

Simpson Foundation
Malawi



Nature 4 All

**Nature for Socio-Economic
Development in Rural Malawi**

Presented at the

Restoration in Action Event

By

Joseph Chipimpha Mughogho

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Introduction

- ✓ The earth is the lifeline of all our activities, be it agriculture, industrialisation, etc...
- ✓ We tend to ignore the simplicity of nature, even when nature is a fundamental asset to our everyday life
- ✓ *Let us not develop at the expense of the earth*



Introduction continued

- ✓ Restoring of the ecosystem is fundamental to achieving the sustainable development goals.
- ✓ But what would incentivise people, mainly the rural communities to start restoring the ecosystem.
- ✓ The answer to this is not a one-man show, it is a collective action.



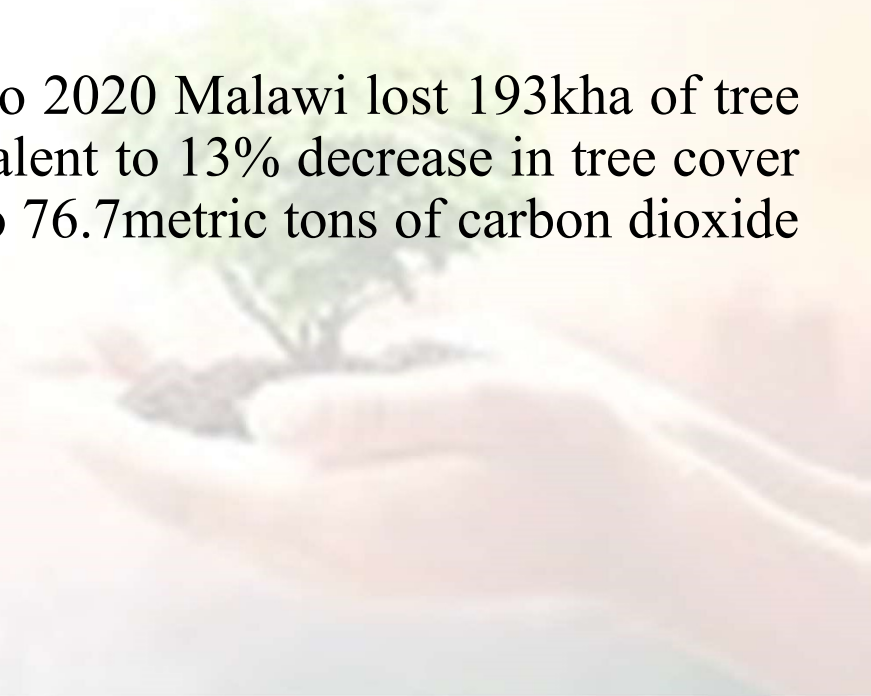
Introduction continued

- ✓ People need to survive and flourish at all costs and will always use the weaker link, which unfortunately is the ecosystem and biodiversity.
- ✓ Restoring 2.4m ha of degraded cropland will increase maize production by 1.55million tons per year representing 40% increase. This would in turn feed close to 5million people



Current Situation

- ✓ Malawi loses 29tns of soil per hector to erosion.
- ✓ From 2001 to 2020 Malawi lost 193kha of tree cover, equivalent to 13% decrease in tree cover translating to 76.7metric tons of carbon dioxide emission.





Current situation

- ✓ The natural resource assets are being liquidated at a faster rate than being re-invested to meet immediate and future livelihood.
- ✓ Livelihoods of rural communities are being compromised resulting into abject poverty which they cannot easily come out
- ✓ This means that the future generations will not be able to fend for themselves in terms of forest nutrients and livelihood.



Current situation

- ✓ The current legal framework mainly focuses on natural resources management and not on restoration.
- ✓ At the same time implementation of the existing policies remains a barrier due to capacity issues
- ✓ Despite the economic benefits, that nature brings to the society, the policy makers are in a dilemma of where to invest more. The easiest is to choose the short term benefits investments rather than the long term.



Drivers of Degradation of Ecosystems

1. Rising population which exerts pressure on ecosystems
2. Expansion of agriculture into marginal areas, forest and wetlands
3. Unsustainable natural resource extraction mainly for household use.

In 2016 charcoal revenue was estimated at US\$66 million employing about 235,000 rural population mainly for urban consumption.



Window of Hope

- ✓ Rural communities are motivated to restore ecosystems for a variety of reasons such as improving soil fertility, reduce soil erosion and siltation of waterways.
- ✓ They do acknowledge however, that the major barrier is the alternative means of livelihood during off-farming period.



Window of Hope

- ✓ At Simpson Foundation we believe that we are duty bound to prevent, halt and reverse this trend.
- ✓ We believe that the target for now should be:
 - Education system mainly the lower classes.
 - The rural farmer by providing incentives to take care of nature through functional nature value chain.
 - Out of school rural youth as the current and future users of natural resources
 - Development partners

HRDC wants ACB to probe fuel contracts



GOLDEN MATONGA
STAFF WRITER

Co-signed: Trapence

The Human Rights Defenders' Coalition (HRDC) has asked the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to investigate allegations of corruption and abuse of office in the ongoing

procurement of fuel supply contracts by Nocma. HRDC's call comes against a background of bitter fighting between the boards and management of National Oil Company (Nocma) and Malawi Energy Regulation Authority (Mera).

In a statement co-signed by HRDC chairperson Gift Trapence and national coordinator Luke Tembo, the civil society organisation also wants the graft-busting body to suspend the procurement process.

The letter, dated May 27 2021, states that the awarding of contracts was shrouded by underhand dealings; allegations of selection of contracts with overpriced bids. In the letter, HRDC further asked for "an immediate, thorough and



Residents demand K3bn from contractor
—National P2



APM urges collective action to develop Malawi
—National P3

Covid-19 is real

UNDER SIEGE

Charcoal producers threatened to kill me—Minister

BOBBY KABANGO, INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

A torched police patrol vehicle. A chief's house set on fire. Bullets fly. Two die. This is the war zone that Thuma and Dedza-Salima forest reserves have become.

On one hand, communities are ready to die for them to freely, albeit illegally, exploit economic gains from the two protected sanctuaries via charcoal production and marketing.

On the other hand, security agencies have vowed—sometimes using excessive force—to save the forests and enforce law and order in the area, with little success.

Within eight months—between September 2020 and May 2021—communities shaved off trees on roughly five square kilometres (km) of land in Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve for charcoal production, according to Wildlife Action Group (WAG), a non-profit environmental



One of the encroachers loads a bag of charcoal

PHOTOGRAPH: BOBBY KABANGO

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Department of Forestry in 1997 to manage Thuma Forest Reserve.

In 2007, they also took over management of Dedza-Salima Escarpment Forest Reserve to better support protection and management of wildlife in the two reserves.

WAG has been working with traditional leaders around the two sanctuaries to stop community members from cutting down trees by providing incentives.

Among the incentive packages, over 1 600 people are directly benefitting from income generating activities.

Forests 'taken over', authorities threatened

Thuma and Dedza-Salima escarpments are two of few forest reserves in Malawi that are still home to mammals (36 in the case of the two reserves), including elephants and buffalos.

According to the Global Forest Watch (2020), between 2001 and 2019, the rate of deforestation in Thuma Forest Reserves was estimated at 3.8 hectares per year. The country's growing population is increasing demand for forest resources.

More than 96 percent of Malawian households rely on firewood and charcoal as their

primary cooking fuels, and over 75 percent of urban households rely on charcoal.

The report says that in 2018, demand for charcoal alone was worth an estimated \$191 million (more than K150 billion), almost half of the total revenue that tobacco, the country's main foreign currency earner, brought in that year.

With that demand, charcoal production and marketing provided employment opportunities for around 150 000 people, according to the report. ■



PHOTOGRAPH: BOBBY KABANGO

Some of the bags of charcoal

Japan commits K1.1bn to DDE production

APM, others honoured

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An example of Value addition to natural fruits (Juice from Tarmind)



Save and Grow

No meaningful Sustainable Development can be achieved if we do not save the ecosystems from continued degradation

Remember

“Mother earth can survive without human beings, but human beings cannot survive without mother nature”.

Save it

It is no longer an option, it is real!



Thank You for Your Attention



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jchipimpha@gmail.com or francisngopolasnr@gmail.com