

FORESTS FOR LIFE

FFL3 - PROJECT REPORT - QUARTER 4



PROJECT NAME:

Mulanje Landscape Restoration Project

PROJECT LOCATION:

Mulanje District, Southern Region Malawi

(GPS: [-15.959058113842412, 35.46170705003524](#))

PROJECT SUMMARY:

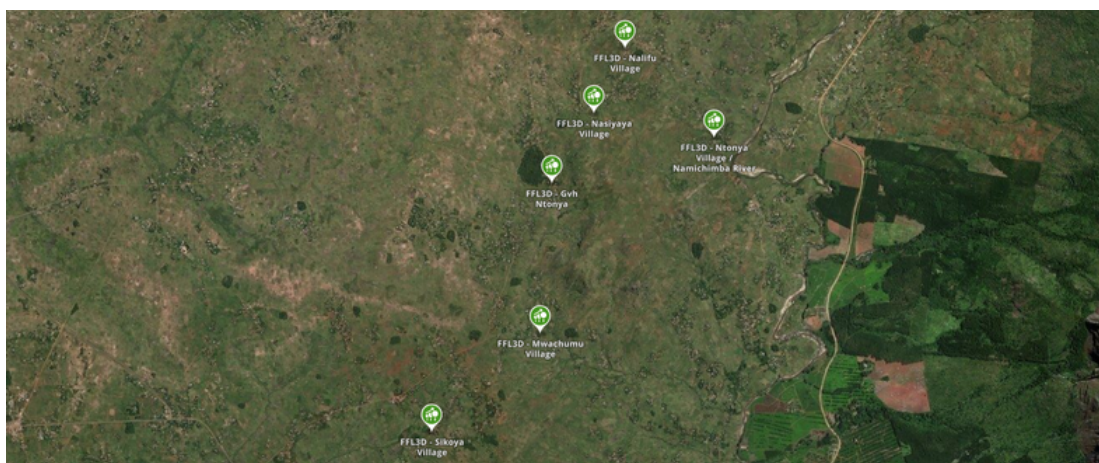
A collaboration between The Greenpop Foundation and the Mulanje Mission Hospital, the Mulanje Landscape Restoration Project aims to improve land management at a village level in the Mulanje Districts in the Southern Region of Malawi.



The project focuses on restoring land through natural regeneration management, and, where needed, active planting of indigenous tree seedlings. The project also promotes sustainable forest management through the continued management of community tree nurseries as well as community training on community-based natural resource management, improved cookstove technology, and forest beekeeping.

The measured project outcomes are: increased forest growth, quality and density, improved soil and water management, increased species biodiversity and protection, and community benefits including increased income, increased participation in restoration, increased honey yields, increased access to sustainable cookstoves and decreased need for wood fuel collection (with particular benefits for women). These outcomes are measured through monitoring and evaluation conducted by the Greenpop Foundation over a 20 year period.

PROJECT MAP:



PROGRESS TOWARDS PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

As outlined in the project work plan, this project includes the following activities. The status of the activities in each reporting quarter is colour coded with **green indicating that the activity was undertaken in that quarter**, **orange indicating that the activity is planned for that quarter**, and **red indicating that the activity was planned but not undertaken during that quarter**. Further information on all activities can be found in the Narrative Report section of this report.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
0.1. Compile project Concept Note which outlines project background, theory of change, and goals.	Green			
0.2. Mulanje Mission Hospital teams visit the site and engage with local stakeholders to refine project objectives.	Green	Green		
0.3. Greenpop team visits the site to refine reforestation methodologies, train local partners in M&E, and assist with hosting DHL team.			Green	
1.1. Procure tree seedlings from local suppliers & village nurseries.			Green	
1.2. Procure planting and maintenance materials (slashers & pangas)	Green	Green		
1.3. Engage community to undertake tree planting activities.			Green	Green
2.1. Plant vetiver grass and bamboo.			Green	Green
3.1. Forest, land and water management training (CBNRM).		Green		
3.2. Improved cookstove training.		Green		
3.3. Study visit.			Red	Green
4.1. Forest beekeeping training.		Green		
4.2. Livestock pass on programme.			Red	Green
5.1. Procure seeds.	Green	Green		
5.2. Procure nursery materials.	Green	Green		
5.3. Annual nursery maintenance.	Red	Green	Green	Green
6.1. Build M&E Equipment Kit			Green	
6.2. Data Collection		Green		Green
6.3. Project Reporting	Green	Green	Green	Green

NARRATIVE REPORT:

The following activities were carried out during the final reporting quarter:

Activity 1.3: Engage community to undertake tree planting activities.

Rain-fed tree planting was launched on 27th January 2023 at Matwika village. A total of 12,000 trees were planted during the 2022-2023 tree planting season in the 5 targeted villages around the Matwika, Ntonya and Sikoya catchment areas. The planting day hosted by Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) in collaboration with Greenpop and DHL attracted various local and international stakeholders, including the Malawian Forestry Department, Land Department, Agriculture Department, Senior chief Nkanda as well as traditional and religious leaders as well as community members. After the official plant day, different villages around the catchment areas have been planting trees from their nurseries until end of February 2023. The focal areas planted includes; river banks, hilly areas and relevant deforested areas.

Activity 2: Plant vetiver grass and bamboo.

The various communities from the relevant villages assisted the Mulanje Mission Hospital Team in finalising the planting of 6 tonnes of vetiver grass and 2000 bamboo plants along various rivers and streams within the project area to assist in riverbank stabilisation. This will increasingly assist in reducing erosion and loss of soil during periods of heavy rain, reducing the negative impact on the natural landscape as well as the communities in these areas.

Activity 3.3: Study visit

MMH organised a one day study visit at Balaka World Vision where a natural resource conservation project is being implemented. The team was very interested in the approach used by fellow implementing partners, financial and administrative controls. It was a fruitful trip as the implementing team has filled some gaps in the project implementation approaches and feel better equipped to continue the restoration and education work being done.

Activity 4.2: Livestock pass-on program

MMH procured small stocks for community members involved in natural resources conservation as a remuneration for their effort in restoring deforested areas, as a tangible benefit relating to forest restoration. A total of 35 goats and 110 chickens were procured and distributed at Matwika, Mtonya and Sikoya catchment areas. As these animals breed, the offspring will be kept by those in possession of the livestock, while the original livestock will be passed on to secondary and tertiary beneficiaries.

Activity 5.3: Annual nursery maintenance

MMH & Greenpop has established tree nurseries at three villages namely; Sikoya, Mtonya and Matwika through historic projects. This increased the number of local tree nurseries producing tree seedlings to be planted during the 2023 project and beyond. MMH supplied the villages with nursery materials which included: shovels, pangas, hand trowels, wheelbarrows, rakes, hoes, slashers, and planting pots. The materials provided are managed by the CBNRM committees to ensure proper distribution and use of these tools. A total of 9,000 tree seedlings are grown in the three new nurseries. MMH also conducted maintenance at its demonstration tree nursery at Thandizani Resource Centre, close to the Mulanje Mission Hospital, concluding the maintenance activities outlined for this project.

Activity 6.2: Data collection

The MMH team along with the CBNRM committees conducted the Post-planting monitoring of the trees planted during this project. More than 270 trees have been marked and measured, allowing long term monitoring of the marked trees over the years to come. Survival rates will be determined 1 year after planting. Data collection was a great opportunity for the CBNRM committees and community members to learn more about the data collection techniques, providing more insight into the restoration process and increasing education around scientific monitoring techniques.

PROJECT IMPACTS & OBSERVED CHANGES TO DATE

Good governmental support

Government Forest Department has taken a good step in assisting the MMH Natural Resources Conservation project. There is good coordination among the Department of Forests, Agriculture and MMH in restoring natural resources within targeted communities.

Reduction in harvesting from natural wood sources

A number of individuals have opened individual woodlots within their communities which increases the number of forest trees that will not be cut down every year. There is a steady movement in community members refraining from cultivating in hilly areas (reduction of 4%), increasing the likelihood that these areas will soon be without cultivation as community members are educated and trained in Natural Resource Management.

Livestock pass-on program

The livestock pass-on program has strengthened the community participation in conservation of natural forests. Provision of in-kind incentives will accelerate the engagement and recognition of community members leading teams in natural resources conservation.

Shifts in community perceptions

As a result of devastating effects of flash flooding and formation of trenches and landslides, 95% of community members volunteered to plant and care for trees in the project sites. These communities now have a stronger motive to restore the degraded areas, due to the clear impact of tree removal and the resulting impact of natural disasters.



IMPACT SO FAR 2022-23

5 VILLAGES

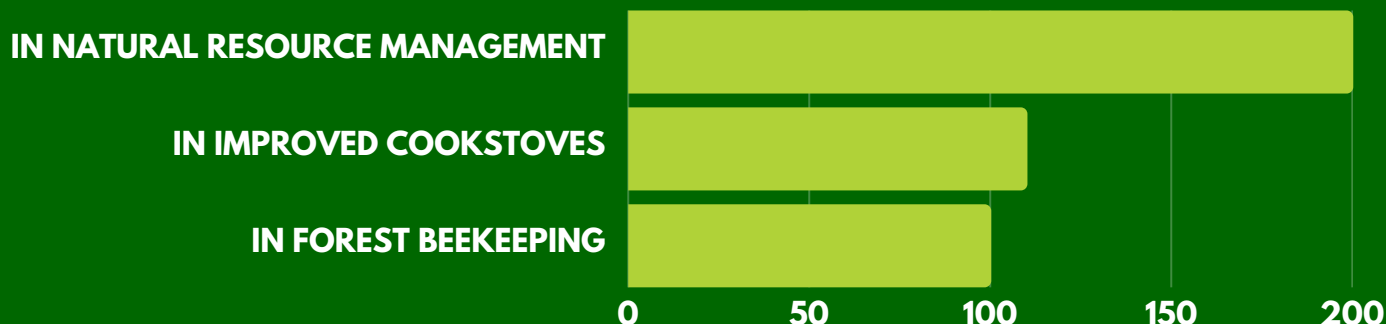
470
BENEFICIARIES ENGAGED

12,000
TREES PLANTED

6
TONNES OF
VETIVER GRASS
PLANTED

2,000
BAMBOO
PLANTS
PLANTED

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED



110

CHICKENS & GOATS
DISTRIBUTED



35

ALTERNATIVE
COOKSTOVES
BUILT



100

BEEHIVES
DISTRIBUTED



PROJECT SPONSOR

This project was made possible by generous sponsorship by DHL Express.



IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATIONS

The implementing organisations for the Mulanje Landscape Restoration Project are the Greenpop Foundation and the Mulanje Mission Hospital.

