

Kulera Landscape REDD+ Program for Co-Managed Protected Areas, Malawi

SUMMARY



Project Location: Northern and Central Malawi

Project Area: 169,136 hectares

Project Zone: 750,898 hectares

Standards: VCS, CCB (Triple Gold)

Project Type: Community REDD+

Crediting Period: 30 Years

Project Start Date: October 2009

Verified VCUs: 3,313,046

Verifications: 2013, 2019

PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Proponents:

- Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)
- Nyika-Vwaza Associations (NVA)
- Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve Association (NAWIRA)
- Terra Global Capital

Trust Fund Manager and Developer

- Terra Global Capital

PROJECT SUMMARY

Malawi, known as the “Warm Heart of Africa” is one of the poorest nations in the world, where the average rural household income is equivalent to thirty dollars a month and there is less than 1% electrification rate. The Kulera Landscape REDD+ Program encompasses 700,000 hectares of protected areas and over 350,000 people living in the most rural communities of the country. These rural communities, struggling with dire poverty, are often times forced to deplete natural resources for survival. The program was designed to reduce deforestation in Malawi while helping transform impoverished villages into prosperous, empowered communities.

This program provides critical resources for communities to protect their forests through improved climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land use – planned by the communities themselves. These communities, now no longer facing food insecurity, are implementing a household-level solar program bringing light to rural villages as well as growing and producing cash crops and value-added products.

KEY BENEFITS

- Protecting key endangered species including the African elephant, blue monkey, African lions, leopards and the African wild dog.
- Established a collective partnership between community associations and the Government of Malawi, demonstrating that climate action is achieved through partnerships.
- Empowering communities to better manage lands through a proven track record of payment for performance that provides sustainable economic incentives for continued stewardship.



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Specific Project activities of the Kulera REDD+ Program include 1) strengthening of land tenure and forest governance; 2) support for sustainable forest and land use management; 3) forest protection through patrolling, social fencing and maintenance of forest boundaries; 4) fire prevention and suppression activities; 5) reducing fuelwood through use of locally-built fuel efficient cookstoves; 6) creation of alternative sources of fuelwood through agroforestry and farm woodlots; 7) intensification of climate-smart and improved agriculture, and 8) development of local enterprises.

All activities help produce sustainable communities, healthy forests *and* emission reductions.

The Kulera REDD+ Program fulfils indicators under *every* SDG – demonstrating its global importance.

Be a partner for SDG17 by supporting the Kulera REDD+ Landscape Program.



TERRA GLOBAL COMPANY OVERVIEW

Founded in 2006, Terra Global is a woman-run, women-owned for-profit social enterprise and small business. Terra Global's mission is to facilitate financially, socially and environmentally sustainable forestry and agricultural land management practices. Terra Global is a global leader in sustainable forest and agriculture program development, land-use greenhouse gas quantification and finance, and providing technical expertise and investment capital to their global client base in a collaborative and innovative manner. Having worked in 30+ countries, Terra Global has designed and supported the implementation of REDD+ and other sustainable landscape programs from the project to national scale.



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BIODIVERSITY & ENDANGERED SPECIES

Given Malawi's dependence on limited natural resources, continued pressure threatens to deliver a crippling blow to its people, economy and environment. The Kulera Program addresses the pressures on the forests around and within protected areas which contain valuable watersheds and renewable natural resources that support the soil, water and vegetation critical to sustaining human life and endangered habitats. The forests within the protected areas are home to more than 95 mammal species, 430 species of birds, 47 species of reptiles, and 34 species of amphibians. Among the diverse fauna living in the parks are rare and endangered species such as the African elephant, blue monkey and the African wild dog.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

The Kulera Program was designed by-the-people for-the-people with the vision to help transform impoverished communities and degraded landscapes into prosperous communities on healthy productive lands. Community members involved in the project have increased incomes from improved management of their natural resources, sustainably harvested non-timber forest products (NTPF), and income generating activities – increasing and diversifying income streams. They also experienced myriad community benefits such as improved respiratory health from fuel-efficient cookstoves, increased community participation in Protected Area governance, and adoption of new conservation agriculture technologies to help grow more food on less land.



CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

This Program will prevent millions of tons of emission reductions over its 30-year lifespan. The Kulera Program was the first landscape scale REDD+ program in Africa to complete verification of emission reductions under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the third in the world to do so with a Triple Gold Level Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB). The multiple CCB Triple Gold verifications shows that this community-based REDD+ Project meets the highest criteria for mitigating and adapting to a changing climate, empowers communities through project design and protects irreplaceable wildlife.

