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MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS IN MALAWI

OBJECTIVE THREE OVERVIEW

Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests (MCHF) promotes sustainable forest management and energy options to maintain forest cover and to reduce land-based emissions in Malawi. MCHF is a five-year activity funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Tetra Tech implements MCHF in partnership with five subcontractors: Winrock International (WI), the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA), the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), World Resources Institute (WRI), and mHub. MCHF's objectives include:

1. Promoting adoption of alternative energy sources and efficient cooking technologies to reduce unsustainable wood fuel cooking demand, and most importantly urban demand for illegal and unsustainable charcoal;
2. Improving local delivery of forestry services, and promoting forest-friendly enterprises, including sustainable charcoal and other biomass energies;
3. **Strengthening regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use;**
4. Increasing the Government of Malawi's (GoM) implementation capacity of low emissions development in REDD+, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), and/or other land use; and
5. Leveraging interventions with partners, including USAID, FCDO, other development partners, GoM, and the private sector.

OBJECTIVE THREE

MCHF aims to strengthen regulation and enforcement to support sustainable wood fuel production and use. MCHF Objective 3 focuses on improving the regulatory framework for wood fuels and strengthening law enforcement capacity to address forestry-related crime, which are essential to build a more sustainable forestry sector—specifically a more sustainable charcoal value chain. This, in turn, will support other MCHF objectives by providing incentives for investment in sustainable forest management, the adoption of improved charcoal production, the uptake of improved stoves, and the competitiveness of alternative fuels. Activity partner Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) leads activities under Objective 3, leveraging and adapting their experiences building Malawian capacity for regulation and enforcement in the wildlife sector. This strategically leverages LWT's funding from USAID, State Department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, DFID, and private sources—ensuring a consistent approach. Under Objective 3, MCHF supports government law enforcement agencies to map and profile forestry crime, including illegal charcoal production; and to assist them in the identification and adoption of key interventions that will disrupt and deter these crimes.

The MCHF approach implements key actions and recommendations of the GoM's National Charcoal Strategy (NCS) for regulating charcoal production (NCS Pillar 5) and strengthening law enforcement (NCS Pillar 4). This approach also builds on the Forestry Policy and amended Forestry Act, and will work toward enforcement of the GoM Charcoal Regulations once formalized. Objective 3 efforts and systems will span the country, including both rural and urban areas.

OBJECTIVE THREE RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

MCHF's Objective 3 is designed to achieve three intermediate results (IRs). These IRs and associated activities are outlined below.

IR3.1: Strengthened regulatory framework for charcoal production and use, and forest management

- Conduct a rapid assessment to review existing legal and regulatory frameworks related to MCHF activity scope;
- Facilitate approval of legal and regulatory reforms;
- Develop and facilitate approval of subsidiary regulations and guidelines; and
- Disseminate approved laws, regulations, and guidelines.

IR3.2: Improved capacity to enforce laws on illegal charcoal production and trade in forest products

- Build capacity of Forest Guards and community enforcement networks;
- Strengthen capacity for forestry crime investigations;
- Strengthen capacity for prosecution of forestry crimes;
- Establish court and prison monitoring programs; and
- Support the Government to develop and implement a forest crime disruption and deterrence strategy.

IR3.3: Improved advocacy and public awareness on forestry laws and regulations

- Raise awareness of changes to the Forestry Act and other regulations at the landscape level; and
- Train journalists in environmental activism and producing forestry-related journalistic reports.

OBJECTIVE THREE ACTIVITY TARGETS

- 50 laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally proposed, adopted, or implemented supported by USG assistance
- 50% increase in the annual conviction rate for illegal charcoal and other forestry crime activities
- 10 organizations that have advanced their advocacy capacity

CONTACT

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