Empowering communities to achieve a sustainable future by providing a hand up, not a hand out.
RIPPLE Africa is a UK registered charity (1103256 and SC043082) focused on the environment, education and healthcare in Nkhata Bay District of Malawi, Africa. Founded in 2003, our mission is:

• To preserve and sustainably develop the environment  
• To improve the standard of education and healthcare  
• To create opportunities for the local communities in the Nkhata Bay District of Malawi

RIPPLE Africa’s ethos is “providing a hand UP and not a hand out,” and we work by finding simple solutions to locally identified problems and empower local communities to secure a sustainable future.

ABOUT THE TEAM

During the year, RIPPLE Africa employed two full time and one part time members of staff in the UK. Pam Haigh is the full time UK General Manager, Nikki Luxford is the full time Volunteer and Project Coordinator and Claire Battersby is the part time Administrator. In addition, the co-founders, Geoff and Liz Furber continued to work for the Charity for no remuneration. Towards the end of the year we recruited Claire Mollatt who will be supporting monitoring and Evaluation of our Fish Conservation project. Claire will be working in Malawi and her home country of Zimbabwe.

In Malawi, our Environmental Programme Manager is Force Ngwira and our Mwaya Manager is Morton Banda. Over the period, approximately 150 Malawian staff were employed by RIPPLE Africa, and almost 3,500 local people worked with us on an ad hoc or voluntary basis on our environmental projects.

RIPPLE Africa, Inc.

Kay Yoder continues to run the Charity’s partner non-profit from her base in Florida. RIPPLE Africa, Inc., has made grants totalling £60,102 during the reporting period. The grants supported a number of different projects and all income was restricted. In addition following a donation by a supporter in the US, RIPPLE Africa Inc have purchased a vehicle for the Fish Conservation project for $56,319.

RIPPLE Africa, Australia.

Former volunteer, Rachael Hempling, has recruited seven trustees and has registered RIPPLE Africa Australia Inc as an Incorporated Association in the state of Queensland. The next step is registering with ASIC (The Australian Securities & Investments Commission) so that they can trade (take donations) from all states and territories. They will then register with the Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission, so that donors can benefit from Deductible Gift Recipient status. Former volunteers and visitors from Australia have been invited to become members of the new organisation.

RIPPLE Africa, Canada.

Jim Frye who contacted us after visiting our website, is in the process of setting up a Canadian fundraising arm and is currently recruiting Trustees and setting up the organisation as a legal entity able to fundraise in Canada. Jim is visiting Malawi in October to see the projects and we will then discuss plans for fundraising in Canada.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

A total of 29 volunteers stayed at Mwaya and assisted with the Charity’s projects during the year. We also welcomed a visit from Aldenham School and a further 46 visitors who have come to stay and learn about our work, including a team of Geography students from Worcester University and a group of visitors who are members of the US based organisation, Dining for Women who have donated towards the Changu Changu Moto project in Mzuzu. We also welcomed some of our corporate supporters who were delighted to be able to see first hand the impact that we are able to make as a result of their support for our tree planting and forest conservation projects.

Income from volunteers (donations towards accommodation and their fundraising) totalled £39,680 and visitors raised £20,623.
FUTURE PLANS

• We will continue to welcome a school group each year and would love more schools to come and visit.
• We will forge partnerships with other universities to encourage them to visit and support our projects.
• We will encourage more people to take up volunteering opportunities.
• We also hope to welcome more visitors, particularly those who have supported our projects.

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RIPPLE Africa’s Projects – Achievements in 2016/2017 and Future Plans

Environment

Fish Conservation

With the help of funding from several charitable trusts, we have been able to extend the reach of the Fish Conservation project to include a limited version of the project in Nkhotakota District and the northern part of Nkhata Bay District so the project is now protecting the lakeshore in both districts.

Bylaws were officially signed for Nkhata Bay at a ceremony on 6th May 2017 – these were the first in the whole of Malawi to be signed by District Councillors, a new legal requirement.

We have opened an office in Nkhotakota adjacent to the office used by the District Fisheries team and are working closely with local communities to introduce bylaws here and to recruit fish conservation committee members. Chia Lagoon in particular are very keen to be involved to ensure that they halt the decline in the numbers of Chambo.

We have recruited Sam Banda, a Fisheries graduate from Malawi to help with data collection and recently took on Claire Mollatt to support the monitoring and evaluation effort for the project.

Forest Conservation and Tree Planting

We have continued to support over 800 volunteer Forest Conservation Committee members in the Kandoli Hills and during the year we have expanded the Forest Conservation project to include Choma Hill, an area near Mzuzu where charcoal production has been a major factor in deforestation. We have held awareness meetings here and are in the process of setting up 16 Forest Conservation Committees.

Tree Planting around Mzuzu is going extremely well. We are working with local farmers who are planting
mainly pine and bluegum (eucalyptus), which can be sold for timber and firewood. The soil here is ideal for tree planting and we have appointed two tree planting coordinators to work with the farmers to teach them how best to care for the trees. In the last 12 months, we have planted 710,582 trees.

**Improved Sweet Potatoes**

In association with District Agricultural staff we have supported the introduction of improved sweet potatoes into Nkhata Bay District. RIPPLE Africa were approached by CIP (The International Potato Center) who were funded to scale up the introduction of orange fleshed sweet potatoes into Malawi, which are higher yielding and contain higher levels of Vitamin A. CIP were looking for an NGO based in the north of Malawi to manage the distribution of the new sweet potato tubers to farmers in the area who would then report on their success at growing these and highlight any issues. We have worked with the agriculture department and introduced new improved Orange Flesched Sweet Potatoes to 1,800 farmers who have shared their surplus vines with an estimated 8,000 additional farmers.

*Changu Changu Moto Fuel-efficient Cookstoves*

We are continuing to monitor the use of the 43,000 cookstoves that we have in use in the Nkhatata Bay and Mzimba Districts and kitchen performance tests were again carried out to establish the quantity of wood saved. Carbon Credits are now available for sale and Sigma Global are working closely with us to ensure that we find purchasers at the right price.

In the Mzuzu area, we found it difficult to introduce the scheme where most householders are in rented accommodation as often they did not have kitchens where the Changu Changu Moto could be built. Our coordinators have therefore been working mainly with householders who own their own property and where kitchens are of good quality to avoid the cookstoves being washed away in the rainy season.

**Future Plans for Environmental Projects**

- RIPPLE Africa are hoping to introduce the full fish conservation scheme in the whole of Nkhotakota District and will work closely with the District Fisheries Office there to ensure that the project is successful here. We will begin to gather robust data on fish catches, fishing effort and the impact on household income to be able to demonstrate the impact of the project on fish stocks and the wellbeing of fishermen and their families.
- We will continue to visit those householders who have installed the Changu Changu Moto to ensure that it is being effectively used and undertake kitchen performance tests annually for the Carbon Credit scheme.
- We will continue to support our forest conservation committees in Kandoli Hills and will continue to support forest conservation and tree planting in Choma Hill. We plan to plant 2,500,000 trees in the areas around Mzuzu.
- We will also begin the forest conservation project in the south of Nkhata Bay District as a pilot scheme.
- We will work with District Forestry staff in northern Nkhotakota to plant 500,000 trees here.
- We will construct a screening house to provide disease free orange fleshed sweet potatoes and aim to become the main supplier of orange fleshed sweet potatoes in northern Malawi.
- We will aim to support a further 3,000 local farmers to grow improved sweet potatoes and to pass on surplus vines to 3-5 neighbours.
EDUCATION

Pre-schools
We have continued to support our eight pre-schools and have carried out structural repairs at Matete 1 preschool and have repainted Matete 1 and Chitingulu Pre-Schools during the last year. New toys and equipment have been provided and staff have received training in resource making and in the new reading programme which is being introduced into primary schools Standards 1-4. More nutritious orange-fleshed sweet potatoes are now being grown at all pre-schools.

Primary Schools
The Charity continues to work closely with the Primary Education Advisor and her team to identify how it can best support them to improve outcomes for primary school children. RIPPLE Africa have continued to fund 15 trainee teachers to enable large classes to be split.

A new basic double classroom block has been built at Matete Primary School, improvements have been made to the other classroom blocks and we are just completing the building of an office and secure storage room for the teachers. We are also completing two teachers’ houses that the community started but don’t have the funds to complete.

Kapanda Community Day Secondary School
We have built a kitchen at Kapanda, which will be used by the cooks feeding the girls living in the dormitory. The kitchen includes new larger cooking pots, which will use the same technology as the Changu Changu Moto, reducing wood use. We have also purchased land for growing food to feed the female students that are boarding to reduce the fees.

Secondary School Scholarship Programme
The aim of this scheme is to pay the school fees of the brightest and most committed students so that they can attend secondary school. Each year, we fund 16 children per year at Kapanda Secondary School and 5 children from our local primary schools who are offered places at Government Boarding Schools. The top two performing students from Mwaya and Mazembe Adult Literacy classes are also sponsored to attend Kapanda Open School.

In total this year, we paid the fees of 74 secondary school students who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to attend secondary school.

University Education
We have funded two new students to attend university this year – Aaron Banda and Richard Banda (not related). Richard is studying Disaster and Risk Management at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (Thyolo) and Aaron is studying Environmental Health at the Polytechnic in Blantyre.

Adult Literacy
We have continued to support the adult literacy programme at Mwaya and as numbers had fallen at Mazembe, we have moved this class to Mwaya and are running classes now on four days each week. This
year 30 students attended these classes.

**Community Library**
We continued to support the community library, which continues to be a popular resource and have added more school text books to the reference section to support local children as schools are unable to provide enough copies for them.

**Future Plans for Education**

- A new pre-school will be built at Kachere, close to Kachere Primary School, so that the children no longer have to be taught in a room at Kachere clinic. This will allow the children to have their own toilet facilities and outdoor play area. We will also build new toilets at Mwaya Pre-School.
- We will build a new basic classroom at Mazembe Primary School to replace a temporary shelter built by parents for Standard 1 children. We will also repair roof damage caused by termites.
- We are starting a primary school building improvement programme to improve the learning environment at the schools we support, starting with installing transparent roof sheets to increase light in the classrooms.
- We will continue to pay the salaries of 15 trainee teachers to support local teaching staff and continue to run two adult literacy classes.
- We will be starting a programme to improve digital literacy at Kapanda School and will also support digital literacy at the other schools attended by our sponsored students.
- We will continue to support top performing primary school students to attend Kapanda and government boarding schools through our Secondary School scholarship scheme - only children who perform well will allowed to stay on the scheme.
- We will sponsor another two of our sponsored secondary school students who have been offered university places.
- We will continue to support the library, particularly with the purchase of school textbooks for its reference section.

**HEALTHCARE**
We have recruited Mathilda as the new coordinator for the Disability and Rehabilitation Scheme and she is working closely with volunteer physiotherapists and nurses to provide community support for disabled children in our local area. In addition to home visits, four support groups now meet regularly where families of children with disabilities can meet others in the area and this is proving very successful, enabling more clients to be seen at once, reducing isolation among these families and encouraging parents to help each other.

We also continue to pay for transport for children to attend clinics and hospital appointments and receive necessary treatment.

**Future Plans for Healthcare**
We will continue to:

- support Disability and Rehabilitation clients and strengthen links with other healthcare providers such as MACOHA and 500 Miles.
- assist with Healthcare building projects if funds allow – we will be renovating the room currently used by Kachere Pre-School once the children have been moved to their new building to provide a new treatment room at the clinic.
- assist Mwaya Dispensary in a minor way.

We will also start a sexual health education programme operating locally aimed at young people in our local schools and youth clubs. This will hopefully enable them to make more informed choices, reduce incidence of HIV/Aids and of teenage pregnancy and encourage more girls to complete their education rather than enter into early marriages.
ACCOUNTS EXTRACT
Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 May 2017

Unrestricted Restricted Total Total 2017 2017 2017 2016 £ £ £ £
Incoming Resources
Incoming resources from generated funds
Voluntary Income 163,812 477,396 641,208 462,264
Investment Income 273 273 803
Other Income 2,461 2,461 2,148
Total incoming resources 166,546 477,396 643,942 465,315

Resources Expended
Costs of generating funds
Raising funds 52,535 - 52,535 64,811
Charitable Activities 78,600 419,402 498,002 402,221
Total resources expended 131,135 419,402 550,537 467,032
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year
Transfer between funds 35,411 57,994 93,405 (1,717)
Net movement in funds - - - -
Total funds brought forward 35,411 57,994 93,405 (1,717)
Total funds carried forward 143,402 22,427 165,829 167,546
178,813 80,421 259,234 165,829

The financial information presented here does not comprise the statutory accounts of Ripple Africa for the year ended May 2017 but represents extracts from them. These extracts cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance and position of the charity as reading the complete annual report.

The statutory accounts have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies and the auditors have reported on them: their report was unqualified and did not contain an explanatory paragraph or emphasis of matter. The complete annual report including the auditors’ report and trustees report can be obtained from Companies House. The accounts were approved on 22 December, 2017 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission and OSCR.

The statement of financial activities incorporate an income and expenditure. The results for the year derive from continuing activities and there are no gains and losses other than those included above.

Balance Sheet
As at 31 May 2017

Fixed Assets
Tangible fixed assets 152,374 103,007

Current Assets
Debtors 16,611 50,247
Cash at bank and in hand 133,899 38,257
150,510 88,504
Creditors: amount falling due within one year (43,650) (25,682)
Net current assets 106,860 62,822

Net assets 259,234 165,829

Funds
Restricted funds 80,421 22,426
Unrestricted funds 178,813 143,403
Total Funds 259,234 165,829

Signed on behalf of the board by:
Mr D Glaser
Chairman

Trustees’ remuneration
None of the trustees nor any of the persons connected with them received any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses as a result of them holding the office of trustee during the current or preceding year.

ADVISERS
Bankers
Lloyds Bank plc
Market Square
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1EU

First Merchant Bank Limited
Private Bag 158
Mzuzu
Malawi

Auditors
KRW Accountants
The Mill
Pury Hill Business Park
Alderton Road
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Northants
NN12 7LS
Environment – Education – Healthcare

Mosquito nets being used for fishing at Chia Lagoon

Female students at Kapanda school growing improved orange fleshed sweet potatoes

New motorbikes for the fish conservation project