



Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) – Seed Fund support for LDN
PROJECT UPDATE

I. General Information

Country	Malawi
Reporting Period	From (01/12/2021) To (30/04/2022)

II. Results Reporting

Please update the progress in implementing the activities and achieving the intended outputs/outcomes in accordance with the work plan. Please provide gender-disaggregated information as much as possible and add more output/activity tables by simply copying and pasting, as needed.

a) Reporting on Outputs

Output	Output Indicator				Narrative on the status of the output, progress, and achievements (In gender disaggregated manner, if possible)
	Indicator statement	Baseline	Target	Latest Result	
Output 1: Restoration of Environmental Hotspots	1.1: Degraded land and environment restored	0	5,000 ha (100 ha will be restored with support from the project)	100	This hectarage is under restoration in two hotspots namely, Dzalanyama (65 ha) and Mua-Tsanya (35 ha). In Dzalanyama 17.1 ha out of the 65 ha is under reforestation and 47.9ha is under natural regeneration. In Mua Tsanya 12. 4 ha is under reforestation while 22.6 ha is under natural and assisted regeneration.
Output 2: Youth skills development	2.1: Youth trained in developmental skills	0	2,000 volunteers (100 volunteers will be trained with support from the project)	72	72 (41 from Dzalanyama and 31 from Mua Tsanya) have undergone skills development from the first cohort. The training includes Business management, environmental management, tree nursery establishment and management. Out of the 41 volunteers in Dzalanyama, 21 (51%) are females and 20 (49%) are males. In Mua Tsanya, 18 out of the 31 trained volunteers are males (58%) and 12 are females (42%). The remaining 28 volunteers will be trained during cohort II of whom 16 will come from both Dzalanyama and Mua Tsanya with a 50:50 ratio of male to female.

b) Reporting on Activities

Output 1: Restoration of Environmental Hotspots			
Activity	Brief description of work undertaken during the reporting period	Status*	Comments on the status, date of completion of activity, progress, achievements, and challenges (In a gender-disaggregated manner, if possible)
Activity 1.1.1: Delineate bill of quantities for distribution of youth, supervisors, equipment, and inputs to restoration sites	During this period, the hotspots were delineated to find the actual area that the youths will be working on for 4 months (Dzalanyama- 65ha, Mua Tsanya- 35ha). This means that the hectareage delineated was based on the tasks of jobs to be done. Masks, reflector vests, gumboots, slashers, shovels, and Panga knives were distributed to the youth as materials, tools, and equipment to be used during restoration activities		2 Supervisors (all male) in all the two hotspots. Tools were distributed in January 2022. The work for restoration started in January and was finalized in May 2022. So far Dzalanyama has achieved 65 ha against the targeted 65 ha for restoration and Mua Tsanya has achieved 35 ha against a target of 35 ha for restoration. During the implementation process, the challenges that were faced included dropping out of 2 female youths (who were eventually replaced) whose spouses stopped them from coming to work (Dzalanyama). In one of the areas under conservation, called Mua Tsanya, some community members burn bush in search of mice. As such, firebreak construction and sensitizing community meetings are some of the measures put in place to reduce the practice and protect the area under restoration as well as the forest at large.
Activity 1.1.2: Quality assurance of restoration			Planting was completed with the highest quality of recommended standards according to forestry guidelines. In Dzalanyama 26.3% of the total hectareage was allocated to tree planting whereas 73.7% was for natural and assisted regeneration management. 42, 750 trees were planted from 4 indigenous tree species at a spacing of 2x2m and with a current survival rate of 85%. In Mua Tsanya 35.4% of the total hectareage is under tree planting while the remaining 64.6% is under natural regeneration management. 13, 883 trees were planted from 3 indigenous tree species at a spacing of 3x3m with a current survival rate of 80%.
Activity 1.1.3: Procurement of seeds and potting materials			Not yet done. - The seeds and plotting materials are being procured now in preparation for the next rain season which starts in December. The period between December and May is not a right time for procurement of seeds for planting.
Activity 1.1.4: Procurement of seedlings			42,750 tree seedlings were procured for Dzalanyama and 13,900 seedlings for Mua Tsanya

* Please Use traffic light to indicate progress vis-à-vis output targets: Green (Completed); Yellow (On track/on-going); and Red (Not started/delayed).

Output 2: Youth skills development			
Activity	Brief description of work undertaken during the reporting period	Status*	Comments on the status, progress, and achievements (In a gender-disaggregated manner, if possible)
Activity 2.1.1: Delivery of skills training		Green	Trained the youth in afforestation, management of natural regenerants and entrepreneurship. Reference documents are available.
Activity 2.1.2: Identification and support for waste diversion and recycling, including through existing government and UN programmes		Yellow	The identification initiated. - The activity was handed over to the coming cohorts and is ongoing.
Activity 2.1.3: Delivery of safeguard training (SRH, harassment)		Green	This was done during induction. Reference documents are available.
Activity 2.1.4: Deployment of MGC members to the restoration of hotspots		Green	This was done with cohort one and is underway with cohort II
Activity 2.1.5: Recruitment of MGC members and local on-site supervisors		Green	70 MGC youth volunteers have been recruited. Reference documents are available.

* Please Use traffic light to indicate progress vis-à-vis output targets: **Green** (Completed); **Yellow** (On track/on-going); and **Red** (Not started/delayed).

(Un)Intended outcomes observed during the reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 youth volunteers provided with temporary employment for 3-4 months
Any impacts (i.e., effects/consequences because of changes such as outputs and outcomes) observed during the reporting period on target beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved youth livelihoods during the project period. Beneficiaries reported that with the monthly stipend they were able to afford necessities that were otherwise unaffordable before the project. Increased business intentions and interest amongst youths following entrepreneurship training and project proceeds. Some youths reported planning to use the savings, technical, and business skills acquired during the project to start up various small-scale businesses.
List of key stakeholders engaged and/or network created/contributed to, if any, in the implementation process across the sectors of science,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the implementation period, Forestry Department, Youth Department and the Environmental Affairs Department from the government were engaged throughout the implementation. During skills development training and workshops, the government officers served as facilitators and trainers for the youth. At this point stakeholders who are doing

policy and practice (e.g., community/ women/youth organizations, etc.)	
Actions are taken during the reporting period to ensure gender mainstreaming, balanced representation of women, indigenous peoples, and local communities (IPLCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During sensitization meetings at the community level, it was emphasized that young females are encouraged to participate in the program leading to a balanced representation • During interviews for Supervisors, female candidates were also encouraged to apply.

III. Lessons

Any lessons learnt, relevant to the project and BES-Net.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engagement with and acceptance by the communities to have community contribution is a step towards sustaining the project interventions. • Planning with government staff at all levels helps to strengthen ownership, technical contributions and alignment with government projects and practices and the project enjoys prioritization at the sub-national level
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IV. Project Visibility/Donor Publicity

Activities are undertaken and results achieved related to the project visibility/ donor publicity (e.g., event, media, publication, online communication, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a communication strategy. • Youth from Mua Tsanya and Dzalanyama exhibited their initiatives during the launch of the Malawi Forestry Year Calendar and MGC Project Launch. The Launch was presided by the President of Malawi and enjoyed media coverage. Reference documents are available.
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V. Publications/reports

List of Publications/ reports/ knowledge products produced during the reporting period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learnt report • Taskforce monitoring report
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Besides the narrative reporting, please share any **project relevant files** (e.g., publications, reports, photos, images, videos, URL addresses, etc.) generated because of the project activities and the visibility/donor publicity efforts.



Figure 1: Tree planted in Mua Tsanya



Figure 2: MGC volunteers taking part in a tree-planting practical training in Mua Tsanya



Figure 3: MGC volunteers during practical training Dzalanyama



Figure 4: MGC volunteers taking a group photo after training in Mua Tsanya



Figure 5: Joint (CRS, Government and UNDP) Monitoring Visit



Figure 6: One of the Youth (Lilongwe site) land clearing