

Five broad types of losses will be valued and compensated including; land, agriculture produce such as crops, fruit trees, plantation crops, physical assets such as buildings and other structures, trees and loss of access to resources (e.g. water, forest products, grazing areas, watering points, etc.).

People whose buildings will be affected by the main canal will be given a choice of compensation in kind or cash equivalent. In kind compensation will entail construction of a new house of at least the same quality or better in the same community. People whose land will be affected by the main canal and other structures will be compensated for the loss of their land.

People will be compensated for the loss of the produce on their land that cannot be harvested in time and for trees and forests. The valuation of the loss will take into account clearance and preparation of the land and the loss of income during the period until the first harvest.

The design of the irrigation scheme will take into account the access routes of people as well as livestock and wildlife.

Grievances and Complaints

The SVTP will strive to resolve grievances and complaints at the local community level but where this is not possible, the aggrieved person(s) may lodge their grievance with the Grievance Redress Committees or the customary land committees or tribunals nearest to them. The SVTP has set up Grievance Redress Mechanism committees and will soon set up Customary Land Committees or Tribunals for the project.

The purpose is to solve disputes at the earliest possible time and to provide a clear and timely procedure on how complaints will be received, assessed, resolved and monitored. The SVTP Grievance Redress Mechanism strives to be independent and free of conflict of interest.

Each time a conflict is not resolved the person with a grievance can go to the next level until the grievance is resolved and the case closed. The status of each grievance will be recorded and a list of all grievance cases will be available at the Chikwawa District Irrigation Office and open to public scrutiny.

The people in the Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee have been democratically selected by the people in the project area. During the establishment of the GRM Committees great effort was made to ensure that those selected were trusted people within the community with no history of corruption or abuse of public trust. The Customary Land Committees and the Tribunals will be established in accordance with the Customary Land Act.

Environmental and Wildlife Considerations

The intake is within the Majete Wildlife Reserve. The design and construction methods will minimise the impact on the environment as much as possible. Portions of the canal passing through the Majete Wildlife Reserve will be underground in the form of siphons to allow animals to pass and people to access tourist sites such as Kapichira Falls. Where the canal is open, it will be fenced. The design is intended to maintain the environmental flow at Kapichira Dam. The main irrigation canal for Phase II will pass through a dry area in Lengwe National Park. The design will make it possible for animals to access drinking water and to cross the canal.

The Project is catering for issues of wildlife and environmental conservation in Lengwe National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, the Elephant Marsh, and Matandwe Forest Reserve. The project is working hand in hand with the Departments of Forestry, Parks and Wildlife, Environmental Affairs and Fisheries. The project is also mindful of cultural sites as well as chance findings and has put in place measures to protect such sites and findings.



Government of Malawi
Ministry of Agriculture

For more details visit: www.svtp.gov.mw

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Shire Valley Transformation Programme-1

Irrigation and Cash Crops for a Better Life'



About the SVTP

The Government of Malawi (GoM) through the Ministry of Agriculture, with support from the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is implementing the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP). The SVTP is a 14-year programme (2018-2031) which will be implemented in three sequential but partially overlapping phases.

The SVTP will irrigate 43,370 hectares of land by abstracting water from the Shire River at Kapichira and conveying it by gravity to the irrigable area in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts through canals. This will ensure a more consistent supply of water to farm lands throughout the year.

SVTP Programme Objective

The program development objective (PDO) for the Shire Valley Transformation Programme is to increase agricultural productivity and commercialisation for targeted households in the Shire Valley; and to improve the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.

The objective of the first phase of the Programme (2018 to 2023) is to provide access to reliable irrigation and drainage services, secure land tenure for smallholder farmers and strengthen management of wetlands and protected areas in the Shire valley.

What the SVTP Aims to Achieve

- * Provide reliable, professionally managed and sustainably financed irrigation service to irrigators in a phased construction of the scheme and providing multiple services including water supply;
- * Support farmer organisations within a comprehensive land use plan; supporting land tenure strengthening and consolidation; as well as natural resources management; and
- * Establish smallholder owned commercial farm enterprises transitioning into commercial agriculture from subsistence farming and integrating them into commercial value chains.

Coverage of the SVTP

Construction of the irrigation scheme will be done in two phases. Phase I covers the area from Chikwawa in the north to the edge of the Lengwe National Park. Phase II covers the area from south of Lengwe National Park along the Main Road to Bangula in the South. The water will flow through canals by gravity without pumping.

Some areas are not included in the project area because some are located higher than the canal hence cannot be irrigated without pumping, others are excluded because the soil are not suitable for growing crops under irrigation or the area is a settlement where people have their houses, or the area is a graveyard or cultural heritage site or is protected due to other reasons.

Beneficiaries of the SVTP

The SVTP will benefit smallholder farmers and other farmers within the project area. Smallholder farmers who own land in the project area will be the primary beneficiaries of the irrigation water. Since the project supports the community at large, it will empower various vulnerable groups.



What will happen to people's land?

The current land rights will be respected. Only people whose land is in the direct line of the main canals, drains and roads will need to be acquired and compensated for the loss. Farmers will have to consolidate land and get shared ownership of the consolidated irrigation blocks as a way of managing the water and for large scale commercial agricultural production. Irrigated fields will be organised along the canals.

The SVTP will facilitate the development of mutually agreed and voluntary partnerships between the private sector and farmers' organisations. This will help farmers to increase their production, generate market opportunities and develop the value chain from production to distribution of the agricultural produce to consumers. In addition, the project will allow for aquaculture fisheries, livestock production, small scale water supply, drinking water and other secondary benefits.

How will farmers be organized?

All farmers that want to be part of the irrigation scheme will have to organise themselves and be legally registered. The farmers' organisations will be responsible for managing the farms in one or more irrigation blocks and sign an agreement with the operator of the irrigation infrastructure which will specify the entitlement to irrigation water, the fee to be paid for management, operation and maintenance of the infrastructure and other conditions such as the duration of the agreement.

How will the Irrigation Scheme be managed?

The Government of Malawi is the owner of the Shire Valley Irrigation Scheme and all the irrigation infrastructure. The Government will hire a company to manage the infrastructure. The company will be responsible for i) ensuring that all irrigation blocks get their water as per agreement; ii) entering into agreement with the farmers; collecting management, operation and maintenance (MOM) fees; and maintaining the main canals and infrastructure so that water can flow among others responsibilities.

What crops will be grown?

Farmers will decide what crops to grow on their land. Cash crops will have to be grown on a larger portion of the land so that the income will be enough to pay for the MOM fees and other expenses. Approximately, ten percent of the land will be used for food crops, pastures, woodlots and other uses.



Modalities for Commercial Farming

Commercial farming requires a larger area of land for cultivation. Therefore, farmers will have to pool their land together to create this large farm. Farmers will enter with a share corresponding to the size of land they have. Farmers will be encouraged to manage the farms professionally in order to increase productivity and respond to market standards. Only farmers with land in the irrigation area will participate.

Compensation for Property Losses

The Government of Malawi will strive to minimise involuntary displacements and land acquisitions to a limited number. However, land for the construction of the main canals, night storage reservoir and roads be acquired and compensated appropriately in accordance with the laws and policies of Malawi, the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

No construction works for the SVTP infrastructure will be commenced until all project affected persons (PAPs) have been appropriately compensated for property losses. Any complaints associated with the SVTP will be heard through the normal channels or by the Grievance Redress Committees or, if land related, customary land committees or tribunals.