



Kumbali Contracting NGL
Capitol Hill Dairy Farm
PO Box 30420
Lilongwe, 3
Malawi

Mitengo Ndi Moyo **KUMBALI TREE PROGRAM**

Kumbali Contracting (KC) in partnership with Natures Gift Ltd (NGL) has been implementing and overseeing a reforestation program located at Capitol Hill Dairy Farm (Commonly known as Kumbali Lodge) on the edge of Lilongwe for over 3 years (2014-2017). The partnership has named the program "Mitengo Ndi Moyo" pronounced: Ma-tango N-dee Moyo, (MND) which translates to "Trees are Life" or "Life is Trees".

This not for profit program is privately funded with profits from KC. The program started small but in 2018 MND will have over 18,500 trees ready for the coming rainy season. A crucial part of the program is the partnership with the surrounding communities and the Football/Netball League we have formed with them.

A Brief History of the Importance of Forests in Malawi:

Most articles point out that deforestation in Malawi is a recent phenomenon: a feature story in the New York Times in 2005 claims that forest cover in Malawi was lost between the years of 1990-2000. But other research tells a different story where the problem of deforestation seems to have begun during the pre-colonial period.

The Malawi region when it was first starting to be explored by westerners was an estimated 76% Forest cover. Filled with a vast diversity of wildlife and plant species. Today, the voracious appetite for charcoal, brick production, and lack of a reliable power grid in Malawi has seen its forest's reduced to less than 23% and the remaining forests are being depleted at the rate of 2.8% annually.

Tobacco, which was introduced into Malawi in 1891, had a large impact on the economy and social structures of the country. In the advent of this crop, large tracts of land were cleared of trees, and coupled with the process of fire-curing the tobacco, more trees were needed to support the industry. Decade by decade, large swathes of land were deforested to make way for tobacco farms.

The colonial government refrained from taking action against environmental degradation as they felt that it was not part of their jurisdiction. The colonial government's focus was channeled towards increasing the crop export rate despite the early signs of environmental degradation.

By 1940, thousands of acres of land had been degraded and it became evident to the colonial government that action was needed to curb the effects of

Mitengo Ndi Moyo

environmental degradation solely due to tobacco farming. In 1941, the Natural Resources Act was implemented, but fell short of creating change because the Colonial government was apprehensive to follow through with meaningful action.

In the early 1950's, a formalized forestry policy was put in place to address the adverse effects of deforestation. The Department of Forestry and the Ministry of Natural Resources was merged and in that decade, the colonial government took actionable approaches to environmental degradation. Five divisions were formed within the Forestry Department namely; the Forestry Development Division, the Viphya Plantations Division, the Forestry Extension Services Division, the Forestry Services Division and the Forestry Sector Technical Coordination Unit.

Malawi became independent in 1964 and within 5 decades, deforestation has reached an alarming rate. As Malawi continues to lose its forest cover due to the illegal charcoal industry, the more the country needs innovative solutions like cleaner cook stoves to lessen the demand for wood and charcoal. All of these very real impacts of deforestation are being felt on the Farm.

Mitengo Ndi Moyo Beginnings:

CHDF was bought from the Malawi government in 1997 at public auction by the Pickering family after they had migrated to Malawi from South Africa in 1990. Over the next 20 years the Pickering's refurbished the Dairy and began to farm seed Maize, Soya, and at times Tabaco. They were also able to establish Kumbali Country Lodge and Conference Center.

In 2010 deforestation began to drastically impact KCDF. From 2010-2017 KHDF has lost over 200 Hectares of indigenous forests. The cutting began at the edges of the farm moving in closer to the main buildings slowly. By 2014 the deforestation was becoming more apparent. At this point the first parts of what would become Mitengo Ndi Moyo began to take shape.

In the first phases of the reforestation efforts NGL hired extensive amounts of guards to patrol the forests on the farm. The patrols consisted of local Malawians hired from our surrounding villages to do walking patrols day and night with over 50 men employed at one point working on rotating schedules.

At first it appeared the patrols were working with more reports of tree cutters coming in being handed over to the local police for illegally cutting indigenous trees. But in reality, the deforestation was only being moved around the farm with the help of the newly employed guards. The guards would report when certain people would go on patrol to the tree cutters and make sure they had enough time to avoid capture.

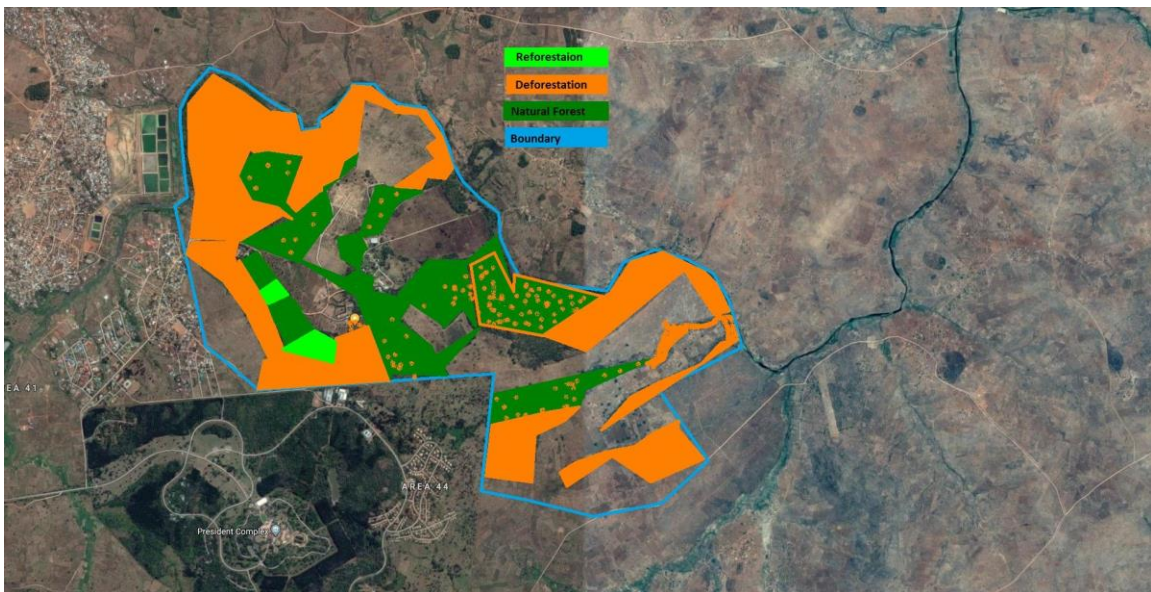
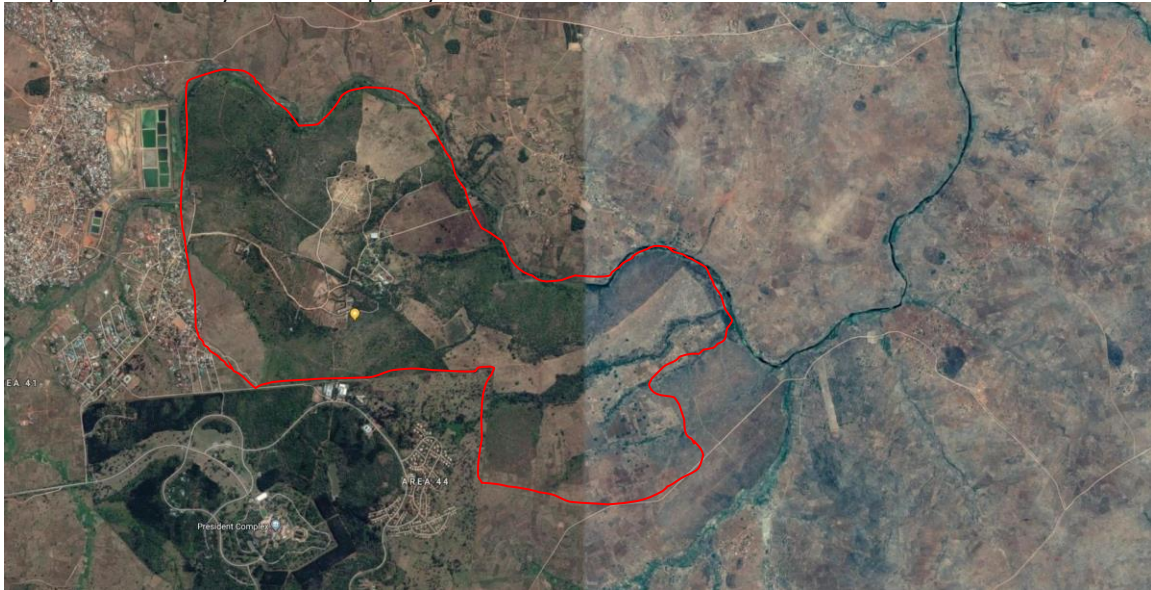
After 9 months of apparent progress information came to light that the guards and the tree cutters were working together and the guards were earning money for their part in the deception. NGL proceeded to fire 80% of the hired guards. They made a decision to hire half as many guards but to pay them more, and an

Kumbali Contracting NGL Capitol Hill Dairy Farm PO Box 30420 Lilongwe, 3 Malawi

Mitengo Ndi Moyo

effort was made to hire guards from further environs in Malawi. Unfortunately these changes had only a small positive effect on the forests and farm.

Capitol Hill Dairy Farm Property:



In total since 2010 Natures Gift Dairy Farm has lost over 200 Hectares of indigenous forests.

Mitengo Ndi Moyo is Born!

This led to some creative thinking and community focused problem-solving ideas. Clearly the antagonist approach wasn't working and a new collaborative program design was born. The current tree program is set up to interact with the

Kumbali Contracting NGL Capitol Hill Dairy Farm PO Box 30420 Lilongwe, 3 Malawi

Mitengo Ndi Moyo

communities through the local men's Football and women's Netball Clubs. KC sponsor a men's Football Team and a Women's Netball team in the neighboring village of Canada in Area 44 Lilongwe. MNM provides uniforms, balls, and transportation to events that the clubs participate in. In exchange for this the teams assist in the tree tubing, planting, seed banking and most importantly of all the protection of the forests on the northwest side of Capitol Hill Dairy Farm.

This community based cooperative program began officially in 2015. Since then we have seen success in the protection of the new forests with at least an 80% survival rates as well as a drastic reduction in older trees being cut in the area of the farm's forests that the community teams look after. Due to this success MNM hopes to find funds to expand the sponsorship to more Football and Netball teams in surrounding Village.

Men's and Women's Football & Netball Teams:



The 2 Hectare with the 80% successful reforestation grown and protected with Football/Netball Club assistance:

Kumbali Contracting NGL Capitol Hill Dairy Farm PO Box 30420 Lilongwe, 3 Malawi

Mitengo Ndi Moyo



2016 Rainy season planting by the teams at 2 hectare site



Same Site 2-12-17

Mitengo Ndi Moyo



3 Year old Acacia forest, .5 Hectare done by Football Club 2015

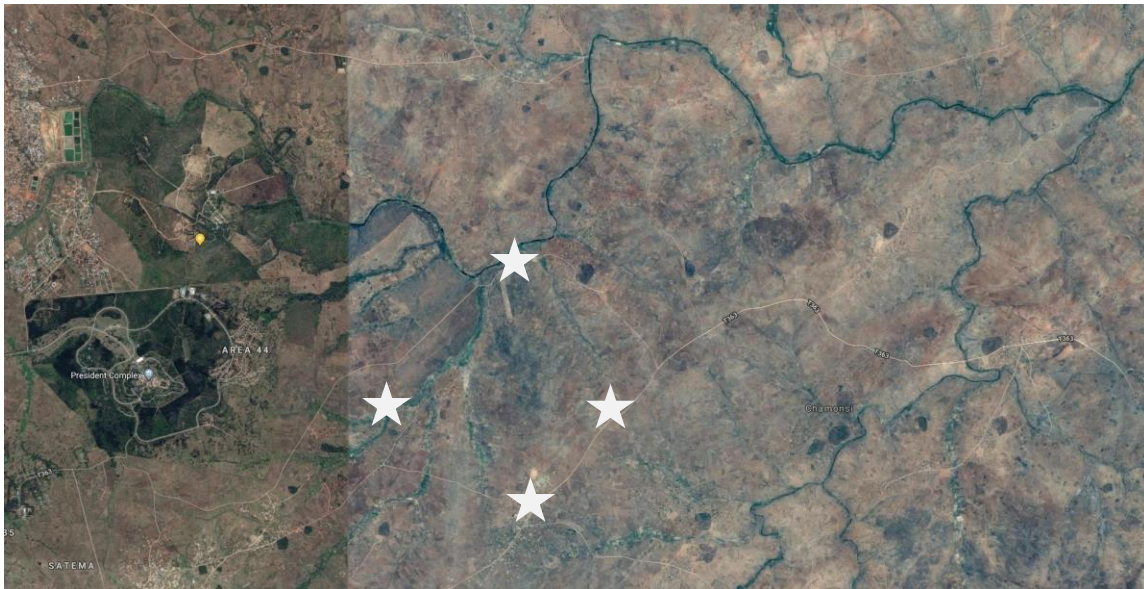


Area of Planting 2017/18 Rainy Season:

Football League Tournaments:

Due to this success MNM has begun to expand the program to the North East side of the farm with an annual football tournament, the **First Rains Tournament**. In order to qualify to play in this tournament the entering team must supply, and maintain 2,000 seedling in the local villages then plant them once they are ready for the ground. If a participating team fails to maintain this they will be expelled from the games and not allowed to enter the next year's tournament. MNM supplies tree tubes, water buckets and seeds to 4 villages on the rural side of the farm as part of our outreach football program. In 2018 MNM hopes to expand the **First Rains Tournament** to include 8-10 Villages on the rural side of the farm.

When it is time to plant the seedlings another tournament will be held. **The Planting Games**. The entry fee for this tournament will be the planting of the successfully germinated seedlings from The First Rains Tournament. Each participating team member will also be given 5 seedlings to have for their home, village or farm.



Villages that Participated in The First Rains Tournament

Mitengo Ndi Moyo



Head gardener speaking at The First Rains Tournament



Rural tree nursery from Ngoma Village Team



Rural tree nursery inspections 2017

Mitengo Ndi Moyo

Future Growth and Partnerships:

MNM uses the Football clubs to help educate the local youth on the importance of planting trees and saving Malawi's natural resources. The seedlings are kept in our nursery until ready to plant. In 2018 we will be relocating our main nursery from KC construction yard to Natures Gift Permaculture Center in order to expand our capacity and allow a staff member to live on site to better assist with the trees.

At the Natures Gift Permaculture Center the Mitengo Ndi Moyo Tree Program has the opportunity to interact with overseas volunteers and youth groups. The Permaculture center is being set up to house volunteers as they visit Malawi and we are currently building a curriculum to allow the volunteers to directly assist in the tubing, planting, seed banking and in future a bricket press for an alternative fuel source for cooking and heating their homes.

Malawi Carnivore Research is currently moving to the Permaculture site as well to study the wild life that is still teaming on Capitol Hill Dairy Farm. With the combination of the Tree Program and Malawi Carnivore Research we hope to expand our volunteer program for the winter seasons when tourism is at its height here in Malawi.

With the incorporation of Natures Gift Permaculture Center site as our new home base MNM hopes to expand our tree production to 40,000 in 2018 pending available funds.



New location at Natures Gift Permaculture center

Mitengo Ndi Moyo

How do we choose which seeds and trees to plant?:

The seeds for our program are harvested from our existing trees with the assistance of our Football and Netball Clubs. When MNM cannot find enough seeds on the farm we go to town and buy from the government seed suppliers. MNM grows a range of trees including exotics.

Our current Trees total over 16,500 and include many indigenous species: Gracidia, Acacia, Jacaranda, Nsikidze, Seba, Mango, Jambora, Red Mahogany, Bush Mahogany, Flamboyant, Yellow Thorn, White Thorn, India, Mtawa, and Caica.



Current Nursery 2017



Tree distribution 2016:



Mitengo Ndi Moyo



Sponsored tam at play

Costs:

Football Costs per Community Team: can vary slightly

One Football (men)/One Netball (women)

Item	Cost	Annually
Uniforms	\$250 USD (last 3 years)	\$83 USD
Petrol/Bus Rental	\$125 USD monthly	\$1,500 USD
Planting One Hectare	\$1,500 USD	
Maintain One Hectare	\$1,400 USD for 7 years	

Tournament Costs:

Item	Cost	Annual Cost
prize money, equipment, set up, petrol and other expenses	\$300 USD	\$600 USD

Full Time Staff:

Staff	Monthly Salary	Annual Cost
2 Laborers	\$42 USD	
Head Gardener	\$85 USD	
Total	\$168 USD	\$2,016 USD

Future plans:

Mitengo Ndi Moyo is targeting a small, specific area of one the most heavily impacted parts of Malawi. If we can be successful in protecting and growing these forests we will provide an example of a way forward in the continued struggle of deforestation in Africa.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider us and we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

For more information please contact:

Kyle D. Willett, Sr. Project Manager

+265 992 67 0616 | kyle@kumbalicontracting.com