

Republic of Malawi

**The Project for Community Vitalization and
Afforestation in Middle Shire (COVAMS)**

Annual Report 2008



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1. Preface

The Project for Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire (COVAMS) was launched on 5th November 2007.

We summarize activities and progress for 14 months from the beginning of project to the end of December 2008 as the annual report of 2008 to share achievement with the implementation organizations and supporting organizations of Malawi and Japan.

COVAMS is one of the JICA Technical Cooperation Project which is based on previous two studies, 'The Master Plan Study on Watershed Rehabilitation in Middle Shire in Malawi' and 'Pilot Study on Community Vitalization and Afforestation in Middle Shire in Malawi' for Forestry Department in Malawi.

COVAMS adopted PRODEFI approach which provides various training courses to the villagers as first input for 'Community Vitalization'. This approach is quite new for Malawi and Project Staff gradually understand the principles and concept through planning and implementation of training courses. However, training courses were conducted well. 2,063 villagers participated 88 times of training in 2008.

On the other hand, 'Afforestation' in Project Design of COVAMS was lacking the point of view of land conservation. To manage this deficiency, COVAMS planned to have training courses with demonstration plots setup for 'Contour marker ridge making', Gully Control' and 'Riverbank afforestation'. 370 villagers participated in 'Contour Marker Ridge Making Training' and 229 villagers practiced it at their field after the training. Total practiced area achieved was about 50 ha.

COVAMS activities went well in the first year. However, we still have a lot of challenges to implement project because COVAMS is new project. Continuous efforts are required.

We hope this annual report helps you to know our progress, grasp a whole image of project and realize importance of COVAMS.

2. Activity achievement

Activity achievement was organized to each output which is including project management activity.

POO Arrangement of project operation structure

Quarter	Contents of activities
November ~ December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communication among Officials related to the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Steering Committee Meeting has been held regularly since December.
January ~ March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The selection of project Implementation Unit (PIU): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Operating area for the first year was decided in the project target area in February, 15 extension officers were selected from three departments (Forestry, Agriculture and Community Development) as PIU member candidates. · In March, 11 people took charge of the seven villages which were also selected. The 11 extension staff were officially selected as PIU members of 2007/2008. ✓ The principle of the project operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mr. Noda, who is a short term expert, visited the project, and discussed about the principle of the project operation from 29th Jan to 6th Feb 2008. ✓ Communication among Officials related to the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · PIU leaders from each TA in charge were selected to communicate with management office and the other PIUs. Meetings were held every Friday from this March 2008 as trial. · The preparation for the first Joint Coordination Committee Meeting was started. ✓ Publicity of the project activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The training of computer use was held once a week for the officers who were attached to Regional Forestry Office (S) to recognize the importance of the project to the community. Although Steering Committee members were supposed to attend, there were no participants. · The schedule of project activity was distributed to Steering Committee members to understand the project activity and PRODEFI approach.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · As a part of news letter, COVAMS NOW was published.
April ~ June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communication among Officials related to the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · From this month, two PIU members were commended by the COVAMS project for monthly MVP. The MVP award went to one PIU members from each of the two TAs.
July ~ September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communication among Officials related to the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · In the PIU leader meeting, it seemed that it was not enough to communicate with all PIU members, therefore the all PIU member meeting was held once a month from July. · The first Joint Coordination Committee Meeting was held at Forestry Department in July. · The Steering Committee Meeting members visited the target village in August. · To improve communication among COVAMS staff, morning meetings have been held to check the day activity of each member every morning. ✓ The principle of the project operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Progress project meeting has been held amongst Japanese experts at end of the month from this September. The result of this meeting is reported to JICA Malawi Office. ✓ The management of field activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Many of PIU members did not have a license of motorcycle, rider's training was held for five days.
October ~ December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The principle of the project operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mr. Noda, short term expert, visited the project from 10th to 19th Nov 2008. The advice for the principle of the project operation was given and discussed.

PO1 The target villagers acquire knowledge and skills regarding productive activities including tree growing

Quarter	Contents of Activities
November ~ December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bio physical and socio economic survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · For reference about selection of target villages, survey sheets which focused on bio physical and socio economy survey were made as a draft. In addition, project site was visited to understand the present condition.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Selection of target villages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft of criteria for selection was made to select target villages.
January ~ March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bio physical and socio economic survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target area extension workers who are from forestry, agriculture, and community development department proposed 16 villages from Traditional Authority (TA) Kapeni and Kuntaja, Eight from each TA. • Bio physical / socio economic survey was done in the 16 candidate villages, and the result was collected on to one sheet. ✓ Selection of target villages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February, seven target villages were chosen because of the result of Bio physical and socio economic survey and the efficiency of project activity. Three of them were chosen from TA Kuntaja and the others were chosen from TA Kapeni. ✓ Village resource survey and needs survey for training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the two selected villages, pre-test about Village resource survey and needs survey for training was done. After that, surveys were done in all seven villages in March. ✓ Base line survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March, base line survey draft for each family was conducted after pre-test survey. After that, final survey was conducted. ✓ Preparation of training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February, to confirm how PRODEFI approach will work among Officials related to the project, two villages were selected. In the two villages, training courses were discussed with villagers based on surveys, after that consensus was achieved. • Survey about communication among villagers was done in March. ✓ Operation of training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small business management training was held in two villages, Chuma and Zwanya, in March.
April ~ June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Village resource survey and needs survey of training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no specific resources in many of the target villages according to the survey which was done in March. Therefore, PIU members explored villages they were to take charge of, and the result was collected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Base line survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To select sample for base line survey, Wealth Ranking was done by PIU members, the villagers were divided into three ranges which are wealthier, middle, and poor. 20 samples were chosen from each range. (wealthier: six, middle: six, poor: eight) After that, base line survey for each family was done by PIU members in all seven villages. • In May, a draft for base line survey for community was made and pre-test was done. After that, that survey was done by PIU members in all seven villages. ✓ Preparation of training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal of training operation was made by instructors who are responsible for Two villages and they were selected to proceed with implementation of training after proposed training contents were discussed with Subject Matter Specialist who are related to the training theme. • In other five villages, discussion at meetings decided the contents of training, the contents were determined at each village in May. • Proposal of tree growing training was submitted by PIU members who were working in forestry and scrutinized by project management staffs. • Survey for related organizations to soil conservation was done to make a inventory on soil conservation technologies which are practiced or recommended in Malawi. ✓ Operation of training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April, fish farming training was conducted at Chuma village. In May, theory of irrigated vegetable growing training was conducted and practice part was conducted in June. • In June, the other five villages had training courses which totaled to 12.
July ~ September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Base line survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base line survey for community was done in the last village. ✓ Preparation of training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting about demonstration plot of soil conservation design was held. After that, result of the meeting was shared with Steering Committee members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July, villagers were briefed about establishment of demonstration plot of soil conservation in each target village. • COVAMS members visited Likanga Estate, Mulanje for procurement of Vetiver Grass to distribute to demonstration plot of soil conservation. The reason why we chose this Estate was that grass was offered free of charge and the amount of that grass was enough. • PIU members requested to have a meeting for village headmen to explain about this project again, it was done in August. <p>✓ Training operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 training courses were conducted from July to September in all seven villages. Amongst the training courses, Soil conservation techniques and Contour marker ridge construction was included.
October ~ December	<p>✓ Base line survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of base line survey was started, and base line survey for community was done in October and base line survey for each family was done in December. <p>✓ Preparation of training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review on how to proceed the training, especially on the planning part was conducted with the villagers in October 2008. During the reviewing, the villagers pointed out some of problems on the arrangement of the training. • To address the problems, the project management modified the procedures to conducting training. The procedures are as follows; The Field Management Officers (FMO) should communicate with the village and identify real needs for the training and their request for the training style. And then the FMOs are going to design the outline of the training course. After the designing, the FMOs give instruction to the expected trainer of the training course. <p>✓ Training operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 trainings were done from October to December. • Tephrosia seeds for demonstration plot for soil conservation were distributed from 27th Nov to 2nd Dec. Gliricidia seedlings and seeds for demonstration plot of soil conservation were distributed from 5th Dec. Vetiver grass distribution started on 18th December. The distribution will be completed by the end of January 2009.

PO2 Capacity of the target villagers is enhanced to access necessary resources for productive activities including tree growing

Quarter	Contents of Activities
July ~ September	<p>✓ Information of Farmer's activity support organizations was given to famers. :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to organizations (Gift of Givers, ESCOM, Water Board, Illovo which had possibility of support to famer's activity) based in Blantyre was done, and hearing survey was done. • To ask which crop has high price on the market, a visit to Bvumbwe agriculture experiment station was done.
October ~ December	

PO3 Capacity of the counterparts is enhanced in supporting productive activities including tree growing

Quarter	Contents of Activities
January ~ March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To understand PRODEFI approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRODEFI approach was explained to PIU members and other C/P for better understandings. ✓ OJT for improving ability of PIU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer training for PIU leaders was done in regular meeting.
April ~ June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ OJT for improving ability of PIU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making candles from Bee-wax training was conducted for all PIU members in May which was requested by PIU members. • There was necessity to improve forestry training proposal which was made by PIU, a seminar was done for PIU members. • All PIU members and management staffs visited Mulanje (Agro forestry) and Thuchila (Riverbank Afforestation) to learn examples about soil conservation. ✓ Making a guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft of COVAMS guidelines was started to make in June.
July ~ September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Making a guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ver.1 draft of COVAMS guidelines was made, and that draft was checked among COVAMS management staffs. After that, that guidelines was modified.
October ~ December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Making a guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft of COVAMS guidelines was modified, and it was distributed to Steering Committee members. They approved Ver.1 draft of COVAMS guidelines, so those were distributed to concerned officials. ✓ To understand PRODEFI approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Senegal was decided to research and understand PRODEFI approach. For that preparation, study meeting was done and survey sheets were made.

3. Achievement of Soil conservation activity

The Director of Forestry Department gave a statement that the expectation to COVAMS project was mitigation of siltation to Shire River when COVAMS management staff paid courtesy call to him with Mr. Noda, Short term expert, in January 2008. The master plan on “Watershed rehabilitation in Middle Shire” which was developed in 2001 clarified a problem of Middle Shire River. The problem was soil erosion in the catchment area and siltation to Shire River. Hence, the Director of Forestry Department made the above statement.

However, the focus on the mitigation of siltation into Shire River into was very vague in the pilot study. No proper outline of activities on the mitigation of soil erosion and siltation in Project Design Matrix (PDM) of COVAMS project is given except tree planting activity.

After the statement state from the director, COVAMS project had recognized its importance to incorporate soil conservation activity into the project activity. As a preparation to this activity, the project conducted a survey on soil conservation technologies which are being practiced and recommended in Malawi. COVAMS project has also modified its PDM with incorporation of a statement of soil conservation activity at the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting held in July 2008.

As a result of the survey, COVAMS project selected four soil conservation technologies to recommend to the project target farmers for practice. The recommended technologies are 1. establishment of contour markers followed by contour ridges, 2. improvement of soil structures with agro-forestry species, 3. reclamation of gully and 4. river bank afforestation. These four technologies will be promoted through implementation of training. Addition to these technologies, terrace construction for steep areas will be demonstrated.

In order to show the farmers tangible result on the effectiveness of soil conservation technologies, the project decided to promote the farmers establishment of demonstration plot in all the target villages. COVAMS project took following procedures; 1. the project designs demonstration plot for soil conservation, 2. volunteers from the target villages establish demonstration plot by themselves, according to the design, 3. the project provides the volunteers necessary materials for the establishment of the demonstration plot.

The activity concerning soil conservation is showed in a table below.

Theme	Activity
Contour Markers and Ridges making	<p>An explanation meeting on establishment of demonstration plot for soil conservation technologies was held in the target villages in July 2008. Following the explanations, the PIU members conducted training on contour markers and contour ridges making for the farmers in August 2008. The project provided 10 line levels to all the villages in order for them to make contour makers.</p> <p>The number of participants to this training theme reached to 370 farmers. Out of these 370 farmers, 229 farmers actually made contour markers in their fields after the training. The total length of the contour markers reached about 27km.</p> <p>Following the establishment of contour markers, the farmers made contour ridges. The total dimension of the field with contour ridges would reach to about 50ha, if calculated from all the length of contour markers. However, the project observed that some farmers did not make contour ridges properly, which are estimated at around 5ha.</p>
Improvement of soil structure	<p>COVAMS project provided Tephrosia and Gliricidia seed / seedlings to those farmers who realigned their ridges and Vetiver grass for those who established contour markers. The agro-forestry species will improve the soil structures by incorporating their leaves and stems into the soil in order to prevent soil erosion. Vetiver grass will be effective in blocking eroded soil on the surface and controlling water running in the field.</p> <p>The project distributed the seeds of Tephrosia, 300 Gliricidia seedlings and necessary quantity of Vetiver grass to each participant in December 2008. The project raised about 64,500 Gliricidia seedlings at Kanjedza nursery by making contract with the people who run the business at the nursery.</p>
Gully reclamation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small scale gully <p>Gully reclamation training for small scale gully was conducted by COVAMS management staff led by Mr. Sato chief adviser in all the target villages starting from late October 2008. The project provided empty used fertilizer sacks only to the participants of the training. The participants prepared stones, sticks and some sand.</p>

	<p>The number of participants reached to 124. However, no participants have practiced yet, as of end of December 2008 after the training. This result could be attributed to the timing of training conducted. It was busiest season for the farmers in planting maize. Hence, there was no time for the participants to spare time for practicing gully reclamation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medium scale gully <p>It was only Chiwalo village which could prepare some necessary materials by themselves for medium scale gully reclamation training in November 2008. There is a large scale gully in the village as well. Training site was selected at the upper side of the large scale gully. The scale of the gully selected is still medium scale which is considerably possible for the villagers to do reclamation by themselves.</p> <p>The project designed a check dam with poles and stones. The project provided necessary materials such as poles, wires, nails, used machine oil and wooden and steel hammers, while the villagers prepared stones.</p> <p>Some villagers from a neighboring village participated in the training. The participants requested another opportunity of training for the same technology.</p> <p>It was 14 participants for this training and it took two day to complete the training.</p>
Riverbank Afforestation	<p>COVAMS project management staff had a meeting on establishment of demonstration plot for Riverbank Afforestation with village headman and some other village leaders in each target village in September 2008. After the meeting, the villages submitted a list of participants and a site of the demonstration plot as well as a list of preferable tree species. The tree species were decided by the COVAMS management, considering the list submitted, their suitability and availability.</p> <p>The project purchased the seedlings after adjusting the number of seedlings and the species by discussing with the farmers in December 2008.</p>

4. Achievement of village training

Number of training courses conducted reached 88 with 2063 participants in the seven target villages by December, starting from March 2008. The number of training courses includes repetition of the same theme in the same village. The number of participants was counted if one participated in a training course even one day only.

Training courses were conducted more in July to September 2008. This was because the villagers could spare time for participation in the training courses due to less activity in their fields. Additionally, the project intended to make COVAMS project recognized by the villagers, by conducting many training courses in short period.

It was observed that there was great impact on soil conservation related training. It resulted in many participants practicing the technology obtained through the training course, especially on the contour markers establishment and contour ridge making. Besides, it was observed that there were several people raising tree seedlings as individual activity and forming of a group for starting bee keeping business. There is a village which constructed a fish pond after fish culturing training as well. The village also constructed another fish pond supported by IRLAD under District Assembly. The construction was done with supervision by the villagers who participated in the COVAMS training.

Apart from these observations, there was a village which requested a training theme of seed sowing after seeing the result of nursery establishment of trees. The training made their eyes opened on the effectiveness of learning by seeing good germination of the tree seeds. Hence they wanted to improve their skill on germination rate in vegetable growing.

It can be said that the target villagers are now able to request more specific training needs compared to the one at the beginning of the project.

The table below shows training themes, number of participants and trainers of each village.

Village (No. of Household)	Training theme (Number of training courses)	Total number of training courses and participants	Trainers
Zwanya (66)	Small scale business management (3), Irrigated vegetable growing (3), Tree growing (4), Bee Keeping(2),	15 training courses / 369 participants	Nsiku, Banda/ Thole, Andiwochi,

	Soil conservation (3)		Kalagho/Banda(farmer), Chinzukira/Masanjala
Chiwalo (81)	Small scale business management (3), Rain fed vegetable growing (1), Tree growing (4), Bee Keeping(3), Soil conservation (4)	15 training courses/ 313 participants	Nsiku, Banda, Andiwochi, Kalagho/ Banda (farmer), Masanjala / Chinzukira
Mtema (219)	Small scale business management (3), Irrigated vegetable growing (1), Tree growing (3), Bee Keeping(2), Soil conservation (3)	12 training courses/ 489 participants	Nsiku, Thole, Andiwochi, Kalagho/ Banda (farmer), Chinzukira/ Thole Masanjala
Kamwendo (114)	Small scale business management (2), Rain fed vegetable growing (1), Tree growing (3), Bee Keeping(2), Soil conservation (3)	11 training courses/ 301 participants	Nsiku, Banda, Andiwochi / Kalagho, Kalagho, Banda / Thole
Chitawira (50)	Small scale business management (3), Irrigated vegetable growing (1), Tree growing (2), Bee Keeping(2), Soil conservation (2)	10 training courses/ 143 participants	Chagoma, Bauleni, Mbewe, Bauleni / Masanjala, Kalagho
Tambala (50)	Small scale business management (2), Irrigated vegetable growing (1), Tree growing (2), Bee Keeping(2), Soil conservation (3), Wood saving stove (2)	12 training courses/ 182 participants	Chagoma, Mwachumu, Mpate, Bauleni / Masanjala, Kalagho, Chagoma
Chuma (81)	Small scale business management (5), Irrigated vegetable growing (1), Tree growing (4), Fish culture(1), Soil conservation (2)	13 training courses/ 266 participants	Chagoma, Manda, Bauleni, Mbewe, Mwachumu / Masanjala

5. Achievement of Other Activities

Introduction of COVAMS Project

During the District Assembly meeting, introduction of Project to TA Leader's under Blantyre District was done at Blantyre District Assembly on 5th December 2007.

Survey

Title: Survey on Soil Erosion Control Technologies in Malawi

Date: Wednesday 28th May 2008~ Friday 30th May 2008

Visiting List : 1. Land Resource Conservation Department (LRCD)
2. Land Resource Center
3. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
4. Field Visit to Mponera (Dowa District)
5. Malawi College of Forestry and Wildlife (MCFW)

Survey Members :

Mr. Mkwapatira (Project Manager) Mr. Chigwiya (FMO, Survey and Monitoring)
Mr. Sato (Chief Advisor), Mr. Kanazawa (Rural Development Advisor)
Ms. Kawamoto (Project Coordinator)

C/P Training

Title : Regional Training Course on Enhancing Adoption of Social Forestry in Africa

Duration : 3rd November 2008 ~5th December 2008

Venue : Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)

Participant name : Mr. Masanjala (Field Management Officer, Training)

Seminar

Mr. Noda, Senior Advisor (Short Term Expert), conducted the following two seminars under the title of 'Essential of Participatory Approach'.

1. Date and Venue: 29th January 2008, JICA Malawi Office

Participants: Officers of JICA MW and JOCV

2. Date and Venue: 5th February 2008, Project Office

Participants: Steering Committee Meeting Members

6. Project Staff

6-1 Long term Expert/Short Term Expert

Name	Position	Period
Mr. Akira Sato	Chief Advisor Forest Resource Management	2007.11.5 – 2009.11.4
Mr. Hiroyuki Kanazawa	Rural Development Advisor	2007.11.12 – 2009.11.11
Ms. Mika Kawamoto	Project Coordinator	2007.11.5 – 2009.11.4
Mr. Naoto Noda	Senior Advisor Short Term Expert	2008.01.27 – 2008.02.08 2008.11.8 - 2008.11.23

6-2 Malawian Staff

Name	Position in Gov.	Position in Project	Period
Mrs. C. Chauluka	Regional Forestry Officer (S)	Project Director	2008. 4 – present
Mr. P. Mkwapatira	Assistant District Forestry Officer	Project Manager	2007. 11 – present
Mr. J. J. Chigwiya	Senior Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer (Survey and Monitoring)	2008. 5 – present
Mr. C. C. Masanjala	Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer (Training)	2008. 8 – present
Ms. B. Kumbanyiwa	Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer (Resource Coordination)	2008. 5 – present
Mr. J. Andiwochi	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Forestry, TA Kapeni)	2008. 1 – present
Ms. G. Kalagho	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Forestry, TA Kapeni)	2008. 1 – present
Mr. S. B. Mbewe	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Forestry, TA Kuntaja)	2008. 1 – present
Mr. F. A. B. Mpate	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Forestry, TA Kuntaja)	2008. 5 – present
Mr. C. G. C. Bauleni	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kuntaja)	2008. 1 – present
Mrs. L. A. Banda	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kapeni)	2008. 1 – present

Name	Position in Gov.	Position in Project	Period
Mr. W. W. Chinzukira	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kapeni)	2008. 6 – present
Ms. E. Mwachumu	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kuntaja)	2008. 3 – present
Mr. M. J. L. Thole	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kapeni)	2008. 1 – present
Mrs. A. Chagoma	Senior Community Development Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Community Dev. TA Kuntaja)	2008. 1 – present
Mr. H.M. Nsiku	Community Development Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Community Dev. TA Kapeni)	2008. 1 – present
Ms. J. Mbandambanda	Driver	Project Driver	2008. 2 – present
Mr. H. L. Chiwaya	Driver	Project Driver	2007. 11 – present

6-3 Previous Malawian Staff

Name	Position in Gov.	Position in Project	Period
Mr. F. Chilimanpunga	Regional Forestry Officer (S)	Project Director	2007.11 – 2008.4
Mr. Chimponda	Senior Forestry Assistant	Field Management Officer	2008.2- 2008.4
Late L. D. Khomba	Forestry Assistant	Project Implementation Unit (Forestry, TA Kuntaja)	2008. 1- 2008. 5
Late J. A. M. Chisale	Agricultural Extension Development Officer (AEDO)	Project Implementation Unit (Agriculture, TA Kapeni)	2008. 1- 2008. 6
Mr. K. K. Phiri	Driver	Project Driver	2007. 11- 2008

7. Project Budget

The expenditure of MK15,826,887.22 on the Project Activities for 14 months from November 2007 to December 2008 was paid by Japanese side. The amount of donation of Equipment and Machinery were MK18,040,398.76 in FY2007 and MK1,288,211.00 in FY 2008.

8. Visitor

Date	Visitor	Purpose	Attendants
2008.2.26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Matsumoto Charge d'affaires ad Interim Japan Embassy ▪ Mr. Mizutani Resident Representative JICA Malawi Office 	Information collection on COVAMS Field Visit (Chuma)	Mr. Chilimanpunga(PD), Mr. Mkwapatira (PM) Mr. Sato (CA) Mr. Kanazawa (RDA) Ms. Kawamoto (PC)
2008.9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Yama Director General, Japan Molinga Assosiation ▪ Ms. Nobusada Country Coordinator Nicco 	Information collection on COVAMS	Mr. Sato (CA) Mr. Kanazawa (RDA) Ms. Kawamoto (PC)
2008.10.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H. E. Mr. Noro Ambassador Japan Embassy 	Information collection on COVAMS	Mr. Sato (CA) Mr. Kanazawa (RDA) Ms. Kawamoto (PC)
2008.10.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Moronaga Deputy Resident Representative JICA Malawi Office 	Field Visit	Mr. Sato (CA)
2008.11.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Gomi Secretary General Nicco 	Information collection on COVAMS Field Visit (Chiwalo)	Mr. Sato (CA)

9. Project Products

No.	Name	Month	Author
1	Procedures to Village Selection	2008.4	Mr. P. Mkwapatira Mr. H. Kanazawa
2	Survey result on Soil Erosion Control Technologies in Malawi	2008.6	Mr. J. J. Chigwiya Mr. H. Kanazawa
3	Detail Survey Activities	2008.10	Mr. J. J. Chigwiya Mr. H. Kanazawa
4	Effectiveness of training without monetary incentives	2008.10	Ms. G. Kalagho Mr. H. Kanazawa
5	Community Based Baseline Survey Report (2008)	2008.8	Mr. J. J. Chigwiya Mr. H. Kanazawa
6	COVAMS Guidelines Version 1	2008	COVAMS Project

10. Activity Plan for 2009

The following activities are planned for 2009.

1. Field Visit to Senegal (January)
2. Joint Coordination Committee Meeting (February)
3. PIU Annual Review Workshop (March)
4. Orientation of expected supporting organizations to COVAMS villagers' activities in Blantyre (March)
5. Review of Activity Plan
 - 5.1 Soil Conservation Activities
 - 5.2 Expansion of target villages
 - 5.3 Demonstration Plot setting
 - 5.4 Project Implementation structure
6. Study tour (inside Malawi)
7. Mid-term Evaluation
8. Annual Report

11. Challenges of the Project

COVAMS project faced some challenges, especially at the management level after the launch. The first challenge was inadequate staffing to the project management level. COVAMS had a Project Director and a Project Manager only as management staff at the beginning of the project. The second challenge was inadequate budget for the project activities from Forestry Department. It was caused by no indication of project budget in the Record of Discussion of COVAMS project. The last but not the least challenge was that the Project Design Matrix (PDM). The PDM was not indicating clearly the expectation of Malawi government in its project purpose.

The expectation of Malawi government is to secure power generation for the country through ensuring water volume for the hydro electricity power plant by mitigating siltation into Shire River. There is no objection to that, that the project purpose will contribute to land conservation. However, it will not give effective result to the expectations of Malawi government if the project did not put in significant effort on the soil conservation activities whilst more than half of the catchment areas are farm land.

The first challenge has improved by the coordinating effort of Forestry Department (S) after concretising the required position and the number of staff for COVAMS project management. COVAMS has now three Field Management Officers. The second challenge will be addressed by the Headquarter of Forestry Department by including the project budget in national budget plan for the fiscal year of 2009/ 2010. The last challenge was somehow improved by adding some explanation on the importance of land conservation activity to the PDM. Nevertheless, further modification with the inclusion of land conservation activities with clear statement in the PDM will be necessary.

An observation was made and it has been reached to satisfactory level of understanding by the project staff on PRODEFI model. The project has promoted the understanding of the model through implementation of the project activities. However, further in depth understanding by them will be necessary, in order to empower the community for its vitalization in livelihood improvement. The most difficult part is probably on the principles of "Open to everyone" and "Meet the residents' demand and needs". The project is going to continue the promotion of understanding in the same way, by emphasising the two PRODEFI principles.

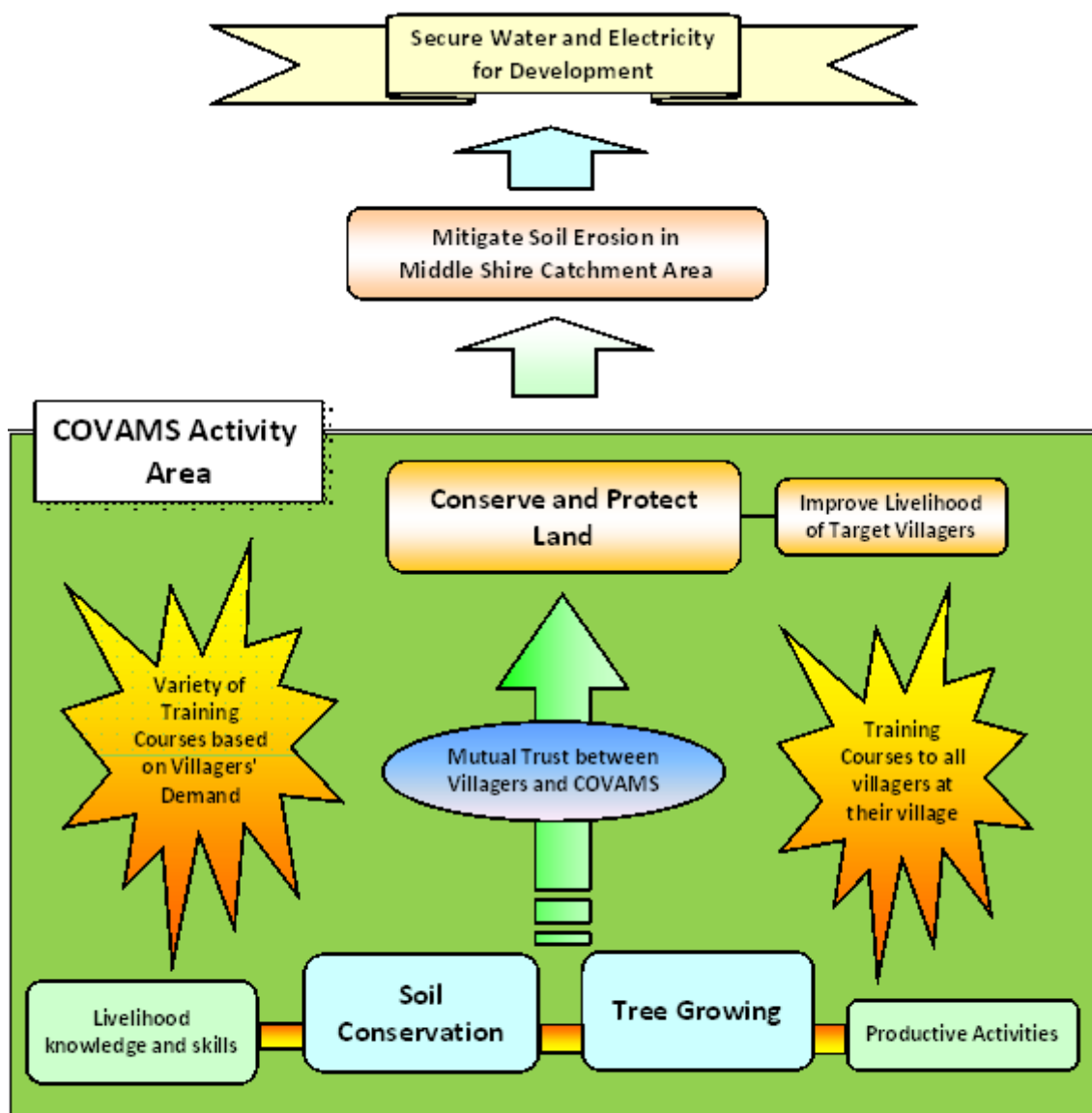
The project would like to thank Steering Committee Members, other officers from Forestry Department (S), District Agricultural Development Office, Blantyre Agricultural Development Division, District Community Development Office and JICA Malawi office for their cooperation to the project implementation. Moreover, it must be appreciated that PIU members devoted their time for project activities enthusiastically.

Lastly, the project is requesting all the organizations for more support in the second year as the project needs to make adjustments or modifications of activities due to new strategy for increasing of target villages.

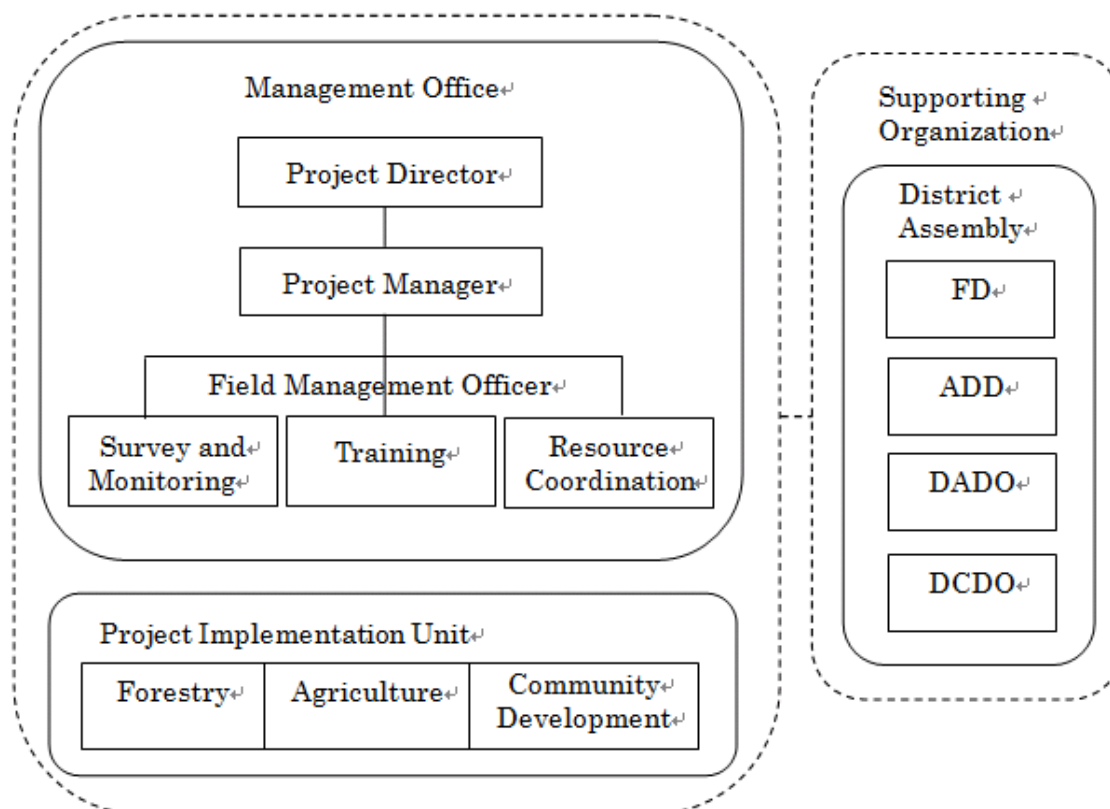
COVAMS Training scene (Soil Conservation Activities)



Appendix 1 COVAMS Concept














Appendix 2 COVAMS Implementation Structure



Appendix 3 COVAMS Staff

Surname	Picture	Position in COVAMS	Position in GOV.
Mrs. Chauluka		Project Director (PD)	Regional Forestry Officer South (RFO (S))
Mr. Mkwapatira		Project Manager (PM)	Assistant District Forestry Officer (ADFO)
Mr. Chigwiya		Field Management Officer (FMO) Survey and Monitoring	Senior Forestry Assistant
Miss Khumbanyiwa		FMO, Resource Survey	Forestry Assistant
Mr. Masanjala		FMO, Training	Forestry Assistant
Mrs. Banda		Project Implementation Unit	Agriculture
Mr. Chinzukira		Project Implementation Unit	Agriculture

Surname	Picture	Position in COVAMS	Position in GOV.
Mr. Thole		Project Implementation Unit	Agriculture
Mr. Andiwochi		Project Implementation Unit	Forestry
Miss Kalagho		Project Implementation Unit	Forestry
Mr. Nsiku		Project Implementation Unit	Community Development
Mr. Bauleni		Project Implementation Unit	Agriculture
Miss Mwachumu		Project Implementation Unit	Agriculture
Mr. Mbewe		Project Implementation Unit	Forestry

Surname	Picture	Position in COVAMS	Position in GOV.
Mr. Mpate		Project Implementation Unit	Forestry
Mrs. Chagoma		Project Implementation Unit	Community Development
Mr. Chiwaya		Driver	Driver
Miss Mbandambanda		Driver	Driver