



MALAWI

Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture (CARLA)

| LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LDCF grant | \$3,623,950 |
| Cofinancing | \$24,505,250 |
| NAPA completion | March 2006 |
| Inclusion in LDCF Work Program | July 2008 |
| Expected CEO endorsement | March 2010 |
| Expected implementation start and completion | March 2010–March 2015 |
| GEF Agency | African Development Bank (AfDB) |
| Other executing partners | Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), Ministry of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment; Department of Irrigation, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development |

Malawi is heavily dependent upon rain-fed subsistence agriculture, with more than 80 percent of the population generating their daily livelihoods from small-scale agriculture and around 60 percent of the population with insecure access to food on a year-round basis. While the newest climate models for Malawi show no conclusive trend in average rainfall, they do indicate a later onset of the rainy season. This causes shorter rainy seasons with higher average precipitation intensities, which, coupled with rising temperatures, lead to longer dry seasons and more frequent and severe droughts. Faced with increasing rates of climate

change-induced extreme weather events such as recurrent floods and droughts, the current baseline initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable economic growth and improved rural livelihoods in Malawi are at a high risk of failing. This in turn could lead to deteriorating food security and failing livelihoods among the large group of already vulnerable rural Malawians, as well as to the deterioration of the Malawian economy as a whole. Malawi has large natural resources, in particular fresh water, which could be used to cushion the effects of climate change, but these are vastly undeveloped at present.



Project Activities and Expected Impacts

The project builds directly on baseline activities supported by the African Development Bank's Smallholder Crop Production and Marketing Project (SCPMP), which supports irrigation development, including development of small-scale irrigation schemes, development of land for crop production, and improvement of cropping intensity and productivity, and a farmer support program, including support for water users, associations, training in water management, and crop production and pest control technologies.

The project adds a climate change adaptation perspective to the baseline investments through two key components: investments aimed at improving agricultural practices, land management, natural systems, and rural livelihoods through targeted adaptation interventions; and the creation of an enabling environment for climate risk management.

Specifically, the first part includes activities to enhance water distribution; promote better irrigation efficiency; change irrigation schedules; and promote water recycling, groundwater capture, and system rehabilitation. As a result of

climate change risks, attention is also given to water harvesting, including the construction of small dams, and the management of catchments of dams and rivers providing irrigation water, thus reducing siltation of dams/rivers for irrigation.

The second part creates an enabling environment for climate risk management to maximize positive impacts of the above mentioned investments, sustain their impacts in the long term, and lay the foundation for replication of best practices beyond the direct project activities. Activities address (a) plans, policies, legislation/regulations, and resource allocation; (b) institutional coordination; (c) generation and tailoring of knowledge on climate risk management for specific user groups, particularly in the context of the investment component; and (d) awareness raising.

Synergies and Coordination

The project is integrated into the ongoing investments by the African Development Bank's *Smallholder Crop Production and Marketing Project (SCPMP)*, which assures maximum synergy with efforts to improve food security at the national level.

For More Information

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August 2009
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