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 conservation, education and healthcare in northern Malawi, Africa. Founded in 2003, our mission is:

- To preserve and sustainably develop the environment
- To create opportunities for local communities
- To improve the standard of education and healthcare near our base in Nkhata Bay District

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. We are the catalyst helping Malawians to sustainably manage their natural resources community by community.

**ABOUT THE TEAM**

In the UK, co-founders, Geoff and Liz Furber, have continued to work for the Charity for no pay. Pam Haigh is the full time UK General Manager, Nikki Luxford is full time Volunteer and Project Coordinator and Claire Battersby is part time Administrator. Paid from the UK but working in Malawi and her home country of Zimbabwe, Claire Mollatt is our full time Monitoring and Evaluation Manager.

In Malawi, our Country Director is Force Ngwira. At the end of the year, 146 Malawian staff were employed by RIPPLE Africa, and almost 4,000 local people worked with us on a voluntary basis on our environmental projects.

**VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS**

A total of 22 volunteers stayed at Mwaya and assisted with the Charity's projects during the year. We also welcomed a visit from Aldenham School and from Manchester University Computer Science Department who worked with local secondary schools to teach digital literacy, coding etc.

We welcomed a further 21 visitors, plus Kay Yoder from RIPPLE Africa Inc in the USA and Jim and Bonnie Frye from RIPPLE Africa Canada.

**FUTURE PLANS**

- We will continue to welcome a school group each year and would love more schools to come and visit the projects.
- We will encourage other universities with an interest in working at grass roots level in Africa to visit and support our projects
- We will continue to welcome volunteers who can share their knowledge with those working in the local community
- We also hope to welcome more visitors, particularly those who have supported our projects and are talking to major donors and trusts to try and encourage them to visit.

Two Aldenham School students learning and building a fuel-efficient cookstove  
One of the Computer Science team members teaching at Kapanda  
Jim & Bonnie Frye visiting one of the primary schools we support
RIPPLE Africa’s Projects - Achievements in 2017/2018 and Future Plans

ENVIRONMENT
Fish Conservation
The Fish for Tomorrow project continues to grow and there is considerable enthusiasm from the Department of Fisheries to see our approach introduced in all districts along Lake Malawi’s shoreline.

Bylaws were officially signed for Nkhotakota at a ceremony on 22nd May 2018 – these were the first bylaws ever to be signed in the district and attracted national press coverage. At the end of the year, we have 200 fish conservation committees operating in Nkhata Bay and Nkhotakota Districts, each with ten volunteers from the local community ensuring the bylaws are being respected and protecting key breeding areas.

Geoff, Claire Mollatt and Sam Manda have been working on the monitoring systems needed to measure the project’s impact and we are now measuring fish sizes and fishers’ incomes daily for Chambo, Utaka and Usipa at a selection of beach landing sites in both districts. We hope that the data will provide quantitative evidence. The data will hopefully confirm the feedback that we are getting from fishers that the project is increasing the sizes of fish caught, money earned, and biodiversity in protected areas.

Just before the end of our financial year we were delighted to learn that we are being awarded a Darwin Initiative grant (funded by DEFRA) to enable us to introduce the project more quickly in northern Nkhotakota District over the next three years.

Forest Conservation and Tree Planting
We have continued to support Forest Conservation in the Kandoli Hills (80 conservation committees are active here) and Choma Hill near Mzuzu (58 conservation committees formed, 24 trained by the end of the year). Each committee comprises 10 local volunteers who are ensuring that the forested areas near them are being protected.

We are also expanding the project into the southern part of Nkhata Bay and 45 conservation committees have been established and 60 small forested areas are now being actively protected.

Tree Planting around Mzuzu is still going extremely well. We are working mainly with farmers who are growing pine and bluegum (eucalyptus), which can be sold for timber and firewood. At the end of
this year, we helped Malawian farmers and community groups plant out 1,705,000 trees from the 2 million seedlings that were planted in tree nurseries – over 85%.

Thanks to the support of a new corporate donor we have also been able to establish a tree planting project in northern Nkhotakota District. Here we have successfully grown 264,558 seedlings in tree nurseries and of these, 219,228 (83%) have been successfully planted out in their permanent locations.

**Improved Orange Flesheed Sweet Potatoes**

In association with District Agricultural staff we have continued to support the introduction of improved sweet potatoes into Nkhata Bay District. In total we had 97 test farmers (who were given four different varieties of sweet potatoes to test and report on yields) and 403 general farmers who were given bundles of randomly selected varieties. The farmers shared surplus vines, once the harvesting was complete – the test farmers with an average of three other farmers and the general farmers with an average of two other farmers. The project therefore benefitted almost 1,600 farmers in total over the year.

**Changu Changu Moto Fuel-efficient Cookstoves**

We are continuing to monitor the use of the 43,000 cookstoves that we have helped householders to build in Nkhata Bay and Mzimba Districts and over 95% of these are in active daily use. 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.

**Future Plans for Environmental Projects**

- RIPPLE Africa have developed plans to extend the reach of the Fish for Tomorrow project along the whole of Lake Malawi’s shoreline. Our next target districts are Salima and Dedza and we are in the process of seeking funding to introduce the full scheme here.
- We will continue to visit those householders who have installed the Changu Changu Moto to ensure that it is being effectively used and will continue to undertake kitchen performance tests annually for the Carbon Credit scheme.
- We will continue to support our forest conservation committees in Kandoli Hills and Choma Hill. We will also further develop the forest conservation project in the south of Nkhata Bay District.
- Next year we plan to plant over two million trees in the areas around Mzuzu and will work with District Forestry staff in Nkhotakota to plant 350,000 trees in the next 12 months here.
- We are currently seeking funds to construct a screening house to provide disease free orange flesheed sweet potatoes in our area.
**EDUCATION**

**Pre-schools**
We have continued to support our eight pre-schools and are delighted that we have been able to move Kachere preschool into a brand new building. The preschool used to meet in a room at the health clinic which was cramped and had to share toilet facilities with the patients. They now have a great new preschool building and are loving the extra space! New toys and equipment have again been provided for all preschools during the year, and we replaced the toilets at Mwaya Pre-School.

**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. During the year, RIPPLE Africa again funded 15 trainee teachers to enable large classes to be split.

We have now completed the office and secure storage room at Matete Primary School and the Standard 1 and 2 classrooms here have been repainted to make them brighter and more inviting. We have also completed two teachers’ houses at the school. At Kachere Primary School we repainted the Standard 1 and 2 classrooms and carried out vital classroom repairs at Mazembe Primary School as termite damage had left several classrooms structurally unsound. We built a new double classroom block at Mazembe Primary too for Standards 1 and 2 to enable the very large classes to be split and have replaced roof panels with transparent sheets at several primary schools to make the classrooms lighter and brighter.

**Kapanda Community Day Secondary School**
We are delighted that the girls dormitory has been full for most of the academic year and towards the end of the year, we started discussing menstrual cups and family planning with them as part of our Family Planning and Sexual Health project. We also welcomed a team from Manchester University Computer Science Department and Computing at Schools for a second visit who worked with the teachers and students to teach them IT skills. We were delighted to learn at the end of the year that we have been awarded funding to build an IT Lab in partnership with IT Schools Africa.

**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. We have been funding 16 children per year at Kapanda Secondary School and five children from our local primary schools who are offered places at Government Boarding Schools. In total this year, we paid the fees of 100 secondary school students.

**University Education**
We have continued to fund those students already sponsored for university education.

**Adult Literacy**
We have continued to support the adult literacy programme at Mwaya and are running classes on four days a week, including a couple of students coming to learn to read and write in Chitonga. We have advertised the classes at the churches and other groups but the number of students is falling.

**Community Library**
The community library continues to be a popular resource and we have added more school text books to the reference section to support local children as schools are unable to provide enough copies for them. We have started a Saturday morning Children’s Corner to encourage more children to learn to read and develop a love of books and this is proving very popular. We have recently been awarded a grant to purchase more children’s books.
Future Plans for Education

• We have secured funds to build new toilets at Mazembe Primary School.
• We will continue to improve primary school buildings when funds permit.
• Due to difficulties in securing long term funding, we will reduce the number of trainee teachers that we employ at primary schools but will work with the PEA and headteachers to help them find ways to increase their teaching staff.
• We are keen to improve literacy by partnering with Jolly Phonics to pilot the scheme in two of the schools that we support.
• We will build a computer lab at Kapanda in partnership with IT Schools Africa.
• Due to funding difficulties, we will support those students currently being sponsored at secondary school and university but will not take on any more students.
• We will continue to support the library, particularly with the purchase of children’s books.

HEALTHCARE

Matilda continues to successfully run the Disabilities and Rehabilitation Project, making great progress with many of the clients she works with. 120 children are registered - some requiring weekly or monthly sessions whilst others need only occasional visits. Matilda has worked closely with volunteer physiotherapists and nurses who share their knowledge and help develop supportive devices. We continue to pay transport for children to attend hospital appointments to receive necessary treatments.

We have refurbished the old preschool room at Kachere clinic and the office next to it to provide the clinic with two new treatment rooms.

We have started a new Family Planning and Sexual Health project, working with local schools and community groups to encourage them to think about the effect of large family sizes on Malawi’s natural resources and household finances. Simple demonstrations are used to highlight the future problems, and we’re also working with the local health centres to educate people on the family planning options, and their side-effects, available to them.

Future Plans for Healthcare

We will continue to:
• support Disability and Rehabilitation clients and strengthen links with other healthcare providers.
• assist with Healthcare building projects if funds allow.
• assist Mwaya Dispensary in a minor way.
• further develop the Family Planning and Sexual Health project.
Accounts Extract
Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 May 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted Funds 2018</th>
<th>Restricted Funds 2018</th>
<th>Total 2018</th>
<th>Total 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incoming Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary income</td>
<td>167,579</td>
<td>486,893</td>
<td>654,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Incoming Resources</td>
<td>167,724</td>
<td>486,893</td>
<td>654,617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Resources Expended     |                      |            |            |
| Costs of generated funds |                    |            |            |
| Raising funds          | -55,653              | -          | -55,653    | -52,534    |
| Charitable activities  | -134,246             | -528,437   | -662,683   | -496,002   |
| Total resources expended | -189,899           | -528,437   | -718,336   | -550,536   |

Net income/(expenditure) for the year
-22,175

Reconciliation of funds
Total funds brought forward
178,814
80,423
259,237
165,829

Total funds carried forward
156,639
38,879
195,518
259,237

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

Balance Sheet
As at 31 May 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible Assets</td>
<td>139,338</td>
<td>152,377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>17,860</td>
<td>16,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>88,472</td>
<td>133,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>106,332</td>
<td>150,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>-50,152</td>
<td>-43,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Current Assets</td>
<td>56,180</td>
<td>106,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>195,518</td>
<td>259,237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis of current assets and liabilities between funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Designated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>33,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>-10,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>23,453</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr D Glaser
Chairman
Environment – Education – Healthcare

A local family enjoying their improved orange fleshy sweet potatoes

Fisherman mending his illegal fishing drag net made out of mosquito nets.

Individual farmer’s tree nursery in Mzuzu