

A SIMPLE WAY FOR BUSINESSES TO BE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE



Tree Planting | Fuel-efficient Cookstoves | Carbon Offsetting

Our projects are an ideal way to offset your carbon footprint either through our registered cookstove project or our tree planting project - or both.



Ripple Africa's overriding aim is to **empower communities so they themselves can achieve a sustainable future** – we strongly believe that the local people can be the solution to many of the challenges they face. Everything we do is in response to the local communities' needs. By enabling them, great things can happen.

Our belief is **“Providing a hand UP and not a hand out,”** and that philosophy has been central to the charity's ideology for nearly two decades.

Email: nikki@rippleafrica.org or geoff@rippleafrica.org

Website: www.rippleafrica.org

FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVES

Our fuel-efficient cookstove project is a registered carbon offsetting project under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), operated and administered by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We are proud that more than 250,000 people have their food cooked every day on our fuel-efficient cookstove, locally known as a Changu Changu Moto, in Nkhata Bay District of Malawi. This saves **80,000 bundles of wood every week** and **each cookstove offsets three tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).**



THE BENEFITS OF A FUEL-EFFICIENT COOKSTOVE

The Changu Changu Moto:

- reduces household wood use from three bundles of wood per week to just one
- contains the fire within the cookstove at the side of the kitchen, reducing injuries from burns
- has a double burner so that two pots can be cooked simultaneously, saving time
- produces substantially less smoke than the traditional three-stone fire, reducing coughing and breathing problems, and
- is LOVED by all the women who use it!

WHY IS THIS COOKSTOVE PROJECT IMPORTANT?

Ripple Africa's founders didn't start the project just to sell carbon offsets but wanted to **improve the lives of local people** in Malawi and **protect the remaining forests**.

It is one thing to provide a householder with a cookstove and hope they will use it but our experience has shown that **long-term commitment and building a relationship with the communities is key to a project being successful**. Ripple Africa doesn't build the stove and walk away but works with households to deliver the long-term education which will ensure the stove will be used for life.



This new cooking technology is becoming a way of life and now communities in neighbouring Districts want to benefit from this improved cooking method which makes their lives easier and **reduces deforestation**.

The other aim was to help fund our other projects so that we can provide the long term commitment that is needed to make a positive and lasting difference. We reinvest the carbon offsetting income to **build more cookstoves, plant more trees and conserve more forests**.

MEET DAVIE

Davie is 68 and lives with her husband Jenda, 80, in a village in rural Malawi.

Our Changu Changu Moto has many benefits but for Davie and Jenda, they love it because they don't have to collect much wood which is difficult for them because of their age.

Davie said, "We have had the cookstove for four years and we no longer have to walk long distances to fetch firewood as we only need a little bundle and small pieces of wood."



TREE PLANTING

We are working with farmers and communities who are **planting millions of quick-growing trees each year** which provide a sustainable source of timber and firewood for local people. So far we have planted over 17 million trees.

Our tree farmers also plant some indigenous trees and fruit trees to provide food and income for their families. They grow mango, papaya, guava, avocado and citrus fruit trees.



Our **tree planting project is NOT a verified carbon offsetting project** but many people have asked us how much carbon would they be offsetting by planting trees with us in Malawi. A realistic starting point is that **one tree absorbs about one tonne of CO₂ over a lifetime of 100 years** – that is an average of 10 kg per year.

Many of the trees that our communities plant are pine and eucalyptus which are largely being grown for timber. Typically, these would be harvested after 15 to 25 years and the carbon would be locked in the timber at that stage.

For our calculation, we are taking the life of the tree as 10 years although it will be considerably longer than that. **This would mean that, over the 10 year period, one tree would absorb 100 kg of CO₂ and so 10 trees would absorb one tonne of CO₂.**



FOREST CONSERVATION

For every tree we plant, we help communities protect the forested hills, thereby allowing the regeneration of natural woodland.

We have established Forest Conservation Committees and 1,700 local volunteers are empowered to protect over 340 sq.km of forest.



MEET CHISOMO



Chisomo is one of the tree farmers we are working with. Chisomo looks very happy and so she should be, the seeds have germinated and are producing very healthy looking seedlings. Chisomo is 47 and married to Richard. Together they manage their tree nursery so that in future, they can earn an income and provide for their four children.

MEET MAGGIE

Maggie started planting trees in 2015 and now has three separate woodlots of trees at one, four and five years old. Maggie and her husband started planting trees as they wanted to create a future for their nine children. When the pine trees reach maturity, they will be able to be used for timber, and the eucalyptus trees for poles. They are also able to coppice the trees to use the branches for firewood, or to sell it to others to make some money. Two of her children are now helping her on the farm as her husband is recovering from a stroke, making the success of this project even more important to the family.



ABOUT RIPPLE AFRICA AND WHY WE ARE GREAT TO WORK WITH

We run many projects in a few Districts in Malawi, rather than one project in many different areas of Malawi. **It is this long term commitment to these local communities that help us achieve amazing results.**

We have been established since 2003 and throughout this time have encouraged a **hard-working and honest work ethic** with our teams in both Malawi and in the UK.

Both our fuel-efficient cookstove and our tree planting projects are **regularly monitored and these results are shared with you.** These stories can be shared with your customers and employees so they can see **how you as a company are being environmentally responsible and making a positive difference.**

We would love to welcome you to Malawi so **you can see the work for yourselves and meet amazing community members** like this Forest Conservation Committee who love caring for and looking after their environment for future generations.



"This is our country. This is our home. We did not inherit it from our parents, we have borrowed it from our children. If we each do our part, we will succeed leaving it to them better than we found it."

- President of Malawi, Lazarus Chakwera