Project Summary

Project Background
The development of SMEs in Malawi is hindered by the lack of an enabling environment and the inadequacy of business services needed by SMEs with potential for growth. To support further development of the private sector in Malawi, the European Commission provided institutional support for four and a half years for a total commitment of €1,920,000. The project’s overall development objective was to enhance economic growth through promotion of production, trade and service activities of SMEs within the private sector.

Evaluation Objectives
The end of project evaluation was aimed at:
- Assessing the performance vis-à-vis the initial overall objectives, project purpose and expected results;
- Evaluating overall implementation process in order experiences;
- Documenting experiences and lessons learnt;
- Identifying areas that needed additional support.

Evaluation Activities
The evaluation was focused on the five main beneficiary agencies (govt. and private), the key elements being:
- The functioning of the SME Support Unit of the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI);
- The sustainability of service provided by MCCCI to its stakeholders;
- The effectiveness and sustainability of the Secretariat of the Malawi Tourism Association;
- Trends in private sector investment in the tourism industry;
- The improvement in capacity of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The evaluation mission was conducted with a debriefing session organized with stakeholders, beneficiaries, the NAO and the ECD.

Implementation Features
- Evaluation methodology according to EC guidelines, adapted to the special project situation;
- Close consultation with the five main intermediary organisations, and their stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Services Provided
- Briefings and desk research; Development of data collection tools
- Institutional analysis of five beneficiary agencies; needs assessment
- Field surveys with intermediaries and beneficiaries
- Debriefing and draft report
- Feed-back on draft report; preparation of final report

Malawi
End of project evaluation of a private sector support programme

Client
European Commission / EC

Duration
27.08.2004 - 31.10.2004

Personnel
Team of 2 international STE (3 PM)
- 1 evaluation specialist with trade/trade institution experience
- 1 evaluation specialist with SME background

INTEGRATION