The Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM),
member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Lilongwe, Malawi

Flood Risk Reduction Through Restoration of Ecosystems and Ecological Protection

The project will reduce the impact of floods in some informal settlements of Malawi. It will use nature and ecosystem-based risk reduction measures, such as improving the resilience of riverbanks through restoration of degraded riverbanks. The project team aims to plant different vegetation to reduce the flood risk and provide ecological and economic benefits to the target communities. The community involvement at all levels will be an integral part of the project.

A severe flood-event caused a lot of losses in 2018. Houses were swept away, assets were lost.

The project goal is to reduce the impact of floods in informal settlements of Kaliyeka and Kawale in Lilongwe City, Malawi, through nature and ecosystem-based risk reduction measures. This will achieve four specific objectives:

— Improving the quality of storm water runoff from informal areas
— Controlling the quantity and rate of storm water runoff
— Encouraging natural groundwater recharge
— Strengthening local capacities for Eco-DRR

Project outcome:
Reduced impact of floods on 78,015 people, assets and ecosystems in the Kaliyeka, Kawale and Mchezi Ward areas.

Project outputs:

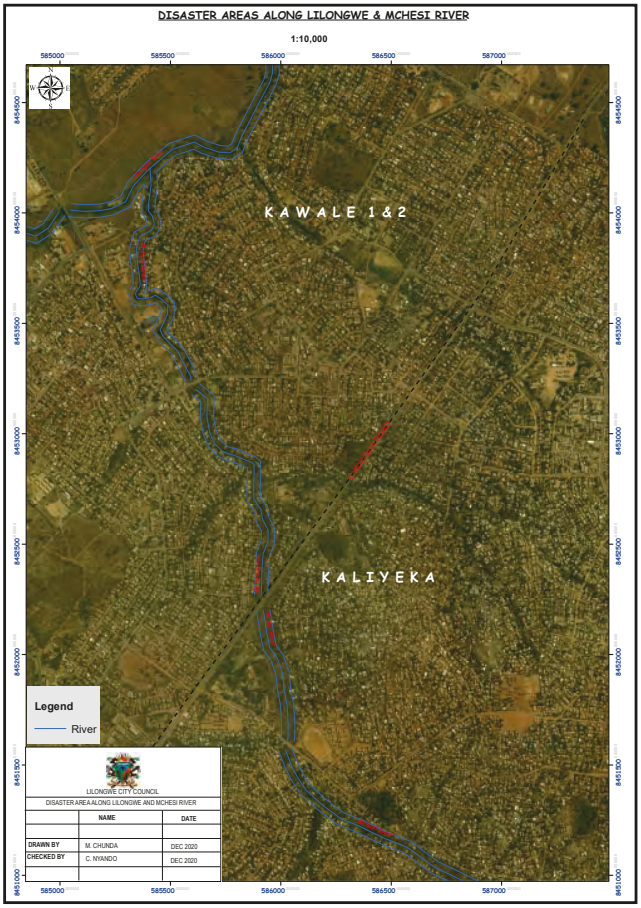
1. Protection of the Lilongwe and Mchesi rivers flood plains from adverse effects of floods

2. Strengthening of the Eco-DRR capacities of Lilongwe City Council, community DRR structures and primary schools

The project will be implemented in four flood-prone areas across the city of Lilongwe. These settlements lie along the Mchesi and Lilongwe rivers. The project is expected to benefit a total of 78,015 of the most vulnerable people living in the city of Lilongwe who have been affected by floods since 2012.

The lead project-implementing organisation is the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM). The other partners involved in the project include the Lilongwe City Council, the Centre for Community Organisation and Development, Malawi University of Science and Technology, UN Habitat and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. All these partners bring to the table valuable experience that will ensure the smooth implementation of the project. Each partner will be assigned different roles in the implementation of this project.

The project will be implemented for a period of 12 months.



Top: In 2019, another flood hit Lilongwe city and destroyed a lot of infrastructure.

Bottom: The map shows the four districts within Lilongwe in which the project is located. The two rivers, Mchesi and Lilongwe, provide livelihoods and fresh water; however, they also impose great risks.

Submitting organisation

WESM
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