



# SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

## Project Profile



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# THE SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (SVTP) AT A GLANCE

## Overview of the SVTP

Approximately 85% of the population in Malawi live in rural areas with the majority engaged in rain-fed subsistence agriculture and livestock raising.

In Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts, many people secure an income and food for their families from cultivating crops and raising livestock. Whether the harvest is good or not depends on unpredictable rainfall which often brings periods of drought or floods.

Through the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP), the Government of Malawi aims to boost agricultural production and increase productivity by providing irrigation water which will help the farmers produce crops at least twice a year, get a better harvest and healthier livestock and grow more high-value cash crops to sell at domestic and international markets.

The Government of Malawi (GoM) through the Department of Irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture, with support from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the OPEC Fund for International Development, Nigerian Trust Fund

and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is implementing the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP).

The SVTP is a 14-year program (2018-2031) which will be implemented in three sequential but partially overlapping phases.

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

## Our Objective

The Programme Development Objective (PDO) for the SVTP is to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization for targeted households in the Shire Valley and to improve sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.

## Guiding Principles

The SVTP has the following guiding principles:

- Benefit current landowners and include them in agricultural modernization;
- Farmers who want to participate will have to organize themselves and consolidate their land;
- Allow for private investments in partnership with landowners;
- Give the members of the communities a free choice to join the scheme;
- Have a firm to operate, manage and maintain the irrigation infrastructure;
- Charge fees to pay for management, operation, and maintenance of the irrigation infrastructure. This will create a sustainable scheme that remains in good condition.

## Beneficiaries of the SVTP

The SVTP will benefit smallholder farmers and other farmers within the project area.

Smallholder farmers who are the owners of the land will be the primary beneficiaries of the irrigation water. 223,000 people from 48,400 households are expected to benefit from the project.

## Coverage of the SVTP

The construction of the irrigation scheme will be done in two phases.

Phase I covers 52kms from Kapichira Dam in Chikwawa in the north to the edge of Lengwe National Park.

Phase II covers 81kms from south of Lengwe National Park along the Main Road to Bangula in the South. The water will flow by gravity without pumping through canals.

Overall, the SVTP will cover a total distance of about 133kms from the Intake at Kapichira Dam to Bangula in Nsanje.





## IRRIGATION SERVICE PROVISION

The SVTP finances works, goods, and services that are necessary for the development of bulk irrigation and drainage infrastructure in the SVTP area (Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts).

Major works to be constructed include the Intake, main canals, secondary pipelines, emergency spillways, flood protection bunds, an invasive fish barrier, cross and head regulators, inverted siphons, sediment basins/ejectors, night storage reservoirs, wildlife crossings and other crossings, and bridges. All hydraulic structures have been designed to accommodate the peak design discharges requirements for both Phase 1 and 2 project areas.

### Water Intake

The intake is the starting point of the irrigation scheme. It is located at the Kapichira Dam and is meant to serve both Phase 1 and 2 of the SVTP. Once completed, the intake will abstract the maximum water demand of 50 cubic metres per second during peak months which is enough for Phase 1 and 2 areas.

### Main Canal

In Phase 1, Main Canal 1 stretches 33kms from Kapichira Dam at the Intake before it bifurcates into Main Canal 2 which stretches for 100kms. Main Canal 1 will supply water to Phase 1 area only. Main Canal 2 will supply water to part of Phase 1 area and the entire Phase 2 area.

The first 19kms of Main Canal 2 is being constructed in Phase 1 area while the last 81kms will be constructed in Phase 2 area. Main Canal 2 will supply Phase 1 area and the entire Phase 2 area while Canal 3 will supply water to smallholder farmers including Illovo Estate at Nchalo. Major hydraulic structures on Main Canal 1 include siphons, invasive fish barrier (drop structure), bridges, culverts, sediment ejectors etc. These structures have been appropriately designed using internationally recognized equations.

The Main Canal, just before secondary pipelines start abstracting water, has a bottom width of 12.5m, top width of 21.5m, and water depth of 2.2m excluding freeboard which is 0.8 m.



This is designed to convey a maximum of 50 cubic meters of water per second. However, the cross-section keeps on reducing in size with the subsequent withdrawal of water by secondary pipelines.

### Invasive fish barrier

To prevent invasive fish species like Tiger Fish found downstream of Kapichira Falls from migrating to Lake Malawi through a network of drains, tertiary, secondary, and Main Canals, environmental and invasive fish specialists recommended the construction of a barrier on the Main Canal.

This barrier is a drop structure that is high enough to prevent fish from jumping over. This structure is being constructed of concrete and will have a total vertical drop of 6.10 meters.

To exceed the leaping abilities of the tiger fish, the required height should be 3 meters from the upstream bottom level of the canal up to the maximum top water level of the downstream canal. However, in this design, the top water level is set at 1.5ms, thus creating a 4.5m free fall which is even higher than the recommended 3ms. The total drop of the structure is 6.3ms and an additional 1.66m sill will be constructed at the end of the upstream canal, inclining upwards. The fish barrier is under construction.

### Siphons

This is composed of double boxes which have a smaller section (3.0x3.0m) and a larger section (5.0x3.0m). The two different size passages are provided to prevent sediment settlement in the siphon by keeping the flow rate in the siphon higher than 1 m/s even at small flow rates.

## Management of Irrigation Infrastructure

The Government of Malawi is the owner of the Shire Valley Irrigation Scheme including the entire irrigation infrastructure. The Government is setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for this purpose. Furthermore, the Government of Malawi is procuring an operator to operate, manage and maintain the infrastructure through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement. The SPV will supervise the operator.

The operator will be responsible for the management, operation, and maintenance of the irrigation system. Specifically, the operator will ensure that all irrigation blocks get water as per the water purchase agreement. The operator will sign Water Users Agreements with different off-takers/farmers.

The money sourced from these off-takers will be used for proper operation, management and maintenance of infrastructure and long-term sustainability. The fees to be paid by farmer enterprises for management, operation, and maintenance of the infrastructure will be affordable.

## Compliance With International Obligations

The SVTP is executed in line with the following provisions:

- Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) agreements;
- 2000 Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses;
- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans of individual riparian and SADC nations.



## LAND TENURE SECURITY

The SVTP supports the piloting of the new land legal framework and local regulations for land administration in a participatory process with chiefs and land committees. This includes the formulation of Urban Structure Plans and District Physical Development Plans including local land use plans and by-laws at the group village level which are used to analyze and approve customary estates applications at the individual or collective level. The project will also support the process of land consolidation and registration of customary estates.

### Land Adjudication and Demarcation

The SVTP is implementing provisions of the new Land Laws (2022), notably the Customary Land Act which advocates for secure land ownership and user rights to the citizenry. This is being done through the systematic registration of all customary land parcels in Group Village areas covered by the project. These are the areas within and around over 43,000 hectares of land which will be irrigated through the Programme.

Over 46,000 customary land parcels have been adjudicated and registered in Chikwawa during the first phase.

Farmers will use their registered land as fixed capital for their commercial agriculture business. The land will be consolidated into large farms; where possible, each large farm will measure at least 500 hectares to necessitate commercial farming. In exceptional cases, farms smaller than 500 hectares will be registered.

Maps of each adjudicated customary land parcel have been produced for more than 48,000 land parcels. Farmers will be given their block customary estate certificates with records of their parcels including original copies of the maps.

So far, 14 irrigation blocks have been targeted in Phase 1 area of the SVTP. The number of blocks for Phase 2 will be determined once the process of land adjudication and demarcation has been undertaken in the Phase 2 area.

### Contribution to the Review of Land Subsidiary Legislations

The SVTP contributed towards the development and review of land subsidiary legislations during Phase 1 including Customary Land Regulations, Land Regulations, Land Survey Regulations, Land Acquisition and Compensation (Amendment) Regulation, Physical Planning Regulations and the Registered Land (Amendment) Regulations.

All these regulations were gazetted by the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

The following governance structures have been established and trained in line with the Customary Land Regulations during the first phase:

- 36 Customary Land Committees;
- Five Traditional Land Management Areas (TLMAs) have been demarcated in the project area;
- Five Customary Land Tribunals (5) for Paramount Chief Lundu, TAs Kasisi, Maseya, Katunga and Ndakwera have been established;
- One District Land Tribunal has been established; and
- In addition, the Chikwawa District Land Registrar and five land clerks were deployed.

### Physical Development Plans

The Chikwawa District Council with support from the SVTP developed the Chikwawa District Physical Development Plan (CDPDP) and 36 local land use plans with assistance from the Ministry of Lands. This was done as part of the piloting of the new land laws and in accordance with Physical Planning Act (2016).

The plan will guide the orderly and progressive development of land in the district while taking into consideration social and economic development aspects of all sector activities and projects. The CDPDP and accompanying local land use plans have been prepared as part of the SVTP whose focus includes securing land tenure. This will guide the way land should be utilized in Chikwawa District. The CDPDP Plan was developed using a participatory approach and in consultation with community members and other stakeholders in the district.

The Plan is the first comprehensive physical development plan to be prepared for Chikwawa District under the Land Reform Programme activities which among others was to assist in piloting the implementation of new land laws before rolling out nationwide.

Following the launch of the Physical Development Plan, the Chikwawa District Council formulated an Urban Structure Plan which seeks to regulate how residential, industrial, and other development areas should be developed. Through the Plan, major market areas in the district including Chikwawa Boma, Nchalo and Ngabu will be transformed into towns. A District Physical Planning Committee was appointed and trained.

Further, a base map data field verification exercise was conducted. The objective of this exercise was to update the data for the production of 1: 20,000 base maps for the district. Chikwawa District has 11 Tradition Land Management Areas (TLMAs) with an average of 60 group village heads (GVHs).

### Land Consolidation

The project through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD) is facilitating the process of land consolidation and registration in the names of incorporated groups of farmers:

- Consolidated farms will be operated by legally registered Smallholder Owned Commercial Farm Enterprises (SOCFEs);
- Each SOCFE will be required to manage the consolidated farm professionally;
- The land will be registered under appropriate laws.







## AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALIZATION

The SVTP seeks to promote a shift from smallholder subsistence to commercial agriculture through market-led, modern and mechanized agriculture. The project will also promote inclusion of smallholder farmers into private sector-led value chains.

### What type of farming will be promoted?

The objective of the SVTP is to transform subsistence smallholder farmers into commercial farmers. Farmers will decide what crops to grow on their land. Cash crops will be grown on a larger portion of the land. Part of the land (10%) may be used for food crops, pastures, woodlots, and others.

Farmers will decide if they want to do animal husbandry, aquaculture, or fisheries. Agricultural specialists investigated a large number of crops that could be grown under irrigation and selected the most viable crops (those with the highest gross margins) that are easy to grow, harvest, store, market, and/or process.

Examples of tropical fruits that could be grown are bananas, citrus, mangoes, or pawpaw. There is also potential in the area to grow high-value vegetables such as baby corn. Most importantly, the choice of the enterprise (crops, animals, aquaculture) will also be dependent on agreements made between the farmers and off-takers.

### How will farmers be organized?

There are already models of consolidated farms in Phase I area of the irrigation scheme, such as Kasinthula Sugarcane Growers Association, Phata Cane Growers Cooperative, and Katunga-Maseya (KAMA) Cooperative. Hence farmers have opportunities to these home-grown models on which to base their organizations.

All farmers that want to be part of the irrigation scheme will have to organize themselves and be legally registered using any of these models.

### 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 large farms. Farmers who will participate will have a share of the commercial farm corresponding to the area of their land. All farmers with land within the irrigation block may participate. Participation in the irrigation blocks is voluntary. If a farmer does not want to participate, he/she will be compensated to acquire land elsewhere in the surrounding communities.



## FARM BUSINESS MODELS (PATHWAYS)

Farmers will be organized into cooperatives, associations, or companies. The farmer organizations will opt for and follow either of the four proposed Farm Business Models as follows:

**Pathway 1-Agribusiness Managers:** Farmers will contribute capital in form of land and labour. The farm entity will employ a commercial agribusiness management company that will farm the estate as a single enterprise. An example of an entity using this pathway is Phata Cooperative in Chikwawa which employed AGRICANE to manage its commercial farm. The owners would be able to farm an agreed portion of irrigated land for food crops individually. The farmers will be paid a dividend or profit share according to their respective land shareholding.

**Pathway 2-Smallholder Agribusiness:** The SOCFE devolves individual land ownership/user rights to specific plots based on percentage shareholding. Here, individuals do not rent but farm their plots with an expectation that a natural process of farm consolidation into larger business units will follow, as less-interested or less-successful farmers exit voluntarily (through rental or transfer). However, only new farmers from within the area are allowed for rentals and transfers. The SOCFE oversees the land-administration unit and water management functions in the block through a Land Administration Unit and a Water Users Association (WUA). Service fees are paid. The landholders renting out derive benefits from a food plot allocation and rental revenue. Production is done by farmers on their plots. Marketing of products is done by the farmer organization or by individual farmers as they choose.

**Pathway 3-Leased Farms (Mixed Model):** The SOCFE acts as a facilitator/enabler sub-leasing portions of the customary estate to members, outside individuals, and/or agri-business companies to generate revenue. The SOCFE administers land and irrigation water service provision in the block. SOCFE owners would receive payment of net revenue pro-rata to their shareholding. For individuals farming on their own, profit will be based on the number of products sold.

**Pathway 4- Joint-Venture (JV) Enterprises:** The SOCFE establishes a contract-partnership arrangement/joint venture (JV) with an agribusiness entity that covers all farm production for the supply of a commodity or industrial crops (e.g. KAMA-Presscane JV for ethanol). Farmers contributed land for sugar cane production whereas Presscane contributed equivalent capital for operations, for example, labor payment and farm inputs. Press Cane is supposed to provide the market for sugarcane. When there is a financial gap, the venture decides to obtain loans or apply for grants from Development Partners. SOCFE owners would receive payment of net revenue from the JV, pro-rata to their land shareholding.

# ENTERPRISE SELECTION, VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT AND MATCHING GRANTS



- Farmers will have an opportunity to venture into an enterprise of choice ranging from livestock, crops, and aquaculture among others;
- Farmers are encouraged to start with the following crops: cotton, soya beans, and pigeon peas in summer, maize and dry beans in winter, until such a time that value chains and market opportunities for other crops especially perishables like mangoes, bananas, and tomatoes are determined.;
- Farmers will be encouraged to integrate crop production with livestock and fish farming among others;
- Farmers will develop business plans according to enterprises selected and markets available which will be assessed by an Investment Assessment Panel every quarter. Matching grants will be disbursed to the SOCFEs in line with the selected pathway;
- The project will enhance value chain development for selected enterprises through the formation of productive alliances where SOCFES, public and private sectors will agree on certain terms to formalize the production of some commodities. There will also be value chain platforms involving all relevant entities including farmers, input suppliers, produce buyers, processors, transporters, financiers, public and private extension service providers, and commodity associations;
- The Project will facilitate the development and formation of an Agri park. It will support the Ministry responsible for trade and industry and the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC) to analyze and determine the suitability of the Agri park in the project area. This will assist in rallying private institutions behind investment commitment in the park;
- The SVTP will facilitate access to financing through a range of options available including innovative instruments such as value chain finance, challenge funds, and warehouse receipt systems;
- The Project will facilitate linkages between producers, suppliers, processors, available markets, and other stakeholders (all value chain actors) with SOCFEs and will explore new areas for diversification including the auction system among others.



## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS

### Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs)

The Government of Malawi strives to minimize involuntary displacements and land acquisitions to a limited number. However, land for the construction of the main canals will be acquired and compensated appropriately.

Losses are compensated following the laws and policies of Malawi, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank. The SVTP ensures that losses are compensated transparently and equitably and are discussed with a large group of stakeholders before the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MOLHUD) approves the Resettlement Policy Framework and Resettlement Action Plan. No construction works for the SVTP infrastructure are started until all project-affected persons (PAPs) have been appropriately compensated for property losses.

Any non-land complaints associated with the SVTP are heard through normal channels or by Grievance Redress Committees that the Project has established at Group Village Headman, Traditional Authority, District, and central levels. All land-related grievances are heard by the land tribunals as established under the Customary Land Act.

So far 1,309 project-affected persons (PAPs) have been compensated in Phase 1 to the tune of K1.3 billion Kwacha. In-kind compensations were also provided where there were communal properties, for example, boreholes, school blocks, churches, and others.

### Grievances and Complaints

The SVTP strives to resolve grievances and complaints at the community level but where this is not possible, the aggrieved person(s) may lodge their grievance with the Grievance Redress Committees nearest to them. The SVTP has set up Grievance Redress Committees 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 goes to the next level until the grievance is resolved and the case closed.

38 Grievance Redress Committees were established during Phase 1 of the SVTP with 353 committee members (192 male, 161 female).

## Gender and Social Inclusion

The Programme promotes gender and social inclusion throughout its implementation and ensures the inclusion of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Views of women and other vulnerable groups on the Project are taken into account to have a holistic picture of potential risks and impacts the Project may pose; and come up with effective mitigation measures considering that men and women view things differently. The Programme ensures that inequalities between men and women are addressed and all unintended effects on gender dynamics, for example, domestic violence are prevented.

The SVTP ensures that there is representation and participation of women and other vulnerable groups including people living with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, the youth, and children in all community consultations, meetings, and interactions about the Programme as these will be equally affected by the Programme. Representation and participation of women and other vulnerable groups in different committees are prioritized by the Programme with special emphasis given to the women to influence decisions that affect them and make their voices heard.

The SVTP uses a Gender-Based Violence Service Provider (GBV SP) to disseminate information and raise awareness on issues of Gender-Based Violence/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (GBV/SEA/SH) and child protection and champion response in the impact area.

The Programme also works with the One-Stop Centre where GBV and SEA survivors have access to support services from service providers like the hospital, police, magistrate court, and social welfare among others.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace-Chikwawa Diocese serves the role of the GBV Service Provider for SVTP Phase 1. The Chikwawa District One-Stop Centre was revamped and is functional.

Workers Unions have been established at each construction site to bridge the gap between workers and the companies.

This assists with addressing different issues identified on-site for timely redress. The Programme works with the Labour Office on all labour-related issues.

## Implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs)

The implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures is guided by the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and applicable conditionalities as stipulated in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

Specific ESMPs are prepared where construction is to be undertaken by the project and these have to be approved by the Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA).

For example, under SVTP Phase 1, ESMPs have been implemented for the construction of structures under in-kind compensations, contractor campsites, offices, construction of crossings and bridges on the canal to ensure that mobility of community members and livestock is not compromised and construction of the fish barrier to prevent movement of invasive and predatory tiger fish (*Hydrocynus vittatus*) into the upper course of the Shire River and Lake Malawi among others.

## Cultural Heritage

The SVTP engaged the Department of Monuments and Museums to conduct a cultural heritage impact assessment in compliance with the Monuments and Relics Act (1991). The Act requires that all development initiatives in the country must ensure that all monuments and relics are protected from planning to implementation stages.

19 cultural heritage sites including one active shrine were identified in the Phase 1 area from the Intake at Kapichira Dam to Lengwe National Park. Excavated materials are being analyzed at the Department's laboratory in Nguludi. Cultural heritage assessments will be scaled up to the Phase 2 area.



## NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Malawi's forests, biodiversity resources, and wetlands make a substantial socio-economic contribution to the country and are of particular importance to the poor – supplying most rural energy needs, household construction materials, and generating substantial employment and income generation.

The Shire Valley Transformation Programme realizes the importance of environmental conservation in the implementation of all its activities. The SVTP is implementing natural resource management interventions with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the tune of \$5.59 million through the Departments of National Parks and Wildlife, Forestry, Environmental Affairs and Fisheries.

The SVTP promotes an inter-sectoral approach to the management of the Shire Valley landscape by:

- addressing biodiversity conservation;
- protecting and enhancing the role that forests, woodlands, rangelands, and wetlands play in mitigating climate change;
- promoting sustainable approaches to forest management that protect forest resources and deliver benefits to local communities;

- building resilience to short-term weather shocks and longer-term climate variability for local stakeholders in a region considered highly exposed and vulnerable to climate change.

At the national level, GEF support is helping the Government of Malawi to address broader regional and global priorities for wildlife conservation, consistent with the objectives and priorities of the Global Wildlife Program. Specifically, this includes:

- strengthening of wildlife crime policy as the country is facing growing wildlife crime challenges including illegal trade in endangered species like ivory, pangolins, and rhinos among others and the implementation of the National Elephant Action Plan;
- updating the IUCN Red List (The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species);
- and drafting legislation to define Access and Benefit-sharing arrangements for genetic resources consistent with the Nagoya Protocol.

## Intervention Sites

Conservation areas that are benefiting from GEF support within the Shire Valley landscape total over 292,996 hectares. The intervention sites include Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, Matandwe Forest Reserve, Elephant Marsh, New Lengwe, and Majete Wildlife Reserve. The Programme has developed management plans for the Thyolo Escarpment and Thambani Forest Reserve. Implementation of these activities will be scaled up into the second phase of the SVTP. The sizes of the protected areas are as follows:

- Elephant Marsh- 61,556
- New Lengwe- 77,587
- Majete- 77,754
- Matandwe-28,915
- Mwabvi- 35,193

The Protected Areas of the Shire Valley hold rare and threatened biodiversity. The Majete Wildlife Reserve hosts impressive populations of Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*), Lion (*Panthera leo*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*); while neighboring Lengwe National Park is home to the most northern naturally occurring populations of Nyala (*Tragelaphus angasii*).

Further south is the Elephant Marsh which covers an area of approximately 600km<sup>2</sup> and is internationally recognized for water birds (African Skimmer (*Rynchops flavirostris*), African Pygmy Goose (*Nettapus auritus*), and Pel's Fishing Owl (*Scotopelia peli*)) and important fish species such as Chambo (*Oreochromis sp.*).

In the very south is Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, which has recently experienced high levels of illegal wildlife hunting. Once home to the last naturally occurring populations of Black Rhino in Malawi, Mwabvi boasts a stunning landscape with many species of antelope and excellent habitat for Mopane trees. It borders the larger Matandwe Forest Reserve thus providing a much larger protected area landscape for animals to disperse. Matandwe Forest Reserve is home to the world's rarest chameleon, Chapman's Pygmy Chameleon (*Rhampholeon chapmani*).



## Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve and Matandwe Forest Reserve

These two reserves protect the largest remaining block of woodlands and forests in the Shire Valley. These woodlands and forests are key for protecting environmental services on the steep slopes of the western escarpment. The SVTP is strengthening the delivery of livelihood benefits for local communities and revenues for sustainable landscape management. It has supported the development of a Joint Management Plan for Mwabvi and Matandwe, and the development of village forest management plans in communal areas.

Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve has been affected by poaching which has led to the decline of animal populations such as buffaloes, kudu, and impala. The Reserve has also been affected by illegal logging which has destroyed habitat for the animals and lack of water for animals during the dry season. Furthermore, Mwabvi adjoins Matandwe Forest Reserve allowing free movement of animals between the two protected areas. However, because of weak law enforcement in Matandwe, wild animals get killed when they move to the Forest Reserve. To resolve this management challenge, an integrated management plan for the two protected areas has been developed through the SVTP.

Through the SVTP, infrastructure at the Reserve is being improved including tourist trails, roads, and solar-powered water holes, and law enforcement is being strengthened and a resource use program is under implementation.



## The Elephant Marsh

The Marsh was designated on 1 July 2017, as a Wetland of International Importance under the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands and has been designated as Malawi's first Community Conservation Area (CCA).

These wetlands are critical for supporting some key freshwater wildlife and fisheries, soaking up major flood peaks from the Shire and Ruo rivers and sustaining internationally important wetland biodiversity, dry season agriculture, and livestock grazing for communities in the Shire Valley.

The Elephant Marsh is also home to significant rare and threatened biodiversity requiring improved management that balances the needs of local people and the imperative of building the resilience of these communities to highly variable climatic conditions and longer-term climate change.

The Government of Malawi through the SVTP has started processes to establish the Elephant marsh as Malawi's first 'Community Conservation Wetland Area' to balance local livelihood needs with the longer-term, sustainable management of the marsh ecosystem. The first CCA Mbenje, has already been mapped. The SVTP is enabling the implementation of the first phase of the Community Based Management Plan for the Elephant Marsh through supporting the implementation of the wetland management plan for the Elephant Marsh and conservation measures for the remaining fish biodiversity and wildlife populations.



## Lengwe National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve

Collectively, the Lengwe-Majete protected-area-complex covers a large area and is strategically placed within the Shire Valley biodiversity network. The project has specific focus in the New Lengwe (also known as the Lengwe Extension Area). The extension area was established by the government to protect the steeply sloping catchments of the Shire Valley which suffer regularly from severe flooding. The woodlands of these conservation areas also maintain important populations of elephants, black rhinos, and nyala.

Support to these sites is building on prior investments at Old Lengwe and is providing support for improved management regimes in the extensive woodlands and forests of New Lengwe – which are currently under pressure from illegal commercial logging and over-exploitation. The SVTP is:

- supporting the extension of the park management plan to cover New Lengwe;
- developing co-management arrangements on customary land with local communities and exploring possibilities of resource use arrangements from the protected area;
- exploring possibilities of preparation of a landscape corridor that could protect ecological linkages between New Lengwe and Majete Wildlife Reserve;
- supporting the development of infrastructure in the New Lengwe for effective park management; and
- Marking the boundary to ensure there is no encroachment by both parties (the protected area and communities).

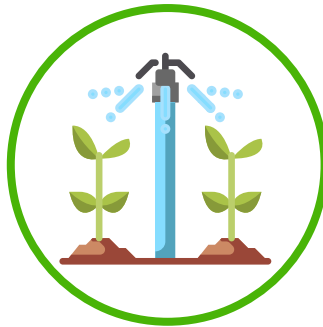


# THE SVTP IN FIGURES

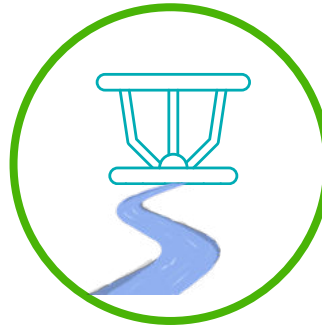
## General Programme Figures



**223,000** people from **48,400** households estimated to benefit



**43,370** hectares to be irrigated

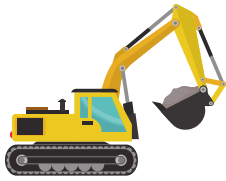


Canals covering **133kms** to be constructed in the project area. **52kms** in Phase 1



**292,996 hectares** of conservation areas under improved management

## Some key highlights from the SVTP



- **4.09km** canal paved,
- **46kms** cleared,
- Almost **20kms** canal excavated,
- **3** bridges constructed,
- **3** siphons and fish barrier under construction



- Supported amendment of **6** land laws,
- **45,833** land parcels covering **22,299** hectares adjudicated and demarcated in Chikwawa belonging to **48,175** landowners (**24,628** female, **22,547** male).



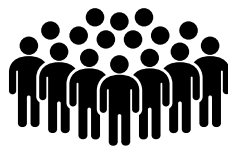
- **5** cooperatives belonging to smallholder farmers legally registered in Chikwawa



- **The Chikwawa Physical Development Plan (CKPDP)** developed and launched,
- **36** local land use plans developed,
- **3** Urban Structure Plans developed and disclosed



**1,309** project affected persons compensated in Phase 1 area (**K1.3 Billion** paid out)



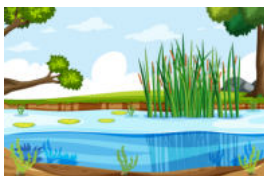
**38** Grievance Redress Committees established comprising of **353** members (**161** female, **192** male)



**19** cultural heritage sites identified and excavated in Phase 1 area



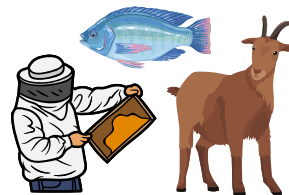
**78** out of **86** plant and animal species assessed and updated in the IUCN Red List for Malawi which was last updated in 2002



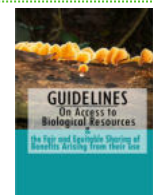
**1** Community Conservation Area established in the Elephant Marsh



**4** Management Plans developed for protected areas



**1,670** people benefitting from natural resources management livelihood interventions (**1036** female, **634** male)



**Access and Benefit Sharing Guidelines for Malawi** developed and launched

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