



MT. MULANJE REGION: MALAWI

COUNTRY: Malawi
START DATE: May 2006
FUNDING: \$260,000 – WADA



Eucalyptus trees planted on mid-elevation slopes of Mt. Mulanje improve water quantity and quality

KEY PARTNERS:

- Southern Bottlers, Ltd. – local Coca-Cola bottler
- USAID/Malawi
- Development Alternatives, Inc.
- Malawi Ministry of Mines and Energy
- Malawi Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Malawi Ministry of Water and Irrigation
- Local Tea Producers
- Local Environmental NGOs

ACTIVITIES SUMMARY:

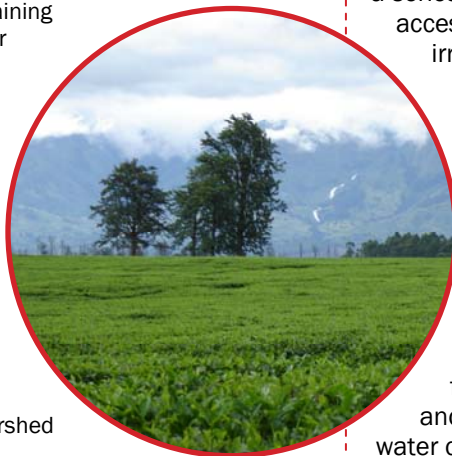
- Water supply services, watershed management, agricultural water use, and water resources governance in the Mt. Mulanje region

BENEFICIARIES:

- 17,038 persons benefiting from access to improved water supply
- 8,763 hectares of forest under improved management
- 150 farmer households provided with small-scale drip irrigation equipment and training
- 100 hectares of smallholder tree crops established

ALLIANCE OBJECTIVES:

- **Watershed Management**
 - Disseminating irrigation technology and training smallholder farmer groups
 - Adopting soil and water conservation practices and planting perennial tree crops to protect the watershed
 - Conducting valuation of Mt. Mulanje ecosystem
 - Facilitating government and community co-management of Forest reserve
- **Water Supply and Sanitation Services**
 - Constructing three spring-box water supplies
 - Rehabilitating one gravity-fed water system
 - Establishing 27 village water user committees



Tea fields with economic importance to the country are expanded under improved environmental practices

PROTECTING WATER FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

The Water and Development Alliance (WADA) supports sustainable water resources management and increased water supply access in and around the Mt. Mulanje protected area. Mulanje Mountain – often called Malawi’s “Island in the Sky” – is of national economic importance and considered to be of global environmental significance for its rich biodiversity. Mt. Mulanje produces abundant water resources that are of the utmost importance to surrounding populations and businesses, including extensive tea estates that have high economic value to the country.

These water resources are now seriously threatened. Encroachment into both natural and plantation forest areas, uncontrolled burning and illegal logging, and unsuitable smallholder farming practices on the steep lower slopes of the mountain adversely affects local water quantity and quality.

WADA activities are working in diverse ways to respond to these challenges. In collaboration with Development Alternatives, Inc., private sector development specialists, and a series of local partner institutions, the project improves access to water for household use and small-scale irrigation by rehabilitating system infrastructure in targeted areas. The Mt. Mulanje watershed and its biodiversity are also being conserved and rehabilitated through reforestation of two upper watersheds, better management of agricultural lands, and increased public participation in watershed conservation efforts.

To ensure long-term sustainability, partners are investing in improving governance of water resources through strengthening local institutions, forming water user groups, developing water valuation and pricing, and encouraging a broader understanding of water conservation issues among communities in the Mt. Mulanje area. This project has successfully leveraged resources from ongoing programs of USAID/Malawi as well as local private sector operators for expanded reforestation and farm system improvements, including local tea producers.