

# Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

## CBRM Database

<b>Date:</b>	<b>December 16, 2011</b>	<b>Entry Number:</b>	<b>1176</b>
<b>Case Study Name:</b>	Partnership for success—community-based economic development: a case study of Ngolowindo Cooperative, Malawi		
<b>Author:</b>	Hill, T.R., Nel, E.L., & Illgner, P.		
<b>Document Type:</b>	Paper in scientific journal		
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<b>Region:</b>	Africa		
<b>Country:</b>	Malawi		
<b>Ecosystem Type:</b>	Agriculture		
<b>Social Characteristics:</b>	Rural communities		
<b>Scale of Study:</b>	Community		
<b>Resource Type:</b>	Agriculture		
<b>Type of Initiative:</b>	Research driven project		

<b>Community Based Work:</b>	Economic development
<b>Keywords:</b>	Nongovernmental Organizations, NGOs, Countries, Tanzania, Strategies, Africa, Environmental studies, Public administration, Irrigation
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>Africa has a disproportionate share of the world's poorest countries and within this context economically weak states generally lack the ability to provide the ideal level of support and opportunities for their citizens. This paper examines how, in Malawi, a community-based economic development initiative, with the aid of a supportive NGO, has significantly improved rural livelihoods and facilitated market access in the formal market economy. Active government and NGO support for small scale irrigation farming coupled with their encouragement of community development led to the emergence of the Ngolowindo agricultural cooperative which serves as a useful model and example of locality-based development in Africa. After providing a context for the study in terms of both contextual literature and details specific to the Malawian context, the paper examines how the cooperative emerged, how it operates, what role the supporting NGO plays, and how products are sold. The study concludes with an overview of key findings and an examination of the lessons for local development in Africa.</p>