

RIPPLE AFRICA — ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2018 – MAY 2019



Fishermen in Salima District where the fish conservation project has just started

**Empowering communities to achieve a sustainable future
by providing a hand UP, not a hand out.**

RIPPLE AFRICA ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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. Our Trustees are an important part of the team, and receive no pay or expenses. They continue to support the staff with strategic planning and governance.

In Malawi, our Country Director is Force Ngwira. At the end of the year, 137 Malawian staff were employed by RIPPLE Africa, and 8,300 local people worked with us on a voluntary basis on our environmental projects.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

A total of 19 volunteers stayed at Mwaya and assisted with the Charity's projects during the year. These included doctors, nurses and physiotherapists, teachers and project support volunteers who help us do research and gather project information and case studies for our reports to funders.

We welcomed a further 31 visitors, including:

- three visitors from the Phineas Group who came to see the impact of their funding on tree planting and forest conservation;
- four visitors from RIPPLE Africa Canada who are helping us fundraise;
- students and teachers from Aldenham School who were visiting for the ninth consecutive year;
- Manchester University Computer Science Department who worked with local secondary schools to support their IT curriculum and teach the children coding.

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 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.

PROJECTS – PERFORMANCE IN 2018/2019 AND FUTURE PLANS

ENVIRONMENT

We have a total of 8,300 local volunteers working on our environmental projects :

Fish Conservation 2,000, Forest Conservation 1,700, Tree Planting 4,500, Changu Changu Moto 100.

Project Recognition

We were delighted that our Country Director, Force Ngwira, was nominated as one of the three finalists for the Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa, held in November 2018. Although he didn't win the award, his attendance at the award ceremony gave RIPPLE Africa a platform to showcase our Fish for Tomorrow project and Force has since been interviewed about the project on the BBC World Service.

Fish Conservation

The 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.

- We are now working along 300 kms of lakeshore.
- We have established 200 Fish Conservation Committees of 10 members each, directly working with about 2,000 people, 30% of whom are women.
- We have established and protect 32 large fish breeding areas.
- We have established and signed local bylaws in Nkhatakota and Nkhata Bay Districts.

In Nkhata Bay District, we are continuing to support the Fish Conservation Committees, despite funding issues, as ongoing support is vital to maintain the rate of progress made here. Already fishers are seeing larger fish and species which had been thought to have vanished from this part of the lake are starting to be caught again as the protection being given to Chambo is benefiting other species as well.

In Nkhatakota District, the areas round Ngala are improving and 20 large mosquito net fishing nets have been confiscated. Chia Lagoon, one of the most important Chambo breeding areas in the whole of Malawi, is also beginning to see an improvement since the introduction of the conservation project.

In Salima District, we have been meeting with chiefs and community members to raise awareness of the project and some Fish Conservation Committees have been established. Recently, eight large mosquito net dragnets have been confiscated. We are unable to get bylaws signed yet as we do not have sufficient confirmed income for the future.



Force Ngwira a finalist at the Tusk Conservation Awards



Fisheries, Conservation Committee members and Ripple Africa staff in Salima



Increased fish catches in Nkhata Bay District

Forest Conservation

- The project was introduced in 2007.
- We are currently helping local people to protect 130 sq kms in Kandoli, 60 sq kms in Choma and approximately 150 sq kms in Nkhata Bay South hills.
- We have established 170 Forest Conservation Committees of 10 members each, directly working with about 1,700 people.

Kandoli continues to deliver good results and there are 80 active Forest Conservation Committees working here.

The Choma area is going well and we have been liaising with the Forestry Department. Road blocks to confiscate charcoal have been set up and recently 60 bags of charcoal and 20 bikes were confiscated. We now have 63 Forest Conservation Committees set up here and eight Umbrella Committees.

The south area of Nkhata Bay District is developing under John (Skip) Banda, and we now have 49 Conservation Committees working here. There was certainly less burning in the dry season over the last year.

Tree Planting

Since 2004, we have planted over 10 million trees and, in total this year, we have planted over 2.5 million trees in Nkhotakota and Mzimba Districts where we are working with individual farmers and householders, schools and community clubs. Our biggest success is with commercial farmers who have a financial interest in ensuring that the trees grow successfully.

We are having greater success in the Choma area of Mzimba as growing conditions are better in this area. Farmers are now training their fellow farmers, making the expansion of the project easier.



A proud farmer at his tree nursery



A Forest Conservation Committee in Kandoli



Three year old pine trees in Mzimba District

Improved Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes

Existing farmers have continued with their farming of orange fleshed sweet potatoes but, because of lack of funding, we have stopped the limited funding that we provided to the Agriculture Department to enable them to work with the farmers.

We are currently seeking funding to build a screening house and expand the area where the orange fleshed sweet potatoes are grown.

Changu Changu Moto Fuel-efficient Cookstoves

We are supporting the projects in Nkhata Bay and Mzimba Districts to ensure that the householders continue to use their Changu Changu Motos.

In total, we have helped communities build 40,000 cookstoves and save 80,000 bundles of wood per week in Nkhata Bay District. In Mzimba District, 3,000 stoves have been built, saving 6,000 bundles per week.

Carbon offsets are available for sale, and Sigma Global are working closely with us to ensure that we find purchasers at the right price.

Plastic Waste

We have begun to work with communities in Kachere, Matete and Kande to find ways that they can reduce plastic waste. One of the biggest problems is the use of blue plastic bags in markets, and we are working with the market traders on a trial basis to try and reduce this.

Future Plans for Environmental Projects

- Ripple Africa has now developed plans to extend the reach of the Fish For Tomorrow project along the whole of Lake Malawi's shoreline. We are in the process of seeking funding to enable us to do this.
- We will continue to visit those householders who have installed the Changu Changu Moto to ensure that it is being used effectively and will continue to undertake kitchen performance tests annually for the carbon offset scheme.
- We are delighted that we have been awarded funding to help householders in Mzimba and Nkhatakota District to build a further 6,000 Changu Changu Motos over the next three years.
- 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 2.5 million trees in the areas around Mzuzu.
- We hope to construct a screening house to provide disease-free orange fleshed sweet potatoes in our area.
- We will continue to work on how best to reduce the use of single use plastics.

EDUCATION

Pre-schools

We have continued to support our eight pre-schools, and new toys and equipment have again been provided for all pre-schools during the year thanks to donations of toys from Canada. We have inspected all the pre-schools to assess whether any repairs or general maintenance need to be carried out. Funding for this has been secured and we have started to carry out this work. Teacher training and best practice sharing sessions have taken place.

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 funded five trainee teachers to enable large classes to be split – the number has been reduced in line with funding secured for this.

Nine new toilet blocks have been constructed at Mazembe Primary School as the old toilet pits had not been dug deep enough and the toilets were starting to overflow – an obvious health hazard. Classroom repairs were also completed here, and we have purchased 30 school desks for one of the classrooms at this primary school.

Ripple Africa has been supporting a trial of the Jolly Phonics literacy scheme in Mwaya and Mazembe Standard 1 classes during the 2018/2019 academic year. Teachers here have received training on how to deliver the scheme and children's literacy will be measured at the end of the year to assess the impact of the trial.

Kapanda Community Day Secondary School

Kapanda now has a computer lab, fitted with 60 desktop computers, thanks to a partnership with IT Schools Africa, and it is in active use. The teachers at Kapanda have reported that five of the top 10 performing pupils in the Malawi School Certificate of Education exams were girls. This demonstrates the impact that the girls dormitory is having by enabling girls to live on site, reducing the time lost in travelling and providing a more stable learning environment.

We have repaired classrooms at Kapanda and, as a recent lightning strike affected electrical systems and left some of the students with minor injuries, a lightning conductor has now been installed at the school. Storm damage to the roof of the girls' dormitory during the rainy season in March 2019 has also been repaired.



New computer lab at Kapanda School



New toilets at Mazembe Primary School



Family planning awareness. The message is one partner and two children

Secondary School Scholarship Scheme

We have recently scaled down our Secondary School Scholarship Scheme because many in the local community are now able to afford to pay the school fees at the school. As a result, new pupils are not being taken on but we are now encouraging parents to contribute to their children's education. We will continue to support those already benefiting from the Scholarship Scheme until they finish their Form Four exams.

University Education

We continue to fund those university students already on the scheme to enable them to complete their university education, but we are no longer running this project for any new students.

Adult Literacy

Adult literacy classes are now being held for students attending Open School to help with their exam performance. We have widened the scheme to include help with the courses that the students are taking so it is now more of an adult education opportunity rather than concentrating solely on literacy.

Community Library

The Library continues to provide a great service to the community. Head librarian Barton and his assistants John and Vitu had a busy year. They recorded 3,088 borrowers visiting the library and lent out 4,537 books, an increase of 592 books being borrowed compared to the previous year. The library team has also welcomed 157 new members.

Secondary school students continue to borrow lots of textbooks and borrowed a total of 3,050 textbooks plus around 300 other books such as dictionaries and local language books. The students come to the library as they are unable to afford their own textbooks and the government does not provide enough so the students cannot borrow them or take them home from school. There are 11 different subject textbooks needed for each of the four year groups plus English Literature and Chichewa Literature books as well. We have secured funding for more textbooks to meet this need.

Children's Corner was started to encourage more children to read and learn how to handle books, and children now come not only at the weekends but after school to read books.

Future Plans for Education

- We will continue to improve primary school buildings when funds permit.
- Due to difficulties in securing long term funding, we will continue to 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 will continue to support only those students currently being sponsored at secondary school and university and will not take on any more students.
- We will continue to support the Library, particularly with the purchase of more school textbooks and children's books.

HEALTHCARE

The Disabilities and Rehabilitation project now has 120 clients, half receiving regular and half occasional visits and support. We have funded operations and equipment for a number of clients, and group sessions are proving popular with those at Kachere and Kande being particularly busy. Matilda has continued to work closely with volunteer physiotherapists and nurses to provide community support. She now has a motorcycle and is receiving driver training.

The Sexual Health and Family Planning project is being rolled out in three areas and is working with schools, couples and groups. Feedback has been encouraging, and Geoff has developed a training guide and a contraception guide that Khumbo and Watson are now starting to use.

We are now funding one of the nurses at Kachere Clinic and have carried out some building repair work here as well.

Future Plans for Healthcare

We will continue to:

- support Disabilities and Rehabilitation clients, and strengthen links with other healthcare providers such as MACOHA and 500 Miles. We will seek additional funding for this project to enable us to help more clients;
- assist with healthcare building projects if funds allow;
- assist Mwaya Dispensary in a minor way;
- run the Family Planning and Sexual Health project.

Ripple Africa
Financial Summary

Accounts Extract

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 May 2019

	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Incoming Resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	170,171	640,222	810,393	654,472
Investment income	217	0	217	145
Other Income	0	0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources	170,388	640,222	810,610	654,617
Resources Expended				
Costs of generated funds				
Raising funds	-59,905	-	-59,905	-55,653
Charitable activities	-130,766	-613,652	-744,418	-662,683
Total resources expended	-190,671	-613,652	-804,323	-718,336
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year	-20,283	26,570	6,287	-63,719
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	156,639	38,879	195,518	259,237
Total funds carried forward	<u>136,356</u>	<u>65,449</u>	<u>201,805</u>	<u>195,518</u>

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

Balance Sheet
As at 31 May 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	129,398	139,338
Current Assets		
Debtors	18,044	17,860
Cash at bank and in hand	109,781	88,472
	<u>127,825</u>	<u>106,332</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>-55,418</u>	<u>-50,152</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>72,407</u>	<u>56,180</u>
Net Assets	<u>201,805</u>	<u>195,518</u>

Analysis of current assets and liabilities between funds

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Current assets	40,227		87,598	127,825
Current liabilities	-11,084		-44,334	-55,418
Total net assets	<u>29,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,264</u>	<u>72,407</u>

Signed on behalf of the board by:

Mr D Glaser
Chairman

Environment – Education – Healthcare



Refurbishment of classrooms



Motorbikes are an important requirement for our environmental projects



Locally we are working with communities to reduce their plastic waste



A visit by one of our donors to see the tree planting project

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