

Mulanje Community Buffer Manager

Employer – WeForest Malawi

Job Title – Community buffer manager

Location – Mulanje & Phalombe districts

Reporting to – Country Director

Responsible for – all project activities in the community buffer zone

About WeForest

WeForest is a fast growing international non-profit association with headquarters in Belgium and legal entities in France, USA, Ethiopia, Zambia and by start 2023, in Malawi. Our aim is to demonstrate, through the restoration of entire regions, that well planned tree planting and reforestation can be the solutions to today's biggest challenge: climate change. The organization is promoting Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) best practices, creating a movement, engaging the greatest brands and their millions of customers to act positively. Our activities are growing and the organization is looking for an experienced profile to further capacitate its Malawian team, and drive the Mulanje co-management project to the highest standards.

WeForest has been active around Mulanje cedar and miombo restoration in Malawi since 2018, starting in Mt Mulanje Forest Reserve, Mulanje/Phalombe district. Currently, the project is expanding with a time-horizon till 2034, focused on co-management of miombo woodlands within the Forest Reserve. The buffer zone bordering the Forest Reserve spans more than 10.000 hectares, home to more than 10.000 households.

We are still a small team and hence need a dynamic, critical-thinking and result-oriented colleague with a can-do attitude who takes up a leadership role in the position of Community Buffer Manager. You will implement and supervise WeForest's work in the Mulanje buffer zone surrounding the miombo co-managed woodlands in the Forest Reserve, ensuring forest and rural landscape activities are aligned. You will focus on 1) balancing fuelwood supply and demand through agroforestry and clean cookstoves, 2) building business development in the rural buffer with the forest management entities and 3) managing partnership relations in the buffer zone to complement WeForest's work.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Balance fuelwood demand/supply

1. Lead cookstove programme to reduce fuelwood demand in the buffer zone for approx. 15.000 households
 - Strengthen Chitetezo Mbaula value chain by co-developing a Market Systems Development solution with partners
 - Ensure reinvestment in Improved Cookstoves by households in long-run, perpetuating cookstove use
2. Lead agroforestry programme to increase fuelwood supply in the buffer zone for approx. 15.000 households
 - Improve existing fuelwood provision from Village Forest Areas and communal woodlots in buffer zone through improving governance, law enforcement, forest management etc. for VFAs/existing woodlots where needed, following SWOT analysis
 - Establish additional fuelwood provision in buffer zone through planting of 2.7 million trees across 8 planting years, utilizing existing farmer structures like Farmer Field Schools (FFS) present in the buffer zone

Build business development for Forest Block Committees (FBCs)

1. Co-implement beekeeping scheme with Community forest manager
 - Coach FBCs to identify most suitable beekeeping management entity per sub-block scheme
 - Support identification existing market players and link FBC/beekeeping entities to markets
2. Source additional income streams for co-management entities
 - Ensure community enterprises sourcing from the co-management blocks are integrated in co-management governance structure
 - Negotiate with potential Payment for Ecosystem partners to ensure the rights of co-management blocks are represented and respected

Manage partner relations in the buffer zone

1. Enable partnerships with agricultural organizations to draw support to the buffer zone
2. Enable partnerships with behaviour-change/environmental awareness organizations to draw support to the buffer zone
3. Support development of partnerships with relevant Departments under 1) the Ministry of Agriculture and 2) the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development at National, Zonal and District level
4. Scope for additional meaningful partnerships supporting/complementing WeForest's work

Other

1. Support feasibility and development of new co-management areas in the Mt Mulanje landscape

CANDIDATE PROFILE

a. Education:

- Essential: **M.Sc.** in Forestry/Agroforestry/Agriculture or Development/agricultural Economics or Climate Change and Sustainable Development or equivalent experience in Development Studies. OR **B.Sc.** in the same with at least 10+ years of work experience.

b. Work experience and skills:

Essential:

- 5+ years relevant work experience (or 10+ if B.Sc.), with demonstrated experience in leading teams and innovating strategy
- Previous interaction with community-based organisations and experience with training and local capacity building at smallholder farmer level
- Excellent communication and numerical skills
- Beekeeping and agroforestry knowledge and experience
- Acquainted to Market Systems Development approaches (MSD/M4P)
- Clean and excellent track record and references

Desirable:

- Exposure to and experience with both the corporate and the NGO sector
- Forest management knowledge and experience
- Track record with gender-sensitive participatory, governance and inclusion approaches

c. Language: Fluent in English (both speaking and writing) and Chichewa (both speaking and writing)

d. Other requirements

- Driving license
- Be willing to live in Mulanje/Phalombe
- Flexible in terms of travelling and working conditions

Terms & Conditions

Start date:	31st January 2023
Duration of Contract:	One year, renewable to a two-year contract based upon performance
Salary:	Level 3b. Remuneration based on experience.
Location:	Based at the WeForest office in Mulanje at first, and Phalombe once activities initiated in the District.
Hours of Work:	Full-time, working a minimum of 8 hours per day (5 days/week). Hours will however vary depending on project needs and flexibility is essential.
Reporting line:	Supervised by the WeForest Malawi Country Director and very close collaboration with Community forest manager

Interested?

- Please send applications to malawi@weforest.org with your CV, a motivation letter (max one page), and 2 recent references by 15th December 2022.
- Make sure to mention the job title in the subject of the email. In your motivation letter, we'd love to read about what makes you interested to work with WeForest.
- Due to the anticipated high number of applicants, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. We thank you in advance for your interest.