

V2V THEMATIC WEBINAR SERIES 2026

Use of Fisher Logbooks in monitoring the vulnerability of Small-Scale Fisheries of Lake Chilwa in Malawi

In Malawi, small-scale fisheries involve over 95% of the total number of fishers and therefore generate significant employment for the rural shoreline communities. As defined by Malawi's Fisheries Act, these fisheries are exempt from mandatory catch reporting, creating a large gap in catch data for estimating fish stock status and vulnerability. This paper describes the development of a fishing logbook system for monitoring the vulnerability of small-scale fisheries in Lake Chilwa. The V2V transitions approach was used to unpack the complexities and develop strategies for enabling factors to establish a catch monitoring system for the small-scale fisheries. This initiative shows that a trade-off between an ideal fishing logbook system versus an applicable model that may strengthen logbook data quality is inevitable. Considering that the fisher logbook method has demonstrated superiority over the conventional catch data method, this work is an essential basis for improving the viability of small-scale fisheries in Malawi.

Photo credit: Vanessa Warren, 2021

V2V COUNTRY CASE STUDIES IN FOCUS: MALAWI



ISHMAEL BOBBY MPHANGWE KOSAMU, PHD

Ishmael B.M. Kosamu is a Professor of Environmental Management and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), where he oversees academic services and promotes excellence in research, innovation, and academic entrepreneurship. He recently served as Malawi's National Secretary to the Government and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (GMAG) for the development of the National State of the Environment and Outlook Report (2026) under UNEP. His research interests include sustainability, ecosystem services, transdisciplinarity, fisheries governance, environmental management, natural resources management, and environmental and social impact assessments.

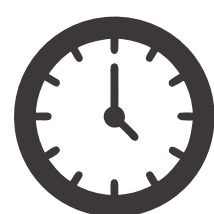
SPEAKERS

Friday Njaya is a researcher in the GCBC-supported Building Adaptive Fisheries Governance Capacity Project (2023–2026), jointly coordinated by the University of Birmingham in the UK, the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He holds a PhD in Public Policy and has practical experience in implementing co-management in Malawi. He is also engaged in the Vulnerability to Viability (V2V) Global Partnership, an international, transdisciplinary research and knowledge network supporting Malawi's Lake Chilwa small-scale fisheries in transitioning from marginalization and vulnerability to economic, social, and ecological viability.

DR. FRIDAY NJAYA



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12:00 PM UTC to 1:15 PM UTC
8:00 AM EDT to 9:15 AM EDT



<https://youtube.com/live/cG8CRgAdT9oRgAdT9o>



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V2Vglobalpartnership@gmail.com