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**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (SVTP) II**

**Terms of References**

**Name of Project: SHIRE VALLEY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (SVTP) II**

**Project ID No.: P176575**

**Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:**

**DESIGN OF PROGRAM ON INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES AND LIVELIHOOD INTERVENTIONS TO STRENGTHEN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE SHIRE VALLEY**

**March, 2023**

# Background

* 1. **The** **Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP)**

The programme development objective for the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP) is to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization for targeted households in the Shire Valley; and to improve the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to develop irrigated commercial agriculture and strengthen the management of natural resources in the Program area.

The Program is a 14-year programme (2017-2031) structured around four coordinated pillars: (i) providing reliable, professionally managed, and sustainably financed irrigation service to a number of irrigators in a phased construction of an irrigation and drainage scheme; (ii) supporting farmer organizations within a comprehensive land use plan, and supporting land tenure strengthening and voluntary consolidation; (iii) establishing and investing in smallholder-owned commercial farm enterprises transitioning into commercial agriculture from subsistence farming and integrating them into commercial value chains; and (iv) natural resources management in and around the Program area. These pillars all contribute to the overarching goals of the programme and build on each other in a phased approach. There are three Phases to the SVTP:

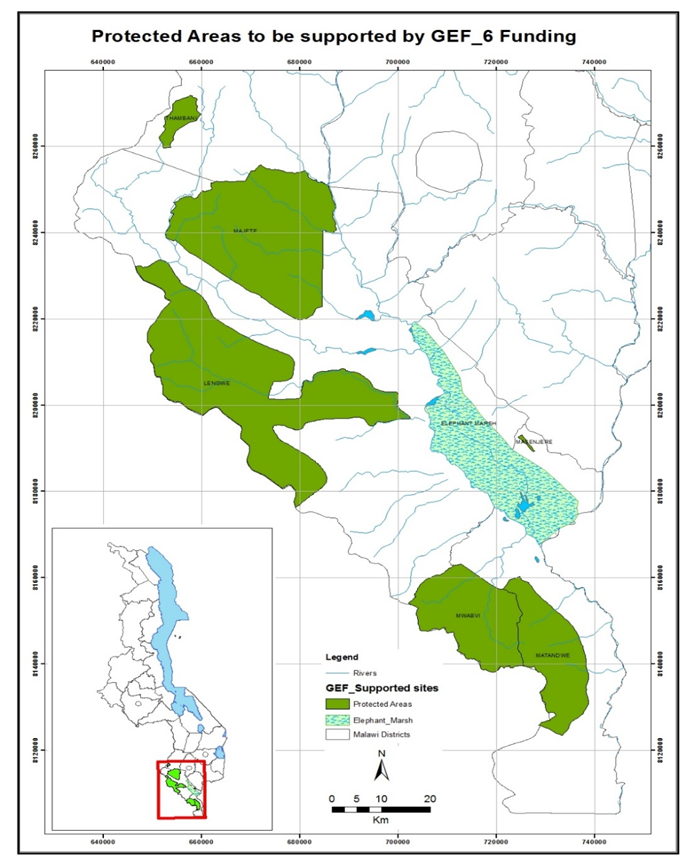
* Phase I (SVTP-1) initiates the process on all pillars, with a major focus on irrigation service provision to the SVIP-I area, land tenure, farmer organization and natural resource management;
* Phase II (SVTP-2) shifts investment focus to agricultural investment, private sector and value chain support, as well as investments in bulk infrastructure;
* Phase III (SVTP-3) is the scale-up phase of investments to the SVIP-2 area.

The Program aims at providing irrigation to over 43,000 ha through the phased construction of a new gravity-fed irrigation scheme that will supply surface water to over 27,600 ha of agricultural land presently under rainfed cultivation, creating agricultural development opportunities in the fertile valley, as well as approximately 15,700 ha of existing irrigation areas that currently use electric pumps to abstract water from the Shire River. SVTP-2 has 6 components: Component 1 - Irrigation Infrastructure Development and Service Provision; Component 2 - Land Tenure and Consolidation; Component 3 - Agriculture Development and Commercialization; Component 4 – Strengthening Landscape and Natural Resources Management; Component 5 – Contingent Emergency Response; and Component 6 - Project Management and Coordination. These Terms of Reference (ToRs) are specific to component 4 which has been described below.

* 1. **Strengthening Landscape and Natural Resources Management in the Lower Shire Valley**

The Lower Shire Valley contains some of the most important natural resources in Malawi, which provide global public goods [? benefits], such as biodiversity, climate stabilization, and nationally significant nature services. The natural resources in the area play a critical role in contributing to the national economy and resilience of local communities, by providing goods and nature services to the local population, such as freshwater, food, construction material, medicinal products, and wood fuel. Despite their socioeconomic and environmental value, the protected areas, forest reserves and community biological resources face several challenges to their long-term integrity and sustainability and there is a need to strengthen existing management capacity and explore alternative management arrangements. The recent experiences of SVTP-1 have highlighted the significance of improving natural resource management to realize the long-term transformational ambition of the valley and protecting valuable forest natures and biodiversity that will enable the landscape to remain productive for the long-term. SVTP-1 is assisting in the enhancement of management of protected areas, forest reserves, and the Elephant Marsh. SVTP-2 will build on this by encouraging long-term funding for the management of the Lower Shire's natural resource base and biodiversity, which will ensure the sustainability of community livelihoods, the economy at large and the nature services on which they rely.

In phase 2, component 4 will support strengthening the management of key biodiversity hotspots and protected areas to ensure continued generation of revenue and provision of important nature services to vulnerable communities. Project activities will support the strengthening of management of Lengwe National Park, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, the Elephant Marsh (EM), Matandwe and Thambani Forest Reserves (Figure 1), as well as surrounding buffer areas. Investments under this component will improve the conservation and management of key areas in urgent need of additional support and financing, including the important wetlands, forest reserves, and protected areas.

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**Figure 1. Map depicting the focal protected areas and the Elephant Marsh**

This component will support Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and livelihood interventions to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience of communities to climate change and other shocks taking into account gender considerations. The component will support the development of alternative income streams to reduce pressure on natural resources and promote resilience to climate change. The activities supported by the project will have the potential to generate income by strengthening and building value chains for natural resource commodities and products, such as fish, non-timber forest products, and other similar commodities.

* 1. **Current IGAs supported by SVTP Phase 1**

Under phase 1, the project targeted communities around Lengwe National Park, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, Majete Wildlife Reserve, Matandwe and Thambani Forest Reserves. The IGAs promoted included:

1. Goat rearing under pass-on arrangements;
2. Beekeeping;
3. Tree nursery establishment;
4. Establishment of fish ponds;
5. Communities also collect and sell natural resources such as fish using both capture and aquaculture methods (Elephant Marsh), thatch grass, fruits, medicinal plants, firewood and termites (Lengwe, Mwabvi, Matandwe and Thambani) under the Resource Use Program;
6. Promotion of ecotourism in the Elephant Marsh and Lengwe National Park. At Elephant Marsh, ecotourism is promoted through capacity building of local tour guides. For both Elephant Marsh and Lengwe, tourism products are being developed through enforcement of conservation policies, regulations and acts. Enforcement of these regulatory frameworks is mainly done through field patrols t curtail illegal incidences and build tourism products such as birds and buffaloes.

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the current number of beneficiaries against each IGA/livelihood intervention supported by SVTP.

**Table 1**: Cumulative number of individual beneficiaries for each supported by SVTP I as of April, 2023)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **IGA** | **LENGWE** | **MWABVI** | **MATANDWE** | **THAMBANI** | **ELEPHANT MARSH** |
| Bee-keeping beneficiaries | 140 a | 40 a | 187 | 80 | 0 |
| Goats beneficiaries | 439 a | 241 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fishing: Aquaculture | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 70 |
| Firewood collectors 1 | 0 | 0 | 40,000 | 60,000 | 0 |
| Thatch grass collectors 1 | 1090 | 578 | 18,000 | 15,000 | 0 |
| Thabalaba *(J. palmata*) collectors1 | 0 | 0 | 1800 | 0 | 0 |
| Fruit collectors 1 | 721 | 31 | 5500 | 35,000 | 0 |

1 The programme facilitated establishment and capacity building of Natural Resources Management Committees (NRMC) to monitor collection of these natural resources. For thatch grass and fruits, baseline data were generated and quotas were set by Department of National Parks and Wildlife Research unit. The unit also converts natural resources collected into monetary terms. For Thabalaba, baselines are not known. For firewood, it is only dead wood which is allowed for collection. The amounts collected are recorded by the respective Village Natural Resources Management Committee.

# Objectives

The overall objective of this consultancy is to perform an economic, ecological, and social impact assessment of the IGAs supported by SVTP. The assessment results will provide a basis for subsequent IGA the Lower Shire. There are four main tasks associated with this consultancy: (1) Literature review of IGA projects’ documents from various sources; (2) Field assessments and surveys; and (3) Stakeholder consultations with subject matter specialists such as value chain experts, ecologists, social scientists, gender experts and youth groups. These will be consulted through focus group discussions, key informant interviews and workshops (4) Designing an IGA programme.

## Specific objectives

1. Identify and map all IGAs implemented throughout the Lower Shire Landscape and Mwanza District over the past 10 years;
2. Determine the costs and economic benefits of the IGAs;
3. Determine the ecological and social impacts of the identified IGAs;
4. Assess the impacts of natural disasters on IGA’s and recommend how to increase resilience of IGA’s to natural disasters and shocks.
5. Examine levels of women and youth participation in the current and previous IGAs in the Lower Shire and Mwanza District. For statistical purposes, however, United Nationsdefines 'youth' as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. This is what will be applied in this assessment.
6. Identify and analyse value chains of the current and phased IGAs in the Lower Shire and Mwanza District and their sustainability post-project.

# Scope

**3.1 Economic, Ecological, and Social Audit of past natural resources based and non-natural resources based IGAs in the Lower Shire and Mwanza Districts**.

1. Through literature review and stakeholder consultations, identify all IGAs implemented over the past 10 years in the Project area. For the IGAs not implemented by SVTP I, the consultants will identify the implementing agency, duration, budget, target beneficiaries (gender and youth disaggregated), coordinates, as well as economic, ecological and / or social benefits.
2. Through literature review, conducting field assessments and stakeholder consultations, identify and analyse the role of women, youth and people living with disabilities in the IGAs. Specifically, the consultants will
3. Examine levels of women, youth and other vulnerable groups participation in the current and previous nature and non-nature based IGAs in the Lower Shire and Mwanza District.
4. Identify government agencies, NGOs, community-based organizations, and women’s associations or groups whose work on IGAs mainstream gender. Under the concept of gender mainstreaming, the consultancy will asses the extent to which IGA implementing institutions integrated gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of threi programmes and projects, with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination.
5. Identify and analyse the role of women, youth and people living with disabilities during planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of the interventions.
6. Identify and describe specific impacts of the interventions on women, youth and people living with disabilities.
7. Identify and describe the role of women and youth in decisions regarding use of proceeds from IGAs and other livelihood interventions.
8. Asses impacts of natural disasters such as cyclone Ana and other shocks such as incidental fires on IGA’s and recommend how they can build resilience.
9. Through literature review and conducting stakeholder consultations, identify and analyse social, ecological and economic impacts. In particular, the consultants will assess changes in annual household incomes and access to natural capital and relate these data to the functionality and efficiency of existing IGAs.
10. Detailed documentation of impacts (positive or negative) observed. These shall be presented in brief for all identified interventions, and in detail for interventions identified as particularly significant, impactful, and/or innovative. The case studies shall be presented in brief notes, maximum of 5 pages including images, and cost-benefit assessment.
11. Through field surveys, develop detailed distribution maps locating the interventions throughout the project area.

**3.2: Identify and analyse value chains of nature and non-nature based IGAs in the Lower Shire and Mwanza District.**

1. Develop a pictorial mapping guide of the various products from IGAs to better understand the different roles, actors, and value addition activities. The guide will take into account the entire spectrum of actors, from the provision of inputs to consumption, including supporting and coordination activities.
2. Analyse supporting functions that are required to make the value chain effective and sustainable, including both existing and missing support functions (e.g. infrastructure, information, related services).
3. Identify and analyse rules and regulations (e.g. standards, laws, informal rules and norms) related to the value chain.
4. Assess the competitiveness of the value chain(s) and determine how to create competitive advantages for the targeted IGAs.
5. Assess the cost, profit, marketing, and supply and demand dynamics of the value chain.
6. Recommend value chain development plan(s) that benefit both conservation and human beings and recommend how to ensure sustainable use of natural resources
7. Identify the most cost effective IGAs according to site.
8. Analyse processes and fairness of benefit sharing mechanisms of various IGAs across various stages within the value chains.

**3.3: Disaster impacts on IGAs**

1. Identify IGAs that were affected by natural disasters including cyclones;
2. Identify and describe the magnitude of the impacts such as through counting number of IGAs affected and computing economic losses.
3. Develop mechanisms to build climate resilience into IGAs

**3.4. Recommendations for IGAs and how to upscale them**

Based on the results of tasks listed under sections 3.1 to 3.3, recommendations will be drawn as follows:

1. design an IGA programme for the Lower Shire Landscape and Mwanza District. The programme will contain the following details, among others: Site where a specified IGA will be implemented; objectives of the IGA, expected outputs of the IGA, expected outcomes, target audience split into males,females, youth and people living with disabilities; how the IGA will be implemented (activities), time frame and a budget.
2. Develop a marketing strategy on how the IGA products will be sold for optimum profits.
3. develop training materials for institutions and community representatives to equip them with knowledge and skills of how to start, implement, monitor and evaluate and communicate IGA program
4. Develop sustainability plans to sustain the IGA’s after project phases out.

# Deliverables and timeframe

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Deliverable** | **Time Frame (Weeks)** |
| 1 | Inception report, concisely detailing methods and process of data collection and analysis. | 2 weeks after signing contract |
| 2 | Report on ‘Economic, Ecological, and Social Audit of IGAs and livelihood projects in the Lower Shire’, with accompanying data and maps. The report will focus on the role of and impacts on women, youth and people living with disabilities in the IGAs; changes in annual household incomes and access to natural capital. | 8 weeks after signing the contract |
| 3 | A report on identification and analysis of value chains of nature and non-nature based IGAs in the Lower Shire and Mwanza District. | 14 weeks after signing the contract |
| 4 | A report on impacts of disasters on IGAs | 18 weeks after signing contract |
| 5 | An all-inclusive IGA programme for the Lower Shire and Mwanza District | 26 weeks after signing the contract |
| 6 | A marketing strategy and associated budget for the IGAs | 32 Weeks after signing the contract |
| 7 | A capacity building, with associated budget, monitoring indicators and their targets specific to IGAs | 36 weeks after signing the contract |
| 8 | Training and capacity building program report | 40 weeks after signing the contract |
| 9 | Final (consolidated) Report | 46 weeks after signing contract |

# Reporting and Supervision Arrangements

In all formal aspects of this assignment including reporting, the consultant will report to the SVTP Project Coordinator. For day to day functional coordination and guidance, the consultant will work directly with the designated sub-component 4 Coordinator Specialists and DNPW, EAD, DoFi, and DoF Management.

# Qualifications

## The firm

The firm should have at least 5 years experience designing and implementing natural resources based IGAs and livelihood projects targetting rural communities living around or within conservation areas including forest reserves, wildlife reserves and national parks. The firm should also have solid experience (over 5 years) conducting impact assessments, market and value chain analysis for natural resources based IGAs and livelihood projects. The firm should demonstrate its capacity to mobilize experts to fulfil consultancy tasks in the most efficient and effective manner.

## Team composition

The consultancy firm will consist of a team leader, sociologist, value chain and marketing specialist, The team may propose additional experts as needed.

### 6.2.1 Team leader

* A postgraduate degree related to business development and management, economics, development studies, nature-based tourism, project management and other disciplines related to natural resources management.
* A minimum of 10 years’ designing and evaluating livelihoods interventions, promotion of income generating activities in a natural resource management setting.
* Excellent communication skills, Computer literacy with familiarity of main software such as Word and Excel and basic GPS/ GIS skills
* Work and evaluation experience in protected areas and forest reserves in Malawi or SADC Region (preferred).
* Experience of working and/or evaluating World Bank-funded projects will be an added advantage
* Good understanding of co-management approaches and sustainable livelihood programmes.
  + 1. **Sociologist**
* A postgraduate university degree in social development or other relevant discipline. A minimum of 5 years practical experience in the field of social development, gender equality and youth mainstreaming;
* Formal training in social and gender analysis and gender planning and demonstrated expertise in mainstreaming gender in projects and programmes, especially in specific area of intervention;
* Thorough understanding of the social and gender context in Malawi, and experience working with government institutions and international or non-governmental organizations supporting gender and development work in the specific area of intervention;
* Familiarity with gender analysis tools and methodologies in the specific area of intervention;
* Strong communication skills, and ability to liaise with various stakeholders, including government officials.

## 6.2.3 Value chain and marketing analyst

* Advanced university degree in marketing, economics, socio-economic development, development planning, financial management or other related fields;
* Minimum of 5 years of relevant professional experience in market assessments, local economic development, value chain development and strategic planning;
* Proven experience in planning, implementing, and monitoring livelihoods programmes (and managing multiple projects);

# Services and Facilities to be provided by the Client

The consultant team is expected to be self-sufficient. The Client will ensure that the relevant available documents, data, and information will be provided to the consultant. The Client will ensure timely clearance and feedback on reports. The Client will introduce the consultant team and their assignments to all relevant stakeholders at all levels and facilitate interactions. The rangers will provide access to and security for the consultants’ staff within the protected area.

# Responsibilities of the consultant

The consultant will be fully self-sufficient in terms of transport, office space and equipment, accommodation, notwithstanding the abovementioned facilities. The consultant shall abide, at all times, by the protected areas rules, regulations and instructions regarding safety and environmental sustainability given by the Client.