



MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HON NANCY TEMBO MP, LAUNCHES MALAWI'S FIRST EVER GLFX CHAPTER – GLFX Lilongwe Chapter

Restoring Malawi's degraded and deforested landscapes



Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hon. Nancy Tembo MP, on Friday, 20th May 2021 launched Malawi's first ever community of individuals and organisations united by the passion to accelerate restoration of the country's degraded and deforested landscapes – GLFX Lilongwe Chapter. Fifty (50) people attended the launch in-person at the Bingu International Convention Centre in Lilongwe, and many more joined via Zoom.

The Malawi GLFX Chapter aims to provide an inclusive digital and in-person platform on which people with passion to restoring the country's degraded and deforested landscapes will connect and develop trusted relationships, share knowledge, learn from one another, and act together toward achieving sustainable landscapes in the country. The Chapter has already embarked on a forest landscape restoration capacity building project. The project aims to support scaling up of landscape restoration implementation in the country through developing a critical mass of well-trained landscape restoration practitioners and facilitators.

The Malawi GLFX Chapter is an initiative of the Centre for Applied Systems Analysis (CASA), a local knowledge Centre in Malawi, and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). The Chapter is part of the GLFX – a new digital platform for the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) community. The GLFX is dedicated to passionate people who are working to accelerate action towards more sustainable, integrated landscape management.

To register and join the community, or learn more about the Chapter, please visit: <https://glfx.globallandscapesforum.org/topics/22120/feed> or email us at: info@casamw.org



"Nearly 8 million hectares, or roughly 80% of Malawi's land area stand to be restored. Malawi has set aside 4.5 million hectares to be restored by 2030. To achieve this restoration target requires action by everyone, at every level, from grassroots to political decision-makers".

The Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hon. Nancy Tembo M.P., speaking during the launch.



"Successful landscape restoration implementation leading to lasting improvement in ecosystem function and socio-economic benefits to society largely depends on the knowledge and skills of all involved stakeholders of the restoration action"

Dr. Steve Makungwa, CASA Director, and Deputy Dean of the faculty of Natural Resources at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and GLFX Lilongwe Chapter Coordinator.



Participants attending the event in-person pose for a group photo soon after the launch



"Local communities and their landscapes are inextricably linked. They live and identify themselves with their landscapes. We urgently need to empower local communities, including the youth, in order to scale up and accelerate landscape restoration".

His Majesty Ngwenyama Inkosi Ya Makhosi Gomani V, the Ngoni Maseko Paramount Chief, sharing the voices of the local communities at the launch.



"Legal provisions do exist in Malawi's revised National Land Act (2016) to empower local communities to own customary land and be able to invest in long-term restoration activities"

Dr. Stanley Khaila, Coordinator of Shire Valley Transformation programme, and former Professor at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, told the participants at the launch.



"The government has put in place a framework for local actors to successfully restore the country's degraded and deforested lands. National restoration goals and restoration interventions are in place; and all stakeholders including farmers, local communities, traditional authorities, NGOs, government, private sectors, and partners are called upon to participate in restoring our landscapes"

Ms. Tangu Tumeo, National Focal Point for FLR in Malawi, told the participants at the launch.



"The trees we plant today will be utilizable at the time, we, the youth of today are old. How can we, as representatives of the future generation, be assured that we shall have quality land and resources to inherit?"

Charles Matewera queried the participants.



Cross-section of in-person participants attentively listening to inspiring landscape talks during the launch of the GLFX Lilongwe Chapter.



Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hon. Nancy Tembo M.P. receiving a present from CASA



On a lighter moment: Minister of Forestry and Natural Resources, Hon. Nancy Tembo M.P., CASA Director and GLFX Lilongwe Chapter Coordinator Dr. Steve Makungwa, Director of Forestry Department Dr. Clement Chilima, and Ngwenyama Inkosi Ya Makhosi Gomani V, bidding farewell.