protecting trees, and watershed protection programs, which improve water quality and availability through reforestation. Currently, the country is implementing the Kulera REDD+ Project to reduce deforestation, conserve biodiversity, and generate carbon credits that provide financial benefits to local communities. This effort has expanded carbon offset programs, improved water security and increased private sector involvement in conservation. Local communities now receive financial incentives for sustainable forest management, reducing deforestation and promoting long-term environmental benefits.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Expansion of carbon credit projects, providing financial benefits to participating communities.
2. Increased private sector investment in forest conservation through biodiversity protection and ecotourism initiatives
3. The benefit sharing agreement with the Kulera REDD+ project which was signed in 2013 is currently under review.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 3.2
- 3.3
- 4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.2

Weblink:

Target 2.5: The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

14. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Participation in AFR100

Brief description of the action:

Malawi is a member of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), committing to restore 4.5 million hectares of degraded land. This initiative aims to improve biodiversity, support rural economies and enhance ecosystem services, aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation goals. Through these comprehensive strategies and active participation in regional initiatives, Malawi is enhancing the contribution of its forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in line with international conventions and instruments.

Main results achieved for the action:

Restoration of degraded landscapes: Large-scale Forest landscape restoration projects have led to the rehabilitation of thousands of hectares of degraded land. Through tree planting, agroforestry and sustainable land management practices, these initiatives have helped reverse deforestation trends.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
Other, please specify: 13

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Local Community involvement in reforestation and Conservation programs

Brief description of the action:

Local communities play a crucial role in reforestation efforts across Malawi. Community-led tree planting and management initiatives have been established to restore forests, prevent soil erosion, and provide sustainable livelihoods. These projects also promote alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on charcoal and unsustainable wood harvesting, ensuring long-term forest conservation.

Main results achieved for the action:

Enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services: Reforestation and conservation efforts have led to the recovery of critical habitats for wildlife, contributing to biodiversity conservation. Some degraded areas have witnessed an increase in native tree species and the return of certain animal populations

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
Other, please specify: 13

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Promotion of alternative sources of energy.

Brief description of the action:

Malawi is implementing the National Charcoal Strategy and under Pillar One which is alternative sources of energy, it promotes fuel-efficient cook stoves, solar energy, biomass briquettes, and biogas to reduce reliance on firewood and charcoal, which is a major driver of deforestation. These efforts have helped slow forest degradation, improve air quality, lower household energy costs, and create green jobs. By reducing pressure on forests, these initiatives contribute to biodiversity conservation, water regulation and carbon sequestration

Main results achieved for the action:

Reduction In charcoal and firewood consumption: The widespread adoption of fuel-efficient cook stoves has significantly reduced household firewood and charcoal consumption

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
Other, please specify: 13

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 2 Challenges

15. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 2 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

1. Deforestation and Land Degradation – High rates of deforestation, driven by agricultural expansion, charcoal production and unsustainable wood harvesting, threaten forest ecosystems. Despite reforestation efforts, forest loss continues to outpace restoration.
2. Dependence on Biomass Energy – Over 90% of Malawians rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking, putting immense pressure on forests. While alternative energy solutions are being promoted, adoption remains slow due to affordability and accessibility barriers.
3. Limited Financial and Technical Resources – Inadequate funding and technical capacity hinder the implementation of large-scale forest conservation projects. Many community-led initiatives struggle to sustain long-term impact due to a lack of financial support.
4. Weak Law Enforcement and Governance – Illegal logging, encroachment into protected areas and weak enforcement of forestry regulations contribute to continued deforestation. Corruption and limited institutional capacity further challenge forest governance.
5. Climate Change Impacts – Extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and erratic rainfall patterns exacerbate forest degradation and threaten reforestation efforts, making it difficult to restore and maintain forest cover.
6. Population Pressure and Land Use Conflicts – Rapid population growth increases demand for land, leading to conflicts between agriculture, settlement expansion and forest conservation efforts.
7. Gender inequalities: Women face additional challenges in accessing resources and participating in markets, hindering their ability to benefit from developments.

4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Target 3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

Target 3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

Target 3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

16. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Designation of all hilly areas as protected and scaling up forest regeneration

Brief description of the action:

Trees and forests are being conserved along riverbanks and bare hills in selected rivers and districts (Shire, Lilongwe, Bua), planting of trees on selected bare hills, roadside along selected roads (Kasiya, Phalombe, Njakwa), planting of palms and Coconut trees along the lakeshore areas of Mangochi and Likoma Island.

Main results achieved for the action:

These efforts aim to curb deforestation, protect biodiversity, and enhance carbon sequestration. The initiative has contributed to an estimated 5% increase in protected forest areas.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
4.1
4.2
4.3
4.4
4.5
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)

Brief description of the action:

Through partnerships with local communities and NGOs, Malawi has promoted community-led forest conservation in areas adjacent to forest reserves, particularly Vinthukutu forest reserve in Karonga, Phirilongwe and Namizimu forest reserves in Mangochi.

Main results achieved for the action:

Programs such as Forest Co-Management and Village Forest Areas (VFAs) have empowered local communities to manage forests sustainably, reducing illegal logging and encroachment

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
4.1
4.2
4.5
5.2
5.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Adopt a forest initiative

Brief description of the action:

Government and private-sector collaborations have led to the restoration of degraded forest landscapes through the "Adopt a Forest Initiative", particularly at Seven hills in Dedza, Jembya forest reserve in Chitipa and Palm Forest reserve in Mangochi.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Adopted a Forest Initiative has driven afforestation and reforestation efforts, leading to improved ecosystem services and enhanced climate resilience.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.3
4.1
4.3
4.4
4.5
5.2
6.1
6.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

17. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Promote management of plantation through concession

Brief description of the action:

Companies engaged in plantation forestry, such as Raiply Malawi and Kawandama Hills Plantations, have expanded the area under long-term forest management. The government has also strengthened legal frameworks, such as Plantation Code of Practice to guide development and implementation of forest management plans for both public and private forests. In addition, training programs for forest officers and local communities have enhanced sustainable management practices, including agroforestry techniques and climate-smart forestry approaches.

Main results achieved for the action:

Increased in area rehabilitated and managed
Revenue generation for the department through concession fees

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.1
4.2
4.4
4.5
5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

18. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Promotion of Sustainable Charcoal Production

Brief description of the action:

The Department with support from development partners developed the National Charcoal Strategy in 2017 to promote the Sustainable Charcoal production and regulate charcoal production while promoting other energy options

Main results achieved for the action:

Malawi has signed licenses for sustainable charcoal production and briquettes production from companies like Kawandama Hills plantation, Raiply Malawi Limited and Pyxus among others. In addition, companies like C-Quest Capital have supported the production of energy efficient cook stoves in rural communities.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.2
4.1
4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Forest regulations and quality control

Brief description of the action:

The Department of Forestry are making considerable efforts to regulate and check compliances of individuals and companies operating under licenses, agreements and MoUs in timber production, poles and firewood. The DoF established Forest Regulation and Quality Control Efforts to curtail illegal forest production and handle all crimes related to forests.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Developed sentencing guidelines
2. Developed the Amendment Forest Act, No 7 of 2020
3. Developed a charcoal and wood valuation

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 2.3
- 2.4
- 2.5
- 3.1
- 4.1
- 4.2
- 4.4
- 5.1
- 5.3
- 5.4
- 6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 3 Challenges

**19. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 3 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

Malawi has introduced improved sustainable charcoal kilns and alternative biomass energy sources (LPGs) to reduce reliance on unsustainable charcoal production especially from conservation forests, As a result, programs have been initiated to promote value addition in forest products, such as honey production and eco-friendly furniture making, contributing to job creation and economic growth.

5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Target 4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

Target 4.2: Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

Target 4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

Target 4.4: The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

20. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Commitment to the African Forest Landscape Restoration

Brief description of the action:

Restoration of Chiradzulu Forest Reserve (2023–2025): The Coordination Union for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE) is leading a project to restore 400 hectares of the Chiradzulu Forest Reserve by 2025. This initiative involves reforestation, natural regeneration, and empowering local communities through the establishment of Natural Resource Management Committees. Additionally, alternative livelihoods such as beekeeping and eco-tourism are promoted to reduce dependence on forest resources.

Main results achieved for the action:

The key results achieved include the restoration of 400 hectares in Chiradzulu Forest Reserve, with 20,000 seedlings raised and multiple Natural Resource Management Committees formed.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3
4.2
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.1
6.2
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Implementation of National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy through donor funded projects

Brief description of the action:

Large-Scale Forest Landscape Restoration in Ntcheu District (2021–2024): In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and funded by the German government, Malawi launched the International Climate Initiative (IKI) project targeting the restoration of 25,000 hectares of degraded landscapes in Ntcheu District. The project aims to enhance food security, rehabilitate catchments, and improve livelihoods through sustainable forest management practices. Activities focus on community engagement, capacity building, and the promotion of forest-based enterprises. As of mid-2021, the project had commenced with active involvement from local stakeholders.

Main results achieved for the action:

In Ntcheu, 25,000 hectares of degraded land are being restored, enhancing food security and livelihoods. In Lilongwe, 214,000 trees have been planted, benefiting 1,567 families.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
3.3
4.2
4.3
4.5
5.1
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Promotion of Commercial Forestry Investments through Performance Based Grant Scheme

Brief description of the action:

Performance Based Grant (PBG) for Plantation Establishment: Through MWASIP, Malawi is promoting the establishment of individual plantation in customary estates and concession of government of plantations. Farmers and private investors are paid \$400 per hectare to support in the establishment and managing of their own plantations.

Main results achieved for the action:

A total of 269.68 hectares has been established with plantations in customary estates in Ntcheu, Zomba and Machinga. This will reduce high demand for biomass energy and poles. The scheme has extended to the management of natural regeneration on customary estates

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.1
4.3
5.3
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

21. Since 2020, has your country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes

**22. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public domestic funding
Private domestic funding
Public international funding, including official development assistance
Private international funding

23. If no, please describe the main challenges encountered:

Target 4.2: Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

24. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Commitment to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)

Brief description of the action:

Commitment to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) Malawi has attracted financial support from international donors and partners, facilitating large-scale reforestation and sustainable land management projects such as International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Main results achieved for the action:

By 2024, over 1.5 million hectares of degraded land have been restored through afforestation, agroforestry, and soil conservation practices.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.4
2.4
4.1
4.4
5.2
6.2
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Development of the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy

Brief description of the action:

Implementation of the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy has attracted investments from public, private, and philanthropic sources, aiming to enhance forest cover and rehabilitate degraded land.

Main results achieved for the action:

The National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy has successfully attracted funding from international donors and enhancing reforestation efforts. Community involvement in forest restoration has also grown, promoting sustainable land use practices. Overall, these efforts have enhanced Malawi's forest cover, curbed deforestation, and bolstered economic opportunities in the forestry sector.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.4
2.4
4.1
4.4
5.2
6.2
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

25. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

International Partnerships for Sustainable Forest Management

Brief description of the action:

Since 2020, Malawi has engaged in North-South and South-South cooperation to enhance sustainable forest management through partnerships with Norway, Kenya, and South Africa. These collaborations focus on research, technology transfer, and policy development to promote climate-resilient forestry practices. Key initiatives include joint research on indigenous tree species, remote sensing for forest monitoring, and training programs for forestry professionals

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 5 million trees planted in deforested areas.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
2.4
4.1
4.4
6.1
6.2
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Charcoal Production

Brief description of the action:

To reduce deforestation linked to charcoal production, Malawi has partnered with private companies and international NGOs to develop sustainable biomass energy solutions. The initiative has introduced alternative charcoal production techniques using sustainably harvested biomass and energy-efficient kilns. Malawi has collaborated with Brazil and Kenya to adopt best practices in sustainable charcoal.

Main results achieved for the action:

Enhanced private-sector participation in sustainable forestry.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
2.3
2.4
4.1
4.2
4.4
6.1
6.2
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Regional Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

Brief description of the action:

Malawi is part of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), working with Germany, Zambia, and Tanzania to restore degraded forests and promote agroforestry. This triangular cooperation supports afforestation programs, community-based forest management, and the integration of climate-smart agriculture in forest landscapes. The initiative leverages funding and expertise from the European Union and international research institutions.

Main results achieved for the action:

Increased farmer adoption of agroforestry techniques
Reduced illegal trafficking of forest products
Community-led restoration

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.3
2.4
4.1
4.4
5.1
5.2
6.1
6.2
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

26. Is your country engaged in international cooperation and/or public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes

**27. If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:
(Select all that apply)**

Governments
Intergovernmental organizations and/or processes
Private sector
Non-governmental organizations

**28. Please specify the types of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

North-South
South-South
North-North
Triangular

**29. Please specify the areas of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

Science
Technology
Innovation

Target 4.4: The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

30. Since 2020, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

31. Since 2020, has your country had access to financing to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

**32. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public domestic funding
Private domestic funding
Public international funding, including official development assistance
Private international funding
Blended financing

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

33. Has the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information in your country, for example, through multidisciplinary scientific assessments, improved since 2020?

Yes

34. If yes, please describe any improvements (maximum 250 words).

1. Baseline Forest/Carbon Inventories: In 2021, the Department of Forestry (DoF), with support from the Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF), a USAID/UKAID funded project, completed baseline forest and carbon inventories for seven focal forest reserves. This initiative established deforestation rates for the Northern and Central Landscapes, providing critical data for sustainable forest management.

2. National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS): Malawi has been developing its NFMS, achieving significant milestones since 2016. The system includes a ground-based biomass survey and a satellite-based land monitoring component, enhancing the country's capacity to monitor forest cover and carbon stocks accurately.

3. National Forest Landscape Restoration Monitoring Unit: Established to track progress on Malawi's commitment to restore 4.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, this unit employs a comprehensive monitoring framework. The framework integrates data from various sectors, facilitating multidisciplinary assessments and informed decision-making.

These initiatives have collectively enhanced the quality and accessibility of forest-related information in Malawi, supporting evidence-based policies and sustainable management practices

35. Does your country carry out a National Forest Inventory?

Yes

36. If yes, what year was the most recent inventory completed?

2023

Global Forest Goal 4 Challenges

**37. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 4 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

1. Limited Financial Resources

Despite efforts to secure funding from international sources (e.g., GEF, CIF), domestic financing for forestry remains low. Budget constraints hinder large-scale implementation of forest conservation and restoration projects.

2. Weak Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

While Malawi has engaged in PPPs for conservation, broader private sector investment in sustainable forestry is still limited. Unclear regulatory frameworks discourage private sector participation in afforestation and reforestation initiatives.

3. Data and Information Gaps

Although Malawi has improved its National Forest Inventory and monitoring systems, gaps remain in real-time data collection, especially at the community level.

Limited access to technology and expertise restricts the development of accurate forest-related scientific assessments. Some data is with other institutions yet due to poor coordination sharing the same is a problem

4. Deforestation and Land Degradation

High rates of deforestation due to charcoal production, agriculture expansion, and illegal logging undermine restoration efforts. Weak enforcement of forestry laws and limited community involvement in sustainable forest management contribute to continued forest loss.

5. Climate Change Impacts

Extreme weather events (droughts, floods) affect reforestation efforts and the survival of planted trees. Unpredictable rainfall patterns make it difficult to plan and sustain afforestation projects.

Addressing these challenges requires increased investment, stronger partnerships, better policy enforcement, and enhanced data-driven decision-making

6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Target 5.1: Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

Target 5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

Target 5.3: National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Target 5.4: Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 5.1: Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

38. In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes

39. If yes, please specify which:
(Select both, if applicable)

National sustainable development plans
Poverty reduction strategies

Target 5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

40. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Implementation of the National Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy

Brief description of the action:

This comprehensive framework mobilizes resources from government bodies, international donors, and private sector investments to support afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable land management practices.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Over 50 million trees planted since 2020 through community-led restoration programs.
2. 2 million hectares of degraded land under restoration, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem recovery.
3. Strengthened collaboration between government, NGOs, and private sector for sustainable land management.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4
- 2.5
- 3.1
- 4.1
- 4.2
- 4.4
- 4.5
- 6.2
- 6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.1
- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Coordinating implementation of Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects and programs

Brief description of the action:

In 2023, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved a \$52.3 million project to bolster Malawi's climate resilience and food security. This project, led by the government in collaboration with international partners, focuses on sustainable forest management as a key component of its strategy. The funding supports initiatives such as afforestation, reforestation, and the promotion of alternative livelihoods to reduce pressure on forest resources.

Main results achieved for the action:

\$52.3 million secured for sustainable forest management, conservation, and climate resilience.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3
5.1
5.3
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Implementation of Kulera REDD+ and Cookstoves Project

Brief description of the action:

The Kulera REDD+ and Cookstoves Project aims to conserve approximately 170,000 hectares of forest by engaging 45,000 households in activities designed to reduce fuelwood consumption and develop sustainable livelihoods. The project provides training on sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, thereby enhancing community resilience to climate change and promoting forest conservation.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. 170,000 hectares of forests protected through community-based conservation efforts.
2. Over 45,000 households engaged in sustainable forest management and alternative livelihoods.
3. Increased carbon sequestration and reduced fuelwood dependency, improving forest conservation.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
4.1
4.2
5.4
6.2
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

41. Since 2020, has your government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

42. If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation
Improved enforcement of existing legislation
Export controls
Import controls
Bilateral agreements between exporting and importing countries

Target 5.3: National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

43. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Forest Landscape Restoration (NFLR) Platform

Brief description of the action:

The platform comprises of different Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) including Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) like World Research Institute (WRI) and Local Communities who coordinate, advocate and lobby for financial resources for Landscape restoration intervention. The forum is chaired by the national Botanic and Herbarium Garden.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Enhanced Multi-stakeholder Coordination: Established frameworks for collaboration among different governmental bodies, leading to unified forest management efforts.
2. Community Engagement: Increased participation of local communities and traditional leaders in restoration projects, ensuring that indigenous knowledge and rights are respected.
3. Policy Alignment: Harmonized forest-related policies across sectors, reducing overlaps and conflicts in implementation.
3. Inclusive Policy Development: Ensured that ecosystem assessments reflect the knowledge and needs of indigenous communities.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4
- 2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

EAD as a National designated Authority coordinating issues of Biodiversity, Environment and Climate Change

Brief description of the action:

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) is a Designated Authority (DA) to coordinate all the issues related to climate change. The institution champion the development and coordinate the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions, the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan all frameworks related to Climate change.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Resulted to the submission of NDCs and NC4 and BTR reports. Currently the NDCs are being reviewed.
2. Coordinated the development of PES framework
3. Championed the developed the carbon framework for Malawi
4. Strengthened Stakeholder Relationships: Built trust and collaboration between governmental bodies and local communities.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.4
2.1
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
4.5
5.1
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 5.3: National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

44. Please describe what types of mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and/or implementation of forest-related policies and programmes (maximum 250 words).

1. Multi-Sectoral Coordination Platforms

Malawi has established the National Technical Committee on Forestry (NTCF), which includes representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, civil society, academia, and private sector actors. This platform ensures that forestry policies and programs are harmonized across different sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and energy.

2. Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Structures

At the local level, Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) and Forest Block Management Committees engage communities in planning, decision-making, and implementation of sustainable forest management. These structures empower local and indigenous communities to co-manage forests in partnership with the government, ensuring traditional knowledge is recognized.

3. Public Consultations and Policy Dialogues

The government conducts public consultations, stakeholder workshops, and policy dialogues before adopting new forest-related policies. The review and implementation of the National Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy involved civil society organizations, private sector representatives, and indigenous groups, ensuring their voices shape national policies.

Target 5.4: Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

45. In your country, have forests been integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development?

Yes

Global Forest Goal 5 Challenges

46. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 5 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

1. Weak Policy Implementation and Coordination

While Malawi has strong forest policies, their implementation is inconsistent due to weak inter-ministerial coordination. Overlapping mandates between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Department of Forestry, and other sectors lead to fragmented efforts, reducing policy effectiveness.

2. Limited Financial and Technical Resources

Inadequate funding for forestry programs limits sustainable forest management. Dependence on donor funding makes long-term initiatives unsustainable, while limited technical expertise slows the adoption of improved forest governance frameworks.

3. High Rates of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Malawi faces severe deforestation due to charcoal production, agricultural expansion, and illegal logging. Weak enforcement of forestry laws allows unsustainable practices to continue, undermining conservation efforts.

4. Climate Change and Natural Disasters

Extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, exacerbate forest degradation and complicate reforestation efforts. Limited climate adaptation strategies reduce resilience against these threats. Addressing these challenges requires stronger policy enforcement, increased funding, better stakeholder coordination, and enhanced community participation to achieve sustainable forest governance in Malawi.

7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 6: Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Target 6.3: Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 6.3: Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

47. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLRS) & AFR100 Commitment

Brief description of the action:

Malawi launched the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLRS) in 2017 as part of its commitment to restore 4.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and the Bonn Challenge. This initiative involves agroforestry, afforestation, soil conservation, and sustainable land use practices. The forestry, agriculture, and energy sectors collaborate to ensure sustainable forest management.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. As of 2022, Malawi has restored approximately 1.9 million hectares, achieving 40% of its restoration target (Mongabay, 2023).
2. Community-driven reforestation programs have led to increased tree cover and improved ecosystem services (IUCN, 2017).

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.2

Weblink:

Action (short title):

The National Charcoal Strategy (NCS) 2017-2027

Brief description of the action:

Malawi strengthened its implementation of the National Charcoal Strategy to regulate charcoal production, promote sustainable alternative energy sources, and reduce deforestation caused by illegal charcoal harvesting. This effort involves cross-sectoral cooperation between the energy, forestry, and environmental sectors.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Malawi has banned illegal charcoal production and increased enforcement efforts to curb deforestation.
2. Promotion of sustainable charcoal and briquette alternatives has led to a rise in eco-friendly energy sources.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.4
2.3
2.4
3.2
4.2
4.3
4.4
4.5
6.2
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

The Forest Act (Amendment) 2020

Brief description of the action:

Malawi amended the Forest Act in 2020 to strengthen laws on illegal logging, promote community-based forest management, and enhance cross-sectoral collaboration. The law introduces stricter penalties for illegal activities and encourages participatory forest governance.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Increased fines and penalties for illegal logging and charcoal production have led to a decline in deforestation-related crimes (Malawi Gazette, 2020).
2. Community-led Forest conservation initiatives have been supported through Village Forest Areas (VFAs) and co-management agreements.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
3.2
5.1
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

Target 6.3: Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

48. Are mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation?

Yes

49. If yes, please specify the sectors involved:

Climate change
Biodiversity
Energy
Rural development
Land use

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

50. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Development of Malawi's National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLRS)

Brief description of the action:

The government, in collaboration with stakeholders, developed the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (2020-2030) to promote Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The strategy provides clear indicators for tracking forest health, land use change, and carbon sequestration.

Main results achieved for the action:

The strategy has guided afforestation programs, community-based forest management, and agroforestry initiatives, restoring over 4.5 million trees across degraded landscapes.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.2
3.2
4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Establishment of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

Brief description of the action:

Malawi implemented an NFMS to track forest changes using satellite data and field surveys. The system helps monitor deforestation, biodiversity loss, and carbon stocks, providing crucial data for policy decisions.

Main results achieved for the action:

The NFMS has improved forest governance, enabling real-time monitoring of illegal logging and land-use changes. Data from the system also contributes to Malawi's REDD+ Program.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.4
3.3
4.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.2

Weblink:

Malawi's NFMS Initiative

Action (short title):

Capacity-Building Programs on Sustainable Forest Management

Brief description of the action:

Various training workshops and awareness programs have been conducted to educate foresters, policymakers, and communities on SFM principles. These sessions focus on forest governance, climate adaptation, and community forestry management.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 2,000 individuals trained, including local forest officers and community members. Increased participation in Community Forest Management (CFM) initiatives.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.1
4.4
5.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
15.b

Weblink:

FAO's SFM Training Programs in Malawi

Target 6.4: A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

51. Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes

**52. If yes, please specify which sets of criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

National or subnational

Regional or international (for instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests)

**53. If yes, please specify for which of the following purposes the criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management

To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management

To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

54. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Expansion

Brief description of the action:

Malawi has expanded Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) programs, empowering local communities to manage forest resources sustainably. This approach involves co-management agreements between the government and local communities to protect and restore forests while generating economic benefits.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Over 800 community forest areas established.
2. Increased participation of women and youth in forest governance.
3. Improved livelihoods through sustainable harvesting and eco-tourism.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.2
- 2.1
- 3.2
- 4.5
- 5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.1
- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:

Department of Forestry, Malawi

Action (short title):

Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Forestry

Brief description of the action:

The government has partnered with private companies and NGOs to support afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable woodlot management. Key initiatives include tree-planting campaigns and investments in sustainable charcoal production.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Over 4.5 million trees planted in partnership with private sector actors.
2. Introduction of eco-friendly alternatives to charcoal to reduce deforestation.
3. Strengthened engagement with major forestry stakeholders, including academic institutions and NGOs.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 2.4
- 3.1
- 4.1
- 5.4
- 6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Youth and Women's Engagement in Forest Governance

Brief description of the action:

Since 2020, Malawi has launched youth and women-focused forestry programs, such as capacity-building training, forest advocacy groups, and entrepreneurship in sustainable forestry practices.

Main results achieved for the action:

1. Over 50 youth-led conservation projects initiated.
3. Women's participation in forest governance increased by 30%.
3. Strengthened local governance structures through training in policy advocacy.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.3
- 2.5
- 3.3
- 5.2
- 6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:

Target 6.5: The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

55. Since 2020, have major groups and other relevant stakeholders been involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

56. If yes, please describe their involvement in a maximum of 250 words:

1. Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM):
Local communities, through Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs), co-manage forests with the government, contributing to afforestation, reforestation, and sustainable land use practices.
2. Civil Society and NGOs:
Organizations such as Futuristic Hope Action, CISONICC, and the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) support forest governance through policy advocacy, environmental education, and reforestation projects.
3. Private Sector Partnerships:
Companies like Raiply Malawi Limited and Kawandama Hills Plantation have engaged in sustainable plantation forestry and ecosystem restoration, contributing to the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategy.
4. Youth and Women's Groups:
Initiatives such as the Malawi Youth Forest Network and women-led forest conservation programs empower young people and women in decision-making and forest-based enterprises.
5. Academic and Research Institutions:
Universities such as LUANAR and Mzuzu University contribute research on climate-smart forestry, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration to inform policy and practice.

Global Forest Goal 6 Challenges

57. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 6 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

1. Weak Cross-Sectoral Coordination: Limited collaboration between forestry, agriculture, energy, and land-use sectors leads to conflicting policies, such as agricultural expansion into forested areas. Inconsistent enforcement of forest laws due to overlapping mandates between institutions.

2. Insufficient Financial and Technical Resources: Government and non-state actors lack adequate funding for reforestation, afforestation, and sustainable forest management projects. Limited access to advanced technology (e.g., remote sensing and GIS) hampers effective forest monitoring and data collection.

3. Deforestation and Land Degradation: High dependence on charcoal and firewood for energy accelerates deforestation.

Unsustainable agricultural practices, including shifting cultivation and illegal logging, continue to degrade forest resources.

4. Limited Stakeholder Engagement: Despite policies promoting community participation, some local communities lack incentives or legal recognition in forest governance. Private sector engagement in forest conservation remains minimal.

5. Climate Change Impacts: Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall patterns negatively affect reforestation and natural regeneration efforts.

8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets

58. In your opinion, what is the progress of your country towards the targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, since its adoption in 2017?

	Achieved	On track	Some progress	No change	Negative change	Not applicable
1.1 Forest area		X				
1.2 Carbon stock		X				
1.3 Implementation of SFM		X				
1.4 Resilience and adaptation		X				
2.1 Extreme poverty of forest dependent people			X			
2.2 Access to finance of small forest enterprises			X			
2.3 Food security			X			
2.4 Contribution to social economic and environmental development		X				
2.5 Contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation		X				
3.1 Protected areas		X				
3.2 Long-term forest management plans			X			
3.3 Products from sustainably managed forests		X				
4.1 Mobilization of resources for SFM		X				
4.2 Increased forest related financing			X			
4.3 Enhanced cooperation and partnerships		X				
4.4 Forest financing strategies and access to financing			X			
4.5 Forest-related information		X				
5.1 Integration of forests in national plans and strategies		X				
5.2 Enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance		X				
5.3 Coherence and coordination of policies and programmes		X				
5.4 Integration of forest related issues into land-use planning		X				
6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation		X				
6.4 Common understanding of concept of SFM indicator sets		X				
6.5 Strengthened involvement of stakeholders		X				

9. Voluntary National Contributions

59. Has your government announced any Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) related to the Global Forest Goals?

Yes

60. If yes, please provide a brief description, including information on timeframes and the progress made thus far. If your government has announced more than one Voluntary National Contribution, please click "Add another contribution" (can add up to ten).

Brief description:

National Forestry Landscape Restoration Strategy (NFLR) by 2030:

The strategy aimed at restore 4.5 million ha of landscapes through agricultural technologies, community forests and woodlands, forest management, soil and water conservation, and river and stream bank restoration. The strategy aimed at increase areas of community forests and woodlots to 600,000 ha, improve protection and management of 2 million ha of natural forest, restore 500,000 ha of degraded forest, and establish 100,000 ha of commercial plantations, regenerate or plant 50 million trees along river and stream banks

Progress to date:

NLRS: 1.9 million hectares has been put under restoration in all the intervention areas.

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3
4.1
4.2
4.3
4.4
4.5
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4
6.5

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Brief description:

National Charcoal Strategy (NCS) by 2027

The strategy promotes the use of alternative, accessible and cheap sources of energy including promotion of sustainable charcoal. The strategy promotes alternative household cooking fuels such as electricity, liquefied petroleum gas, briquettes and pellets and biogas. It also promotes sustainable wood production through large scale commercial cultivation of fast-growing tree species and/or alternative feedstock suitable for charcoal and commercial firewood production through concessions or other appropriate means. In addition, the strategy strengthens law enforcement through enhancing existing laws and regulations in order to reduce illegal wood harvesting and charcoal production and to create a market for sustainable wood and charcoal production and regulate sustainable charcoal production by establishing a professional and regulated charcoal value chain that promotes sustainable and efficient production of charcoal based on a business model

Progress to date:

NCS: Electricity generation capacity is improved through addition of plant in electricity generation stations, rural electrification program has been established with funding from the world bank, some investors have started investing in solar energy although it still remains unaffordable by most Malawians, DoF through stakeholders are training communities on briquettes making, Campaigns to promote efficient cook stoves are in progress, Communities are trained in efficient cook stoves making using local materials and other NGOs are distributing efficient-cook stoves and signed eighteen (18) new concession agreements with private and parastatal companies in forest management. In addition, the Department has issued 6 licenses for sustainable charcoal production.

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
3.1
3.2
3.3
4.4
4.5
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.1
6.4
6.5

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Brief description:**Progress to date:****This action contributes to these GFG targets:****This action contributes to these SDG targets:**

10. Other questions: Gender equality

61. Since 2020, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes

62. If yes, please indicate the purpose of the action taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector: (Select all that apply)

Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources

Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels

Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions

63. Please provide a brief description of the actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:

1. Policy and Legal Reforms: Malawi has incorporated gender considerations into forestry policies and laws to ensure equal opportunities for men and women. These reforms emphasize women's participation in forest governance, access to forest resources, and decision-making roles.

2. Capacity Building: Training programs equip women with skills in sustainable forest management, conservation, and leadership. These initiatives empower women to actively participate in forestry-related activities and decision-making processes.

3. Economic Empowerment: Women are supported in forest-based enterprises, such as sustainable charcoal production, beekeeping, and tree nurseries. These initiatives enhance their financial independence and encourage sustainable resource use.

4. Awareness Campaigns: Sensitization programs challenge gender norms, promoting equal access to forest resources and benefits. These campaigns raise awareness on the importance of women's involvement in forestry. Examples of awareness campaigns include the use of social media, documentaries, and print media to share success stories of women in forestry and conducting interactive discussions between men and women to address barriers to women's participation in forest activities and find solutions collaboratively

5. Linkages and Networking: Women's groups are connected with forestry extension services to enhance collaboration, knowledge sharing, and access to technical support

11. Other questions: International Day of Forests

64. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests? (Select all that apply)

Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)

Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)

Social media activities

65. Please provide up to three examples of actions taken in observance of International Day of Forests since 2020. If possible, include a weblink to relevant documentation.

International Forest Day Action:

1. Organizing and conducting a National commemoration Event by planting trees and carrying out Natural Regeneration Management activities. Localize the International Day of Forests theme. (Share local success stories, collaborate with local partners to promote community led forests restoration.

2. Publicizing the International Day of Forests through social media, Radio and Television Programs, posters and banners to raise awareness on sustainable forest management.

3. Develop the National Forestry Season launch theme in line with the International Day of Forests theme.

Weblink:

12. Success stories

66. Since 2020, does your country have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

67. If yes, provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and/or articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets. Please specify the relevant GFG targets.

You may provide up to three success stories by clicking on "Add another success story".

Title:

Restoration of Degraded Forests through Public-Private Partnerships

Brief description:

Since 2020, Malawi has made significant progress in restoring degraded forest areas through partnerships between the government, private sector, and communities. Under the Adopt-a-Forest Initiative, Local Banks like National Bank of Malawi and FDH Bank have invested in afforestation and reforestation programs in degraded areas such as Seven Hills in Dedza, Jembya Forest Reserve in Chitipa, Palm Forest Reserve in Mangochi and Chingale Hills in Zomba. These initiatives focus on tree planting, sustainable harvesting, and agroforestry integration.

Main results achieved:

1. Over 10,000 hectares of degraded forests have been restored.
2. Increased private sector involvement in sustainable forest management.
3. Improved livelihoods for local communities through employment in tree nurseries and forest-based enterprises.
4. Enhanced carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

GFG targets addressed:

- 3.1
- 3.2
- 5.2

Weblink:

Title:

From Ex-Convict to Model Farmer: Mr. Morris Chelewani's Inspiring Journey

Brief description:

Mr. Morris Chelewani, a former convict who once relied on shoplifting to survive, has transformed his life and become a model farmer in Ntcheu, Malawi. Thanks to the Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP), Mr. Chelewani has not only restored 23.93 hectares of degraded land but also improved the livelihoods of his community. Through the Performance Based Grant (PBG) provided by the MWASIP, Mr Chelewani has restored 23.93 hectares of degraded land, transforming bare hills into thriving plantations, contributing to biodiversity conservation and improved watershed services. Not only that, Mr Chelewani has increased income and economic stability by earned a total of \$3,663.44 (MWK 6,227,848.00) and expected to receive the \$5,909 (MWK 10,045,300.00) from the project, which has enabled him to invest in Irish potato farming, open a bar, and hire casual laborers from his community. PBG has further helped him to employ surrounding community, improving their livelihoods and contributing to the local economy. In addition, involvement in the project transformed his mindset, empowering him to become a responsible and productive member of his community

Main results achieved:

1. Restoration of 23.93 hectares of degraded land
2. Improved livelihood through job creation
3. Economic Growth – Earned a total of \$3,663.44 (MWK 6,227,848.00) and is expected to receive an additional \$5,909 (MWK 10,045,300.00) from the project

GFG targets addressed:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 2.1
- 3.1
- 3.3

Weblink:**Title:**

Sustainable Charcoal Production and Alternative Energy Promotion

Brief description:

To address deforestation caused by illegal charcoal production, Malawi has implemented the Sustainable Charcoal Strategy (2017) with key actions since 2020. These include the promotion of improved charcoal kilns, the licensing of sustainable charcoal producers, and the adoption of alternative energy sources like LPG gas and briquettes.

Main results achieved:

1. Introduction of efficient charcoal kilns, reducing wood consumption by up to 50%.
2. Increased use of LPG gas among urban households, lowering dependence on charcoal.
3. Strengthened enforcement against illegal charcoal traders, leading to reduced deforestation in conservation forests.
4. Growth of sustainable forest enterprises, creating green jobs in biomass energy production.

GFG targets addressed:

- 3.3
- 4.2
- 5.4

Weblink:

Please review your responses. Click on the blue button below to download a PDF copy of your report.

If you wish to make changes, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Back" button to return to the section navigator. To continue with your submission, click on "Upload and Submit" at the bottom of the page.

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The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The file size should not exceed 2MB.

This step is required.

[Malawi UNFF Cover letter.pdf](#)

Please indicate the date of submission of the national report:
(DD/MM/YYYY)

27/06/2025

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In case of any issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) at the UNFF secretariat.