

# COVAMS

Community Vitalization and Afforestation in  
the Middle Shire, Malawi



Malawi Government

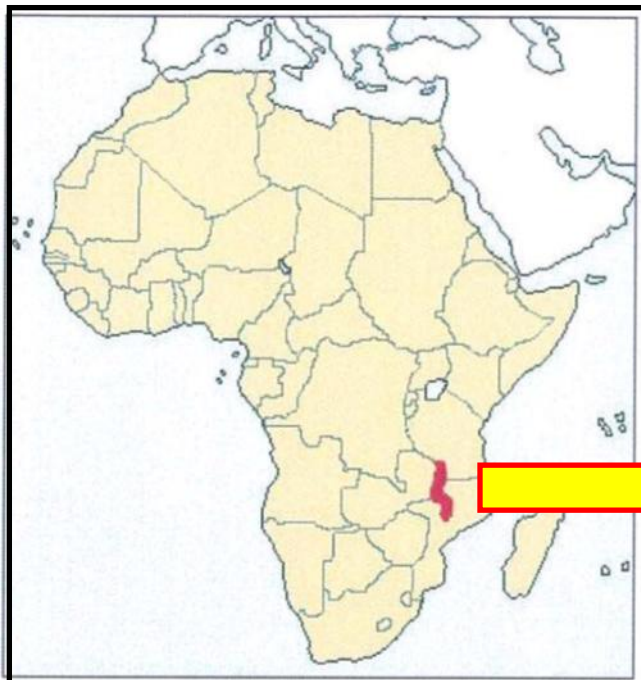
Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment

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# Location of COVAMS

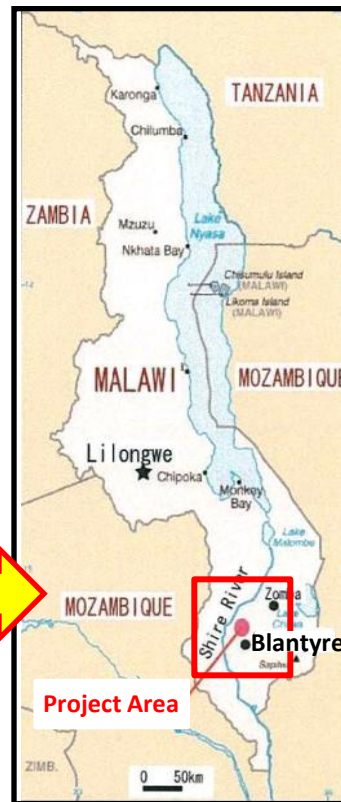
## Malawi

Area: 118,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 14 million



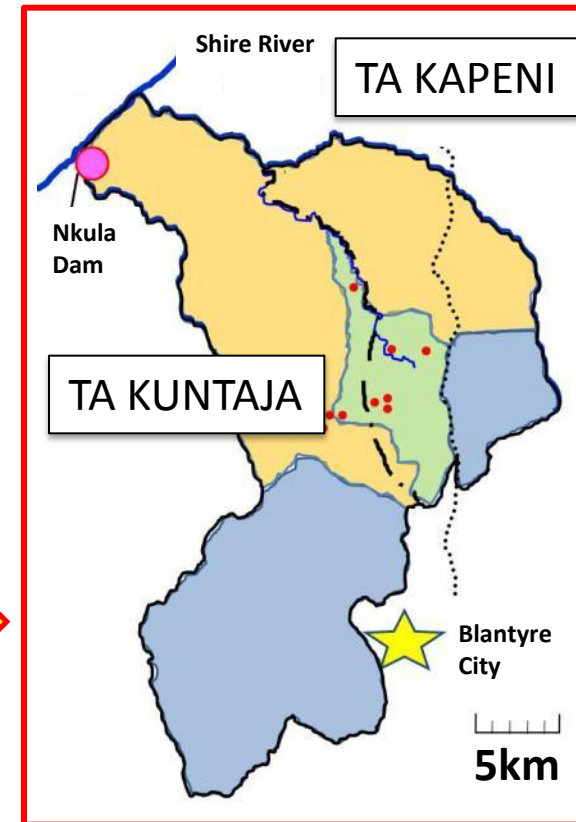
## Middle Shire

7,350 km<sup>2</sup>



## Project Area

575 km<sup>2</sup>



# The Framework

## 1. Targeted Area

Middle Shire area that supply 93% of total electricity in the country and Adjacent to Blantyre, the largest commercial city in the country.

## 2. Back Ground

Heavy siltation of Shire River caused by farmland development and Charcoal production poses a big problem to power generation capacity.

## 3. Purpose

Villagers practice sustainable forest management and conservation through the improvement of livelihoods to mitigate siltation in the Shire River.

## 4. Activities

land conservation , re-afforestation , natural regeneration , bee keeping , vegetable growing etc.



Gullies in Villages

# The Extension Methodology



## 1. PRODEFI approach

PRODEFI approach ( following 5 principles ) which was developed in one of the JICA projects in Senegal has been adopted.

- ① Trained in their respective villages
- ② Conducted with available local resources (human & material)
- ③ Matches with the villagers' needs
- ④ Opened to all members in the village
- ⑤ Repeated as long as there is demand

## 2. Lead Farmer system

COVAMS incorporate lead farmers who are selected in each villages and trained by extension staff as trainers to villagers

# Results and Observations



COVAMS training approach encourage villager's initiative and maintain cost-efficiency.

Target area is large and rapid dissemination is required.

★ Number of villages

169 ( 20,377 Households ) in 2010/11

244 ( 33,587 Households) in 2011/12

★ Attendance rate of all households

50%

★ Adoption rate of the message and technology

25% ( in first year )

# Project Activity 1

## Conducting Technical Training

Soil Erosion Control

Irrigated Vegetable Growing

Gully Control

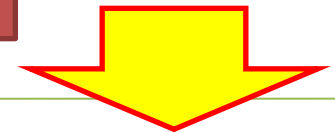
Fish farming

Tree Growing

Improved Stove Making

Beekeeping

Business Management



Soil Erosion  
Control

Gully  
Control

Tree  
Growing

Bee  
keeping

2009



# Project Activity 2

## Foster Lead Farmers

### Soil Erosion Control



**From  
2009**

### Tree Growing



**From  
2010**

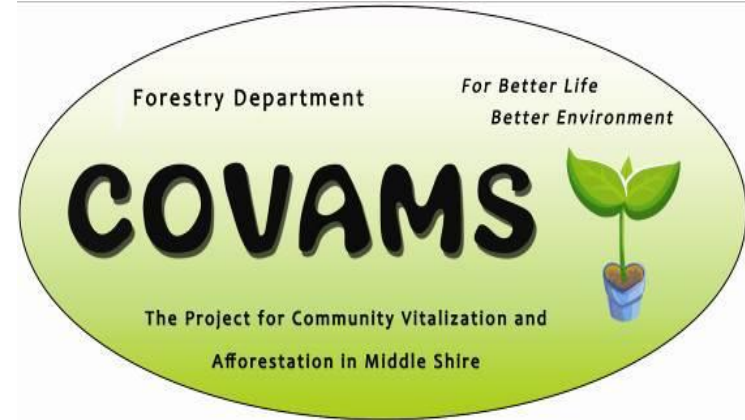
### Flow of the training

**Extension  
Officer**

**Lead  
Farmers**

**Fellow  
Farmers**

# Conclusions



- ★ Improved extension delivery methods increase the chances of policy implementation at local level as evidenced by the experience by COVAMS project approach.
- ★ Use of locally available resources and villagers as part of trainers ensures sustainability after project phase out.