Why are the trees cut down?

With a fast expanding population and poor agriculture, trees are cut down and cleared to provide more farming land. 95% of the population use wood or charcoal for cooking. A traditional three-stone fire uses three to four bundles per week. Huge amounts of wood are used to burn bricks in a brick kiln. Three large trees are required to fire bricks for a small house. Timber and poles are vital for building houses. Timber has to be regularly replaced due to termite damage.

Individual households, schools, communities, and farmers grow trees

Individual households raise small quantities of quick growing trees for firewood and fruit trees. These are planted in wood lots and around their homes. We encourage schools to become involved in the project so that the students can take a genuine interest in growing trees sustainably. RIPPLE Africa coordinators work with communities, individual farmers and schools to establish tree nurseries and monitor nursery management.

Quick-growing, fruit and hardwood trees are planted

These quick-growing Senna Siamea trees, which are good for the soil, can be coppiced and provide firewood and poles after just five years. Guavas and pawpaw trees are planted to provide valuable fruit. There is also a grafting and budding programme to produce improved citrus and mangoes. Hardwood trees are grown by some of the clubs to provide timber for the future. Hardwood trees are disappearing fast so these trees will be very valuable.

How does the programme work?

We work with individual households and help them to raise 25 quick growing trees for firewood and 10 fruit trees. We supply tubes, seeds, equipment, and training to community nurseries, schools and individual farmers. Land is prepared and planting pits dug. Trees are planted out from December to February during the rainy season. Our coordinators work with the clubs and individuals from the nursery stage to the planted out sites.

Over 4 million trees planted

Wood is used for firewood, for burning bricks, and for building. Our tree planting project aims to help communities and individuals grow trees sustainably.

www.rippleafrica.org