

Social and Gender Enhancement Fund (SGEF)

Activity Description

1. Background

The Government of Malawi, with the collaboration of the World Bank and the African Development Bank, completed an analysis of the constraints to economic growth in Malawi in May 2008. The report identified, among other things, unreliable electricity supply and high transport costs as the main binding constraints to sustainable economic growth. One of the challenges identified within the power sector was the increasing levels of siltation in the Shire River that diminish electricity generation capabilities. Consultations held later that year with stakeholders comprised of representatives from government, private sector, civil society and donor community, led to the identification of inappropriate land management practices as one of the key factors leading to environmental degradation. This environmental degradation is a clear factor affecting the sustainability of hydro-electric power generation in Malawi and therefore the long term economic growth.

On April 7, 2011, MCC signed a Compact with the Government of Malawi (GoM) to address constraints in the energy sector. The Compact is being implemented by the Millennium Challenge Account Malawi (MCA-Malawi) over a five year period that started in September 20, 2013.

The Compact is designed to reduce poverty in Malawi by addressing the constraints of the power sector with an overall objective to reduce the cost of doing business, expand access to electricity for the Malawian people and businesses, and increase value-added production in Malawi. The Program consists of three Projects:

- The Infrastructure Development Project (IDP) is designed to improve the availability, reliability, and quality of the power supply by increasing the throughput capacity and stability of the national electricity grid through investments in infrastructure, including investment by the Government in new generation;
- The Power Sector Reform Project (PSRP) will expand the power sector by strengthening sector institutions, enhancing regulation and governance of the sector, rebuilding ESCOM, the public electricity supply company of Malawi, into a financially sustainable and operationally well-managed utility, and developing a regulatory environment that enables public and private investment in power infrastructure, particularly in new generation; and
- The Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) Project is designed to address the environmental factors that result in costly disruptions of Malawi's hydropower generation and affect its sustainability and efficiency. The project will

focus on the growing problems of aquatic weed infestation and excessive siltation which result from soil erosion by investing in weed management and sedimentation reduction and implementing activities to support a better environmental and natural resource management in upstream and middle areas of the Shire River Basin.

The ENRM Project has three main activities:

- a. *Weed and Sedimentation Management* that will focus on financing equipment including weed harvesters, dredges and retractable trash rakes for the mechanical removal of weed and sediment that impact on hydropower production.
- b. *Environment and Natural Resources Management* will promote among targeted communities changes in land management practices in order to reduce soil erosion, which is at the source of the weed and sediment problems. The specific activities include the establishment of a Small Grants Facility that allow NGOs and CBOs to obtain funding, based on a competitive process, for the implementation of projects that fall under one of the following categories: Category I – studies and technical assistance; (ii) Category II – expanding existing initiatives in Environment and Natural Resources Management; and (iii) Category III – new initiatives in Environment and natural resources management. The Environmental and Natural Resource Management Activity, also envisions the establishment of a Trust funded in part by payment for ecosystem services (PES) by downstream beneficiaries of upstream soil conservation activities and by other fundraising activities. The vision of the Trust is that it will promote sustainability of activities related to improved land management practices since it will continue to fund activities beyond the termination of the Compact.
- c. *Social and Gender Enhancement Fund (SGEF)*. This Fund will address social and gender constraints and inequalities in communities along the Upper and Middle Shire River that prevent sustainable agriculture practices and sustainable management of the natural resources. The SGEF will be administered under the Small Grants Facility during Compact implementation and by the Trust after Compact closure.

2. Rationale of the SGEF

The Malawi Parliament adopted in February 2013 a long awaited *Gender Equality Bill* that promotes gender equality and equal integration of men and women in all functions of the society. The Malawian Government's efforts to address gender inequalities in the social and economic development agenda of the country had led to a better gender integration in its main development strategy papers over the years. The current Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II 2011 -2016) builds on the first MGDS 2006-2011 which was designed "as an overarching operational medium-term strategy for

Malawi to attain the nation's Vision 2020". It recognizes gender as a cross-cutting issue and includes economic empowerment as one of its strategies for achieving gender equality. The goal of Subtheme 1 of the MGDSII on Gender is "to reduce gender inequalities and enhance participation of all gender groups in socio-economic development".

Interventions to be financed through the SGEF will among other things address women's participation in decision-making processes and access to assets and benefits. By doing so, the SGEF interventions will be in line with the Government of Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy's three outcomes for Gender: 1) Increased meaningful participation of all gender groups in decision making, wealthcreation and poverty reduction; 2) Reduced gender based violence at all levels; and 3) Enhanced gender mainstreaming across all sectors.

Furthermore, the MCC Gender Policy requires that all Compacts identify the key obstacles to social inclusion and women's economic empowerment and self-determination in order to define activities and mechanisms to fully integrate social and gender consideration in all components of a program. The SGEF addresses this policy requirement, in particular within the ENRM Project.

Moreover, in accordance with MCC's Gender Integration Milestones and Operational Procedures, and in order to comply with a Conditions Precedent (CP) that is required for all compacts, MCA-M developed a Social and Gender Implementation Plan (SGIP) in October 2013. The SGIP lays out the activities required to ensure social and gender integration in the three Projects that compose the Compact (IDP, PSRP and ENRM) and serves as a management and monitoring tool for social and gender integration within a Compact. Prior to entering into force, MCC and MCA-M agreed to use the US\$2.0 million set aside to implement specific social and gender integration activities, to target those funds exclusively to complement the ENRM activities in land management and erosion control. It was agreed that in order to enhance the sustainability of ENRM interventions, social and gender inequalities within household and villages needed to be addressed. In 2013, with the support of MCC Malawi SGA team, MCA-M developed a Social and Gender Enhancement Fund (SGEF) concept note to meet this objective. As such, the SGEF became a distinct activity of the ENRM Project.

The establishment of a SGEF and the need to fully integrate social and gender considerations in the Compact do not however come only from MCC's or the GoM policy requirements and priorities. For the ENRM project, baselines studies carried out at the onset of the Compact in the Upper Shire River Valley showed that the majority of farmers are women and although they own the land, there are household and village dynamics that come into play in the management of the land which work against the ability of women to make decisions about the land and the incentives of men to have a long term interest in the land.

. Most often men, who are considered as heads of household, make these decisions. In the areas visited in the Upper Shire river valley, 85% of farmers are women; however, according to surveys by the agricultural extension programs in Mangochi, 95% of the decision-making regarding land management and use of the income is done by men, who may be a husband, brother, uncle or other male family member¹.

High poverty levels, early marriage, lack of formal education and high illiteracy rates are all factors that contribute to the disempowerment of women in their households and communities. Household decision-making, if dominated by a male head of household, may not take the long-term well-being of the land or other natural resources into consideration as men in matrilineal societies² generally come to live in their wife's village, do not inherit the land, and are usually pushed out of the village if the marriage breaks or they become widowers³. These customary practices create disincentives to investment and to balanced decision-making that is in the long-term interest of the household. It also creates incentives for men to pursue off-farm income-generating activities like fishing or charcoal production instead of contributing to farm activities. This socio-cultural context has implications for the management of the land and other natural resources and consequently for the impact of the ENRM project and the sustainability of the compact overall. In particular, this social and cultural context calls for a better coordination and targeting of activities under the ENRM project and for full embedding of social and gender considerations in its planning and implementation.

Currently, the parliament of Malawi is considering bills to create equality in land relations and to address some of the challenges caused by customary practices. However, if provisions of these bills were implemented without careful planning, proper consultation of traditional leaders who are currently custodians of land, and consideration of social and gender impacts, they could erode women's land rights, thus creating conditions that exacerbate the unsustainable management of land in matrilineal systems. The potential opportunities and negative impacts of the new land bills especially the Customary Land bill highlight the need to pilot new approaches and to sensitize authorities and leaders so as to safeguard women's land rights and those of

¹The 85% figure refers to women farmers who overwhelmingly practice subsistence agriculture. The women prepare the land and carry out all agricultural activities from planting to harvest. Women are also the main providers of firewood for home consumption. Charcoal production is a commercial activity conducted by men; who often come from other communities and engage in illegal logging. Most of the charcoal is sold in urban areas and within this context finding an affordable and sustainable alternative source of cooking energy for urban households seems to be key for reducing deforestation and improving the overall land management.

²In a matrilineal system a person belongs to his/her mother's lineage and this belonging determines patterns of inheritance of property, titles and/or guardianship rights of children.

³Interviews with community members and staff of NGOs working on communities visited by MCC and MCA-Malawi.

their families and empower communities and households to manage their natural resources in a collaborative and sustainable manner.

In the summer of 2013, MCC and MCA-Malawi SGA teams conducted a mission in Malawi, visited several communities that are engaged in conservation agriculture and improved land management related activities and met with development practitioners from public and private institutions⁴. The purpose of the meetings was to understand social and gender challenges and opportunities within the context of sustainable natural resource management. The communities, NGOs and CBOs consistently emphasized that some of the key constraints to adoption and sustained use of conservation agriculture and other sustainable land management practices stemmed from social and gender issues. More specifically, these practitioners emphasized that if projects focus solely on individuals to promote behavior change, the efficacy of the program is compromised. Projects need to address the social and cultural barriers at household and community levels. When training and technical assistance are targeting farmers without factoring in the social and gender power dynamics at the household and village levels, these activities have limited impact. Women may own the land they cultivate but their decision-making power is restricted by tradition that institutes males as heads of households. Just as men may not have the right incentives for farming the land of their wives, women may find it difficult to engage in new farming and natural resources management practices that their husbands themselves are reluctant to adopt or support.

Practitioners met during the mission highlighted the following **best practices and lessons learnt** from their work among communities in Malawi:

- Ownership of the problems and the solutions generated by the community members is key for successful and sustainable interventions.
- The use of participatory and inclusive approaches in problem identification, possible solutions, development of action plans, implementation and monitoring of activities (to achieve ownership and buy-in by all categories of people in the communities) is essential for successful and sustainable interventions.
- Women need to be empowered and elevated to decision making positions in order to improve the management of land resources.
- Women need to be engaged as entry points if women are to actively and equally participate in the decision making process.

⁴Organizations consulted include: Action Aide, Care International Malawi, Malawi Lake Basin Program, CADECOM, WOLREC, National Association of Business Women, LandNet, World Bank, Shire River Basin Authority, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Land Resources and Conservation, District Assembly Staff in Mangochi. Communities visited included Nansenga, Chimwala and Kunthembwe. People consulted: Steve Nanthabwe, Director of Land Resources Conservation, Tinyade Kachika, Lawyer and Independent Consultant on Social, Gender and Land issues.

- It is important to engage community leaders (Traditional Authority, village headmen, sheikhs, imams and other religious leaders, etc.) so they become champions of change and learn to promote transparency in processes and build trust of local institutions.
- It is important to develop leadership capabilities of women so they effectively hold positions in community-level organizations and governance structures.
- The need for basic adult functional literacy and numeracy among women and men to enable learning of new concepts and application of new knowledge.
- Focusing solely on agronomic/technology transfer and distribution of inputs results in limited success and presents serious challenges for sustaining the new practices as it creates dependency and robs participating individuals of ownership of the intervention.
- In the experience of the local NGOs and CBOs, the sustainability of the interventions increases through ongoing and concerted work in the communities for about two or three years; at which point communities can be graduated. This however, depends on methodologies used and the specifics of the project and the readiness of the communities.
- Promoting women's access to markets to trade their agriculture and agroforestry by-products provides them with additional financial incentives to engage in conservation practices that promote proper land and natural resource management

The summer 2013 field mission highlighted the need to address social and gender constraints in the context of the ENRM project, especially as regards the funding of land management activities and the introduction of conservative agriculture or other practices that prevent land degradation. MCA-M and MCC later agreed that the SGEF should be set up as a separate activity under the ENRM project in order to maximize the impact of the social and gender activities to be implemented with the \$2 million fund. The purpose of the SGEF activity is therefore to address social and gender challenges that inhibit adoption and sustainability of ENRM-related programs. The SGEF activity is to be implemented in conjunction with projects that focus on conservation agriculture and improving the management of natural resources either through the ENRM project or projects supported by other organizations with the ultimate goal of improving power supply in Malawi.

The Social Gender Assessment conducted in 2014 in the Middle Shire River Basin underlined the importance of an integrated approach to addressing social and gender issues in relation to environmental and natural resources management, and highlighted the following approaches in developing potential interventions from a social and gender perspective: recognition of the changing roles and responsibilities women and men are taking in agriculture, forestry and in traditional decision making patterns; promotion of women's increased participation and leadership in community and village groups and clubs; support to ultra-poor female-headed households with approaches such as Village Savings and Loan (VSL) and to female entrepreneurs with credit, training and capacity building; inclusion of ultra-poor female farmers, who cannot afford the inputs, in the activities focusing on increased crop production; support to the delivery of extension

services to all farmers including women; women's access to improved, more efficient cookstoves; awareness raising around the issue of family planning.

3. Strategy

The implementation of the Social and Gender Enhancement Fund is based on a three pronged strategy; the Fund will intervene in the same areas as the ENRM Grant Facility Fund to maximize results; the Fund will adopt an integrated approach to the array of social and gender challenges; and the Fund will focus on behavior change and the acquisition of new skills for traditional leaders, men and for women farmers to enable them to benefit equally from agricultural production, have increased access to markets and to new and innovative economic opportunities.

Congruence with the ENRM Small Grants Facility and the Proposed Trust Fund

The implementation of the Social and Gender Enhancement Fund will contribute to demonstrate the importance and the advantages of addressing social and gender constraints, in terms of the impact on soil conservation and good land management practices along the upper and middle shire catchment area for sustained power supply in Malawi. Integrating the SGEF in the ENRM creates the opportunity for the fund to intervene in the same zones and within the same communities as the projects that will be funded through the Small Grants Facility, thus enhancing the results expected from such projects in the Upper and Middle Shire River.

The Environment and Natural Resources Management Plan (ENRMP) for the Upper Shire River Basin recommends priority interventions to be implemented in the Malombe East and West catchmentsto reduce the problems of siltation and aquatic weed infestation affecting downstream hydropower generation. MCA-M is also developing an ENRMAP for the Middle Shire River Basin, to be completed by July 2014, which should further guide the implementation of activities under the SGEF.

The strategy for the implementation of the SGEF would include using the ENRMAP for the Upper Shire River Basin to prioritize an intervention area to pilot the comprehensive and integrated SGEF approach. As the ENRMAP indicates based on historical land use change, analysis of data and field visits, the area of Malombe West is under the greatest threat for soil erosion at the present but high risk areas also exist in Malombe East. The SGEF would select up to four communities to implement this approach in the first year of implementation. Once the ENRMAP for the Middle Shire Basin is complete, communities in this area can be targeted with lessons learnt from the first phase being incorporated in the activities. Preliminary results can also inform the implementation of ENRM activities under the proposed ENRM grants and the Trust Fund mechanism. The recommended time for intervention in the communities based on best practices is for about two to three years, at which point we can start measuring some of the outcomes and maybe some impacts.

An integrated approach to project definition and implementation

The strategy also includes an integrated approach to the implementation of the Fund. The SGEF proposed components are not designed to be implemented separately by distinct organizations within separate projects. As stated above, they are mutually reinforcing activities that together can bring about a greater impact. NGOs and CBOs will be encouraged to present projects that address several of the social and gender constraints identified and include activities related to more than one component. Linkages to the Fund results, both at the output and outcome levels, will need to be clearly defined. It is expected that organizations implementing land conservation projects and those who will be implementing SGEF projects will operate in the same communities, strengthening each other's efforts to reach their respective objectives and combined goal of economic growth through poverty reduction.

Focus on behavior change and skills enhancement

The projects financed through the Fund will work with community authorities and leaders (traditional, religious and district) and male community members to foster changes in attitudes and beliefs as to the roles women can and should play in the management of natural resources

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and of their own communities as family members and active participants and leaders of local committees.. Capacity development and training of women and men will play an important part in promoting those changes. The acquisition of new non-violent and more equitable behavior, patterns for men towards women and new economic skills for women farmers will include functional literacy and numeracy incorporated in capacity development and training activities. Awareness raising and training sessions around domestic and gender-based violence will contribute to the transformation of men's controlling behavior to being responsible partners and fathers. The functional literacy and numeracy will be learned the learning of concepts of women and human rights, leadership and business development, development, and marketing skills. These changes are expected to enhance men's responsibilities towards their families and enable women to be at the forefront of the communities' efforts to adopt new tools and practices for better land management and natural resources protection.

4. Goal and Objectives

The goal of the SGEF is *to contribute to the compact overall goal of poverty reduction through economic growth by enhancing the impact and sustainability of the ENRM project specifically as it relates to reducing siltation of the Shire River and leading to the improvement in hydro-electric power generation capacity in Malawi.*

The activities to be funded will address social and gender constraints and inequalities that prevent men and women in communities along the Upper and Middle Shire River Basin from engaging equally in sustainable agricultural practices and sustainable management of their natural resources overall, and drawing equitable benefits from their land and other natural resources.

The SGEF has thus two objectives:

- 1. To engage women, men of communities and traditional authorities and leaders in the sustainable and equitable management of land and other natural resources in the context of the ENRM project.*
- 2. To reduce social and gender inequalities in the access to productive resources and control over these resources and their proceeds in order to contribute to sustainable results.*

5. Components

In order to empower women and men to engage in sustainable land management practices and to effect the necessary changes of attitude, behavior, social and gender dynamics at the household and village levels, and within government institutions, the SGA team developed the following package of complementary and mutually enhancing interventions at the village level aimed at engaging all community members:

1) Community engagement to support joint decision making, women's empowerment, men's behavioral change and sustainable management of natural resources.

The importance of community mobilization and participation in land and environment/natural resource decision-making was highlighted as crucial in the MCC-funded Environmental and Natural Resource Management Action Plan (ENRMAP) for the Upper Shire River Basin that was completed in June 2011. In line with the ENRMAP recommendation, the SGEF would support ongoing dialogue and educational sessions through proven participatory methodologies of community engagement with men and women to discuss intra-household and community level gender dynamics, cultural norms, and women's rights, particularly land rights and sustainable land management, as well as other social issues, including domestic violence (see Component 5), family planning, HIV/AIDS, men's responsibility of providing economically for the family, and the importance of delaying marriage for young girls and of sending children to school.

The **Objectives** of this Component are:

- To create space that allows women within the household and society more generally fully to participate in the decision-making process,
- To encourage men to share the responsibility for the economic and long-term well-being of their households and communities.
- To build community capacity to collectively identify challenges that limit women and men to participate in interventions and engage in sustainable land management practices and to effect the necessary changes of attitude, behavior and develop gender sensitive/ responsive home grown solutions and take actions even when the project has ended through the provision of non-formal education in an array of cross cutting activities.
- To sensitize and educate leaders of the community on social and gender issues and, more importantly, to develop their capacity to become effective leaders that can support families and villages as they go through social changes. The targeted leaders will include traditional, religious, and district authorities.

2) Development of community-based tools for improved land management to be piloted in selected villages:

The capacity of leaders and community members to effectively manage their individual and communal land resources can be improved with the use of basic inventory maps of all land uses and records of land rights⁵. Scarcity of unused land in the project area, coupled with the absence of these basic land management tools, is leading to increasing land-related conflicts that threaten women’s land rights as well as encroachment on communal areas reserved for important resource management purposes. Basic land management tools will become even more relevant under the new customary land bill being considered by Parliament, which mandates the creation of new community institutions of land management and new roles and responsibilities for land allocation, maintenance of land records and administration of land resources by local leadership. These changes, if not carefully designed and implemented, threaten to create confusion and conflict, undermine the sustainability of ENRM activities and harm the rights of women, particularly in matrilineal areas.

The **objectives** of this component are for selected pilot villages:

- To develop basic inventory maps and records of land rights using participatory approaches that safeguard against potential harms from the new bills.

⁵ The objective is to support communities developing inventory maps for all the land managed under the chief of the community including individual plots for agriculture and housing, communal lands or jointly managed areas, areas supporting livelihoods through non-timber forest products like medicinal plants.

- To develop methods for recordation of rights that protect the customary rights of women in a matrilineal context.

The outcomes of this exercise would make a significant contribution as case studies to policy makers within the Malawian government and the development of community institutions that will eventually be supporting implementation of the customary land bills once enacted. The idea is that when a community has undergone through a system of land recordation, even if it is only at a community level, the formalization or registration process under the proposed Land Bill can be carried out in a less disruptive and more transparent way that protects women's land rights.

3) Leadership training for women:

Field consultations with NGOs and CBOs highlighted the importance of women role models and building the leadership capacity of women in the communities. Women are currently members of various village and community development committees (e.g., water, natural resources development, school, health) but tend not to speak up or fully participate in decisions that impact them and the whole community.

The **objective** of this component is therefore:

- To build and enhance the capacity of women to fully participate in meetings, in the decision making process and to effectively advocate for change on issues concerning their rights and opportunities.
- To build the capacity of men and the local leadership in a manner that promotes changes in the leadership and management dynamics of local committees for men's greater understanding of the roles women can play in bettering the lives of their families and communities.

This will be important as women and men engage in conservation efforts where women assume responsibilities as members of the Customary Land Committees required under the Customary Land Bill.

4) Adult Functional Literacy and Numeracy:

Best practices in development have shown that literacy enhances women's and men's self-esteem, increase their social participation, and women's self-sufficiency, as well as balanced family dynamics. Moreover, functional literacy enhances the learning of other subjects and improves the application of new knowledge. In addition, basic numeracy can be particularly useful for women and men in managing their agricultural and off-farm enterprises and more so when credit and savings are involved.

The **objectives** of this component are:

- To build women's and men's literacy and numeracy capacity as part of other activities to be implemented by the Fund;
- To promote the use of innovative functional literacy and numeracy approaches as an integral part of addressing gender constraints to economic growth and poverty reduction.

NGOs that are supporting adult functional literacy and numeracy in the project area have seen positive outcomes from linking the literacy activities to the main themes of the program. Using a methodology that integrates participant's literacy needs into their existing livelihood activities enables participants to appreciate the relevance of literacy skills as an instrument of socio-economic development. Therefore it is envisioned that functional literacy and numeracy will not be a stand-alone component but will be embedded and complement all components including conservation agriculture. In 2010 the Coalition of Women Farmers (COWFA) in Malawi received UNESCO's Honorable Mention of the Confucius Prize for Literacy for innovative program in women's literacy. Funded by Action Aid, COWFA used the literacy approach to empower women in decision-making positions at household and community levels.

5) Economic empowerment of women and men through business skills, marketing and/or other approaches also involving the engagement of men.

The majority of women whomet in a preliminary visit to the targeted areas practice subsistence agriculture but few of them have access to a market to sell their produce. It is the husband or a male in her family that has the mobility and access to the market. The 2014 LTS Social Gender Assessment report on the changing nature of gender roles and responsibilities when it comes to women's and men's economic activities as women are increasingly travelling further to sell produce and being involved in charcoal production. As households engage in conservation agriculture, crop productivity will likely increase and this will create more opportunities for farmers, especially women to sell their produce. New business opportunities may also derive from agroforestry activities. As this occurs, it will be important for women and men to have the means to fully benefit from these increased economic opportunities through improved business and marketing skills and management of cash with a gender perspective where men will be encouraged to support their families in a manner that will improve the health and status of household members.

Women's economic empowerment is often linked with increased violence from their spouses or partners. Men can feel threatened in their roles as providers for the family. While women are gaining in confidence and independence, men may feel economically vulnerable and marginalized. The support of men as non-violent equitable caregivers and providers is essential to the transformation of gender dynamics towards a more

equitable distribution of roles in a sustainable manner.⁶Addressing gender-based violence requires however an integrated approach involving more than the husbands themselves. The sensitization and training of local justice system and health groups such as the Health Surveillance Assistants, the Village Health Committees, Village Rights Committees, the religious leaders and other community support groups are necessary to create an environment of non-tolerance of violence and ensure sustainable solutions for its victims.

The objectives of this component are:

- To increase women's participation in accessing markets
- To increase men's responsibility in managing family resources.
- To enhance women's and men's economic knowledge and opportunities by building their business and marketing skills

Communities visited during field consultations that showed a significant transformation (in natural resource management and improved gender outcomes), village savings and loans schemes (VSL) were integrated in development activities and successfully enabled women and men to make further investments in off-farm businesses. Supporting other business opportunities outside the farm could further reduce pressures on the land. The specific needs of women and men in given communities in terms of economic growth should be identified by the women and men themselves using participatory methodologies.

6. Target groups

The Environment and Natural Resources Management Plan (ENRMAP) for the Upper Shire River Basin completed in June 2011 recommended priority interventions to be implemented in the Malombe East and West catchments, located in the Upper Shire River basin, to reduce the problems of siltation and aquatic weed infestation affecting downstream hydropower generation.

A consultation was launched in 2013 for the identification of Environmental and Natural Resources management Interventions in the Middle Shire River Basin. This consultation included the carrying out of a Social and Gender Assessment Report to analyze the social and gender differences and inequalities that may affect land use practices in the area. The Consultant was required to demonstrate that social, cultural, linguistic, and

⁶ Gender-based violence is driven by gender inequality. "Cultural norms condone violence and leads to under-reporting" (UNICEF, Assessment of the Capacity of the Health Sector to respond to VAW and Children in Malawi, 2011). Several projects are working towards the elimination of VAW/GBV. The national NGO « Men for Gender Equality Now » is one organization adopting the Husband's School approach (used successfully in several African countries) where men receive training on being non-violent responsible husbands and fathers.

gender considerations were taken into account in the development of the interventions and identification of target groups...

The SGEF will primarily focus on male and female farmers in catchments of the Upper and Middle Shire River Basin. In the **Upper Shire River Basin**, seven sites were selected in the 2011 ENRMAP for priority interventions. They are: Upper Namungundi, Upper Nasanga south, Mid Skasi, Upper Chimwalira/Chilanga, Upper Masanje/Lufalu, Upper Lingasama and Machinga. In all these sites, poor households compose around 40% of the population with the exception of Upper Nasanga South where the percentage is 51. Women-headed households form the third of all households in these communities. In the **Middle Shire River Basin**, five priority sub-catchments were identified in 2013 (LTS, Task 1 report) in the following districts: Ntcheu, Balaka, Chiradzulu, Blantyre and Machinga. In these areas, Female-headed households compose one third of the 96,000 households in these five areas. Income for the poor comes increasingly from charcoal and firewood production. Men are mostly involved in cash crop agriculture on hillsides, river banks and forest reserves.

Traditional authorities and leaders of these communities are also being targeted by the SGEF. Experience has shown the importance to work with, religious leaders, and traditional village leaders for sustainable changes at the village level, as they are the ones with the power and authority to make or break transformations in traditions and cultural practices.

Do we include a discussion on whether focusing on the poor or middle households.???

7. Outcomes, Outputs and Indicators

The four medium and long term outcomes of the SGEF are:

1. Engagement of women, men, communities, traditional authorities and leaders in the sustainable and equitable management of land and other natural resources in the context of the ENRM project.
2. Reduced gender inequalities in the access to productive resources and control over these resources and their proceeds.

Table 1 illustrates the Logical Framework for the SGEF and includes expected results and indicators as per the ENRM Log Frame.

Table 1: LOG FRAME FOR SOCIAL AND GENDER FUND

Project Summary	Expected Results	Monitoring
Goal To contribute to the compact overall goal of poverty reduction through economic growth by enhancing the impact and sustainability of the ENRM project and the Malawi Compact.	Impact 1. Reduction of poverty and social and gender inequalities in households that adopt conservation agriculture practices.	Indicators - Poverty rate national level Poverty rate for female headed households
	2. Decreases in siltation and erosion in the project area as households and villages adopt better land management practices.	- t of decline in volume of soil eroded in target sites
Objectives 1. To engage Households of communities and traditional authorities and leaders in the sustainable and equitable management of land and other natural resources in the context of the ENRM project.	Medium and Long-Term Outcomes 1. Engagement of women, men, communities, traditional authorities and leaders in the sustainable and equitable management of land and other natural resources in the context of the ENRM project.	Indicators - Equitable and efficient decision making roles between communities and households, men and women. - Improved yields -Increased income from marketing of surplus yields - Number of producers who continue to practice conservation agriculture -Reduction of hunger gap Increased adult functional literacy and numeracy rates
2. To reduce gender inequalities in the access to productive resources and control over these resources and their proceeds.	2. Reduced gender inequalities in the access to productive resources and control over these resources and their proceeds.	- Percentage of community leaders who are female - Number of women who report a greater role in decision making pertaining to their land
	Outcomes .1Women and men are more aware of women’s economic and social rights and the importance of managing their resources sustainably	Indicators Percentage of women who have increased control of their land and the decision making regarding land use
	2.Increased capacity of community authorities and leaders to support and promote	Percentage of communities who adopted conservation agriculture

	shifts in the way land is used and managed	
	3. Better informed action taken by leaders to resolve land allocation/conflicts in an equitable way	Number and types of action taken by authorities and leaders to support and promote women's rights and to resolve land conflicts
	4. Adult functional numeracy and literacy is improved	- Number of women and men who are functionally literate - Number of women and men who have a basic math understanding
	5. Women have acquired the skills to play a greater role/more active role in the village committees and their communities as a whole	Number of women who are participating members of community and village level committees
	6. Economic empowerment of women through business skills, marketing and/or other approaches	Number of women directly or through association marketing their products
Activities		
1. Community engagement to improve joint decision making, women's empowerment and sustainable management of natural resources	1. Participants sensitized to social and environmental issues, and developed action plans	- Number of action plans developed by community members to promote change -Number of leaders trained through workshops.- Number of community members engaged in ongoing community level dialogues
3. Developing community-based tools for improved and equitable land management	3. Innovative, participatory land mapping and land rights recording is undertaken at the community/village level with leaders, men and women of these communities	- Number of communities who produced basic land use maps and records of land rights - Number of men and women who participated in the mapping of their village/community and the recording of land rights

4. Adult Functional Literacy and Numeracy	4. Women and men have acquired the basic literacy and numeracy skills	- Number of men and women who enrolled in functional literacy and numeracy training Number of men and women who completed literacy and numeracy training.
5. Leadership training for women	5. Women have acquired the skills to play a greater/more active role in the village committees .	- Number of women who enrolled in leadership training. - Number of women who completed leadership training
6. Economic empowerment of women through business skills, marketing and/or other approaches	6. Women have acquired the knowledge and skills to engage in sales, marketing and new economic activities	- Number of women who received business and marketing training Number of women's associations and organizations for marketing created through this process Number of women who completed business and marketing training.

8. Project partners

The Review⁷ of national laws and policies that was conducted by MCA in September 2012 also looked into the government institutions that could be partnering with the Compact and support social and gender integration in all projects. A list was included in the SGIP with information on these institutions' gender interventions and potential areas of collaboration.

- The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Services is present at the district level, although not at the District Assembly level, to provide extension services for community mobilization and development that takes into account women's equal participation.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security includes an Agriculture Gender Roles Support Branch (AGRESS) in its Agricultural Extension Services Department. At the district level, AGRESS liaises with technical departments on gender and HIV and AIDS. The District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) is implementing gender specific programs in agriculture and good security.
- The Environmental Affairs Department of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management (MoECCM) is implementing projects at the district level, ensuring equal participation of men and women including the youth in village level ENRM committees.

⁷MCA- M Assessment for Gender integration in Legal Frameworks and Policies relevant to the MCC Malawi Compact, September 2012

- The Forestry Department of the MoECCM, through the District Forestry Office (DFO) is implementing several programs such as tree planting to improve forestry management, and where women occupy 60% of leadership roles.

These ministries have acquired extensive experience of intervening at district and community level, mobilizing men and women around land and other natural resources degradation issues, ensuring equal representation of male and female farmers in local committees and setting up income generating activities for women farmers. The challenges they face in integrating gender in their activities and the solutions sought can prove to be an important source of information for the definition of the SGEF projects. Their presence at the district level makes it possible for projects to tap into their knowledge and use of participatory approaches to gender integration in their work. The Table 2 below summarizes the potential areas of collaboration with these ministries.

There are many NGOs and CBOs currently engaged in working with communities in the Upper and Middle Shire River Basins. A large number are implementing projects related to land and natural resources management that integrate social and gender considerations. Community mobilization, capacity development for women to participate in public life and promote their leadership, training of community leaders on women’s rights and gender issues are some of the activities that these organizations are already implementing in the area

Table 2 also lists the key international and national NGOs and CBOs working at the community level for gender integration in community development interventions in the fields of agriculture, forestry and environment, as they relate to the activities planned in the ENRM and Social and Gender Enhancement Fund (SGEF). Many of them work in the Middle and Shire River Basin area as well as in other parts of the country. The column on *potential areas of collaboration* provides information on the type of activities these organizations could provide or support within the framework of the ENRM Grant Facility and the SGEF interventions. Proposals from project partners for both the Grant and the gender fund may come from these organizations and propose partnerships with district level offices and other NGOs and CBOs. In that respect the table provides some guidance on the relevance and effectiveness of the partnership proposed. Although it is expected that proposals for projects specifically funded by the SGEF will largely come from these organizations, it does not preclude in any way other CBOs or NGOs, either national or international, from submitting proposals.

Table 2. Government Institutions, International NGOs, national NGOs and CBOs, and their potential areas of collaboration

KEY PLAYERS	POTENTIAL AREAS OF COLLABORATION
<i>Government Institutions</i>	

KEY PLAYERS	POTENTIAL AREAS OF COLLABORATION
Gender, Children and Social Services <i>Dept. of Community Development</i>	Provide support for engendered mobilization of communities from a gender perspective in natural resources management activities. Provide tools developed for engendered Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs). Possible support for addressing the issues of child labour and TIP (Trafficking in Person).
Agriculture and Food Security <i>District Agriculture Development Office (DADO)</i>	Provide additional gender training to extension workers. Provide support for the use of an engendered Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) approach.
Environment and Climate Change Management <i>District Environmental Office (DEO)</i>	Possible collaboration with DEOs' extension staff for community mobilization and participation of women on ENRM.
International NGOs	
Concern Universal (UK)	Adult literacy activities using the REFLECT approach. Promotion and implementation of Village Savings and Loans (VSL) Promotion of environment friendly businesses for women such a mushroom production or bee keeping.
Africare (US)	Provide expertise and materials for gender integration in: Environmental and Natural Resources Management; watershed management; and micro finance (VSL and Agricultural Marketing)
Care International	Promoting women's role in conservation agriculture and drought mitigation. Support communities in finding ways to adjust and mitigate environmental degradation and emergencies
Self-Help Africa	Gender mainstreaming in conservation agriculture. Gender integration in HIV-AIDS interventions; awareness campaigns.
Action Aid Malawi	Use of the REFLECT circles' approach to promote, inform and train women on their rights and more specifically on land rights
Plan International	Empowering the youth socially and economically at various levels to improve their status and also to promote their participation in decision making processes on issues affecting them.
World Vision	
National NGOs/CBOs	
Total Land Care	Designing community based activities, community mobilization and empowerment. (ENRM/SGEF)
CADECOM (Catholic Development Commission in Malawi)	Setting up of Study Circles for functional literacy learning (SGEF)

KEY PLAYERS	POTENTIAL AREAS OF COLLABORATION
BERDO (Bwanje Rural Development Organization)	Training in forestry based IGAs for women such as bee keeping. Draw on their expertise at the village level for gender integration and development of Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs). (ENRM/SGEF)
CURE (Coordination Union for the Rehabilitation of Environment)	Support gender training relating to environmental conservation for extension workers and community leaders. (Gender sensitization, analysis and awareness) Support Community mobilization using engendered participatory development methods. (ENRM/SGEF)
SEED (Social Economic Enhancement and Enterprise Development Malawi)	SEED uses the approach of interactive meetings to promote women's self-esteem. They involve religious leaders and local chiefs. Use of role models and peer educators. (ENRM/SGEF)
Blantyre Synod	Community mobilization Women's participation Conservation agriculture, livestock production, soil and water conservation. (ENRM/SGEF)
WEEF (formerly "Malawi Lake Basin")	Community mobilization Conservation agriculture, Livestock production, Irrigation
WOLREC (Women's Legal Resource Centre)	Community awareness activities on gender, women's rights and more specifically land's rights, HIV and AIDS using the REFLECT approach. Capacity development activities for women to participate in public life. Training community leaders, traditional authorities, village structures on women's economic empowerment and participation in decision-making structures and processes.

(Source: Adapted from Table 4.3.1, SGIF, October 2013)

9. Management structure

During the Compact Development period, MCC and GoM explored in detail how to best address weed infestation and siltation issues at the source, that is the current practices of the communities for land uses and natural resources management. After substantial consultation, MCA-M decided to pursue a two-pronged approach; first to initiate grant implementation directly for NGOs and CBOs (the Small Grants Facility) while also conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of a Trust that will support the continuous funding of activities once the Compact comes to an end.

It is expected that the ENRM grant fund and the SGEF will initially be managed by MCA and eventually transferred to the Trust when it is deemed to have sufficient capacity to administer and manage the fund. The grants will be administered through a competitive

process with the applications being selected by a technical evaluation panel and guided by a policy and procedures manual that clearly defines criteria for project and grantee selection and the technical and financial oversight mechanisms. A Technical Working group chaired by the Director of Environmental affairs will oversee the ENRM Grant Fund and the SGEF as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the project activities

NGOs/CBOs working on issue of natural resource management and promotion of gender equality have extensive capacity, knowledge and experience. The communities and households that are working with these NGOs and CBOs demonstrate a good understanding of issues related to sustainability of their natural resources, building resilience of their communities to climate change and the overall importance of empowering women in their homes and communities. Capitalizing on the experience, capacity, credibility and local presence of these NGOs and CBOs makes sense particularly when a bottom up approach and ongoing engagement with the communities are critical. Given the small size of the total fund (\$2 million US), a separate grant window integrated in the Small Grants Facility of the ENRM Project will be established to facilitate the participation of these highly capable NGOs directly in the implementation of the SGEF activities.