

Kulera Landscape REDD+ Program, Malawi

Buyer Summary



Project Overview

VCS ID

[1168](#)

Location

Malawi/ Northern and Central Regions

Project Type

REDD+ AUDD

Standards

Verra VCS 3.0, CCB Triple Gold

Methodologies/Modules and Tools

VM0006

Area

162,632 hectares

Communities

65,000 households (in buffer)

Land Tenure Type

Protected Areas

1st Crediting Period

30 years (2009–2039)

Estimated VCUs

6,312,630 VCUs over crediting period

210,421 VCUs average per year

Expected Issuance

November 2026 (MR3)

The Project

The **Kulera Landscape REDD+ Program** in Malawi is the first landscape REDD+ program in Africa to complete verification of emission reductions under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) with a **triple gold Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB)** accreditation for emission reductions. As only the third project in the world to gain CCB triple gold this demonstrates the highest community, biodiversity and adaptation benefits are being generated by the project. The Program focuses on improved governance, protection and management of **three key protected areas** uniquely important for biodiversity: Nyika National Park, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.

In addition, within the five-kilometer buffer zone surrounding each protected area, the project has introduced a number of **livelihood improvements** designed to provide alternative income sources, improve food security, and reduce pressures on natural resources. These programs include agricultural improvements through **crop diversification**, improved varieties and new interventions, planting **woodlots** on degraded lands, using **improved cook stoves**, and improving management and areas of community forests.

Project Activities

Community, Biodiversity, and Climate related activities for the Kulera REDD+ Program include:

- Strengthening land tenure and clarifying governance for Protected Area management.
- Co-developing co-management plans that define allowable land uses within Protected Areas.
- Empowering communities to protect forests through training and co-management with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW).
- Developing and implementing a fire management plan for Protected Areas.
- Providing fuel efficient cookstoves to 35,000 households to reduce fuelwood consumption.
- Establishing sustainably managed woodlots to provide alternative fuelwood sources for local communities and tobacco farmers.
- Improving productivity and yields on existing farmland through improved crop varieties, efficient irrigation, and conservation agriculture.
- Promoting rural enterprise through ecotourism and sustainable production of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as honey, coffee, and macadamia.

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Community

Kulera Landscape REDD+ Program for Co-Managed Protected Areas targets over **65,000 households** (350,000 people) living in rural communities in the border zone of the program protected areas.

The level of community involvement is decided through a consultative participatory process based on defined criteria, which include assessments of resources, capabilities and interest, as well as the type and level of support needed.

The entry point to identify beneficiaries begins with the leadership structure of communities and villages and established Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) associations falling within the management zones of each protected area. In all cases, gender factors are taken into account to ensure participation and support of women, as well as youth.

Biodiversity

Miombo woodland, the forest type that can be found in all program areas is one of the most threatened forest types in Africa and is home to numerous species found on the IUCN Red List and home to more than 95 mammals, 430 species of birds, 47 species of reptiles, and 34 species of amphibians.

Nyika National Park is located in the northern region of Malawi, covers 3,200 km² of montane grassland, miombo woodland and evergreen forest.

Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve lies on the watershed between Lake Malawi and the Luangwa Valley on the Central African Plateau and supports a diverse vertebrate fauna that includes 326 species of birds, 10 species of fish and 50 mammal species, including rare endangered species such as the African elephant and African wild dog.

Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve is a key watershed to Lake Malawi, an IUCN Biodiversity Hotspot, and supports a number of large mammals including the rare and endangered African elephant, waterbuck, blue monkey, and 280 bird and 24 fish species.

Carbon Credit Purchase Opportunity

The Project is expected to complete verification in Q4 2026 for 1,431,203 VCUs and will be selling the issuance on a forward and/or spot basis:

Current Monitoring Period VERRs

• Vintage 01-Oct-2019 to 30-Sep-2020	451,763 VCUs
• Vintage 01-Oct-2020 to 30-Sep-2021	466,831 VCUs
• Vintage 01-Oct-2021 to 30-Sep-2022	512,609 VCUs
Total	1,431,203 VCUs