



Providing a hand UP, not a hand out!

FISH CONSERVATION



Alex Bulirani with John Balarin and Geoff

Our fish conservation project, Fish for Tomorrow, is now protecting an 80km area of the lakeshore in the southern part of Nkhata Bay District. We were delighted that in May 2016, we hosted a 3 day visit from Malawi's Director of Fisheries, Alex Bulirani and a team from another NGO, Pact, who brought up traditional authorities and fisheries officers from the south of the country. They visited 5 of our beach landing sites and met conservation committee members and all who attended were really impressed with the way that the project is operating. The Director called our approach 'magic'!

We are also delighted that we have been awarded a 3 year grant to enable us to extend the project into Nkhotakota District and into the northern part of Nkhata Bay. It's so exciting to see the difference that the project is already making, both in terms of additional income for fishermen and food security for all Malawians. This funding will enable us to develop a template which Fisheries Officers from the rest of Malawi will be able to use to ensure that there are fish for tomorrow along the whole of Malawi's shoreline.



CHANGU CHANGU MOTO

This year, our initial two fuel-efficient Changu Changu Moto cookstoves schemes covering 40,000 households have been audited by the UN and we are now actively seeking purchasers for the Carbon Credits. If you work for a company who might be interested in purchasing carbon credits, let us know!

The project has now been extended to 3,000 households in the urban areas of Mzuzu where wood is more difficult to find and householders are delighted to be able to cook without the expense of purchasing charcoal or large quantities of wood. During the rainy season earlier this year, Mzuzu experienced heavy flooding and many houses were damaged. It was refreshing to see that even in households where the kitchen had been washed away, the householders had rebuilt their Changu Changu Moto as a priority, without any help from RIPPLE Africa - that shows how much the new cookstoves are valued!



FOREST CONSERVATION

The charity is continuing to protect a 130 km² area of Kandoli Forest from deforestation. Here 80 Forest Conservation Committees and over 800 volunteers are protecting forested areas near their homes to prevent further deforestation. In the last year, we have extended the project to protect new areas of forest around Chintheche. Julius Banda is chairman of Njasa Village Forest Conservation Committee, near to Chintheche, and is passionate about the work that he and his fellow committee members are doing. Those families who need additional space for farming have been given land outside the forest area by the chief and the committee have been vigilant in patrolling the area and fining those caught breaking the bylaws. Julius proudly reports that it has been six months since they found anyone offending and that there is now a much greater awareness of the importance of forest conservation in his village.

We are now also looking to introduce the project into a new area where deforestation has been widespread because of charcoal production. Choma Hill is a 64 km² forested hill area situated in Mzimba District, north of the city of Mzuzu, and the surrounding area is home to a population of about 7,314 people. 20 years ago, Choma Hill used to contain many different species of trees. It also provided local communities with fruit, mushrooms, honey, and was home to a variety of wild animals, many of which no longer exist.



Choma Hill, with evidence of the deforestation that has taken place



Charcoal burning is one of the main causes of this and many of these charcoal producers sell in Mzuzu

We have already started to talk to communities living near to Choma Hill and they are keen to preserve the remaining trees and allow regeneration to take place. There are 16 chiefs in the area and all have agreed to form conservation committees in their area. We are just starting the process of developing local bylaws with them.

TREE PLANTING



Esnert with one of her planted trees

Recently, our tree planting project has focused on supporting farmers to grow trees that they are able to harvest as a sustainable source of income. Trees such as pine and eucalyptus are fast growing and provide a sustainable source of wood which can be used for firewood and building materials. This prevents further deforestation of indigenous trees, whilst the fruit trees planted provide income without needing to be chopped down.

Our tree planters don't always fit the typical image of a farmer either! Esnert Mhlanga is a schoolgirl who is in Form 4 and hoping to go on to become a journalist. She has planted 80 fruit trees on her parents land and the income that she will make will help pay for her university education.

KAPANDA SCHOOL

Kapanda School is going from strength to strength and this year was ranked fourth best Community Day Secondary School in the district! We are delighted to report that we successfully secured funding for mains electricity to be supplied to Kapanda School where before there was only intermittent solar power available.



School being used after dark

All parts of Kapanda School now have electric lights and power sockets and this has enabled the school to start IT classes for the students. RIPPLE Africa volunteers are running computer clubs after school and the school have entered a digital media competition run by the British Council. The students are so pleased to now be able to learn valuable computer skills and are eagerly looking for more laptops so that they don't have to share the few that we have managed to secure for them. If anyone can provide us with good quality second hand machines, we would be delighted to pass them on to the school. Please contact us to discuss whether these would be suitable.

GIRLS DORMITORY

Secondary school education for girls in Malawi can often be extremely difficult. While boy students finish school and return home to study as they choose, traditionally girls are expected to do household chores when they get home. With less time to study overall, girls are disadvantaged throughout the whole of their education, but never more so than during critical exam periods in the 2nd and 4th years. For a few years now, our girl students have been camping on classroom floors overnight during exam months to avoid these home burdens; we wanted to provide this dormitory to help them put their education first.

We are delighted that we have been able to build a Girls Dormitory at Kapanda Secondary School which is now open and is really popular with the first residents. The dormitory provides accommodation for 56 girls from Years 2 and 4. There is a live-in matron, sleeping quarters, a dining/study area, a kitchen, toilets, and washing facilities.



The dormitory will provide a secure, supportive and empowering learning environment for study and revision.

With the recent installation of mains electricity, the girls are now able to study until dusk from the end of the school day (2pm) which will greatly increase their chances of success in their exams.

The girls are extremely excited about using the dormitory and being able to study once the school day is over. Visiting the dormitory once it was open and seeing the girls enjoying and benefiting from this new facility was great. Thanks to all who supported this amazing project!

MATETE PRIMARY SCHOOL

We've been keeping our builders busy! Thanks to a grant from a trust and fundraising from a family who visited us earlier this year, we have been able to build a much needed basic classroom block at Matete Primary School.

Until now, 81 children have been using a temporary grass-roofed shelter that was open sided and leaked badly in the rainy season, which lasts from December to April.

The parents and children have actually provided all the bricks as their contribution to the project and our builders are using these to build the walls and foundations. This will now enable the children to be taught in a dry classroom.



Grass-roofed shelter



The new classroom block

Many of the other classrooms are in need of repair as well and we have just heard that we have been awarded funding towards this from a charitable trust and several other supporters have also offered to help towards the costs of this. But we still need to find more funding, especially to purchase desks so if any of you would like to help us out on this project and make sure that the children have lovely safe and clean spaces in which they can learn, that would be greatly appreciated.

PRE-SCHOOLS

Several of our volunteers this year have been working with our eight Pre-Schools, getting to know the staff and the children, and helping to improve the facilities for the children by sharing ideas for early years learning. All the pre-schools now have new sandpits and swings which the children love and toys have been repaired and storage facilities improved. Outdoor learning will hopefully soon be on the curriculum; building on the experience of Forest Schools in the UK, the children will learn about their natural environment and gain useful knowledge about local plant and animal life.

We are also delighted that nine of our pre-school teachers have been able to access a two week training course on Early Childhood Development in Blantyre and we are hoping to access more local training for our staff.



SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship scheme is an important project as it allows students from the surrounding villages to attend secondary school, both Kapanda day secondary school and numerous government boarding schools too. Congratulations to all of the students in form 2 who recently sat their JCE exams – we recorded a 100% pass rate which is fantastic. Well done to all the students and teachers who have worked hard to achieve these results.



We have changed the scheme slightly so that instead of having a donor sponsoring an individual child, the donations are shared between all students who need support. 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 and students will be chosen from those selected on merit by the Government.

Previously we allowed some volunteers and visitors to choose children to sponsor, but we feel that it is fairer to select the students based on how hard they work and how they perform. Once accepted onto the scheme, students are expected to attend all classes, be well behaved, and put lots of effort into their work.

Each year the 21 top performing primary school students from our local schools who have been selected for secondary school will be sponsored – 16 at Kapanda and 5 at Government boarding schools (where fees are much higher).

With more than 70 students enrolled on the scheme, it's hard to get to know each one individually however the team have been busy organising meet-and-greet sessions in order to learn more about their daily lives and aspirations for the future. Read more about [Cynthia Makwakwa](#), [Eugen Phir](#), and [Ruth Ngulube](#).

HEALTHCARE

It was with great sadness that we had to report the loss of our inspirational Disabilities and Rehabilitation Project Co-Ordinator Collins Chanika last year but we are pleased to say that we are continuing the amazing work that Collins was doing to help those with disabilities in our local communities. We have partnered up with Malawi Council for the Handicapped and 500 Miles (a Scottish charity providing prosthetic limbs) to ensure that ongoing support is available for the clients that Collins worked with. We are also continuing to encourage volunteer physiotherapists and healthcare professionals to assess their progress and help with ongoing support.



Claudia a volunteer with Zione who has cerebral palsy

Read more: [Collins's legacy lives on](#) and [Creating incredible outcomes with limited resources](#)

We are also working closely with the District Health Officer and are providing support to Chintheche Hospital and other local health clinics to upgrade facilities and volunteer doctors and nurses are helping at clinics and with patient care.

UNIVERSITY – RICHARD & AARON

RIPPLE Africa has funded Richard and Aaron's secondary school education in order for them to sit for their MSCE (Malawi School Certificate of Education). Both scored 11 points, one of the best scores possible, and now Richard has been offered a place at university to study Disaster and Risk Management, and Aaron has been offered a place to study the four year course in Environmental Health. This will enable Aaron to then educate his fellow Malawians on how to best conserve the environment whilst still being able to have a livelihood.



Richard is the fifth of six children. Not surprisingly none of his siblings have been to university but he isn't only the first person in his family to be offered a place at university but also the first person in his village. Richard going to university would not only make his parents proud, but the village too.

Visiting Aaron's mother at the family home in Kazando village she said, "When Aaron finished Mwaya primary school he was selected for secondary school and I was extremely grateful that RIPPLE Africa were able to sponsor him. I did the best I could do to provide the additional items needed like exercise books and pens by making and selling mandazi (doughnuts) but even if I sell everything I own, I'll never be able to raise enough money to send him to university."

We have managed to raise funds to pay for the first two years of Richard and Aaron's degree but are looking for people to fund their final two years and also to help us offer the same opportunity to future scholarship students who are offered university places. Could you help us? To fund a student through university in Malawi costs approximately £2,000 (€2,700/\$3,000) per year which covers their university fees, boarding fees, food, clothing and transport allowance and a laptop. We liaise with the students sponsored to get feedback on their progress and offer ongoing support and work experience where we can.

ALDENHAM SCHOOL VISIT



Spending time in one of the primary schools

For the seventh year running, we welcomed another group of 14 students and 4 teachers from Aldenham School. Each year, Aldenham School send a group of Year 12 students to Malawi to experience first-hand the approach RIPPLE Africa takes to empowering communities to achieve a sustainable future.

They travelled to Malawi in July and experienced a safari in South Luangwa National Park in Zambia before coming to stay with RIPPLE Africa at Lowani Beach. A mixture of observation and interaction plus cultural activities took place over their two week stay. They got involved in our environmental projects by visiting a fish breeding site and a tree nursery. They also spent time building a Changu Changu Moto. They worked alongside a local building team repairing one of the local primary schools and painted one of the pre-schools.

To give students a real insight into what life is like for a Malawian student, they paired up with a student from Kapanda Secondary School and had a day in the life of a Malawian. They also provided interactive lessons to the students and made visits to primary schools.

You can watch a short video of their trip [here](#).



Learning about the fish conservation project

OUR VOLUNTEERS REALLY ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dedication, passion and enthusiasm is what our volunteers bring to the projects, and over 2016 we'll have welcomed a total of 26 volunteers from the UK, America, Australia and Europe. From doctors and nurses to teachers and researchers – and we even had an IT consultant whose expertise and time was invaluable as he helped create software for the pharmacy at Chintheche hospital.



The key with volunteers when they reach Malawi is to share the skills they acquired in their home countries whilst working alongside and assisting their Malawian counterpart, creating friendships and leaving a positive impact when they return home.

Equally we welcome visitors to our projects, those wishing to have a first-hand experience and insight into the way RIPPLE Africa runs projects and achieves the success we do. This summer alone was a busy time with visitors including our annual visit from year 14 students at Aldenham school plus six American ladies who are members of Dining for Women, a father and son duo, Trevor and Ben and the Geisler family of Jan & Anne-Cecile and their two daughters Lou (6) and Maya (3).



The visitor programme is designed to give a full overview of all our projects as well as the opportunity to spend some time, should visitors wish, observing and assisting. For example Anne-Cecile helped at the adult literacy classes whilst Trevor and Ben taught computers to Aaron and Richard, the two students heading off to university this year.

We've also been fortunate to receive help from UK volunteers Ann and Simon. Ann has been spending time carrying out research for us and has been helping Nikki with the planning of next year's 'Lands End to John O'Groats' cycle challenge. Ann is now volunteering in Malawi and is assisting our Malawian staff with monitoring and evaluation on the Fish Conservation project.



Simon is helping us with finding new corporate donors to help us with our projects – if any of you have links to companies who might be interested in supporting us, please let us know.

Sam Ernest-Jones volunteered in the summer of 2015 whilst studying for his Degree in African Studies and Anthropology. Following his graduation he has spent nine weeks with us carrying out valuable marketing research. Sam's been great company in the office and he's a pretty good table tennis player too! Good luck Sam.

FUNDRAISING

We have huge appreciation for our fundraisers. In addition to the fundraising efforts by our volunteers as part of their volunteering placements, the following fundraising has taken place:

- Half Marathon – Tara Strange raised £887.22
- One True Grit (Obstacle Course) – Sue Wykes raised £630.50
- Isle of Man Parish Walk (85 miles in 24 hours) – Jennifer Cannell £772.24
- Mount Kilimanjaro – Tara Strange raised £1,080

Future Events:

In April/May 2017 Lands End to John O'Groats Cycle Challenge

If you would like to organise a fundraiser or take part in a challenge, let us know!

LAUNCH OF TEAM RIPPLE

RIPPLE Africa is a family and we're really excited to launch Team RIPPLE. We want to welcome you in joining us and being part of Team RIPPLE. At RIPPLE Africa we work together to share ideas, to creatively solve problems and to fundraise in order to make big things happen in Malawi. We are very proud to be working with local communities and that, with your help we can continue to make a difference.

As part of Team RIPPLE you have the opportunity to continue making a difference to the lives of those living in the Nkhata Bay District. There are a number of ways in which you can do this:

Could you make contact with your old school, current workplace and/or local clubs and societies such as Rotary and offer to give a presentation?

We are keen to promote and spread the awareness of RIPPLE Africa to the wider communities. We can provide different presentations depending on your audience.

Do you have any contacts whom you think may be interested in supporting RIPPLE Africa, whether individuals and/or companies?

We have an initial introductory pack so that if you're able to make the connection, we can work both with you and them to establish and build the relationship.

Do you enjoy organising and/or hosting events? Would you be able to be part of the fundraising team?

Whether you're able to run a fundraiser once a month or once a year – they are vital in enabling RIPPLE Africa to continue the work which you have been part of and which you're equally passionate about.

RIPPLE Africa is a family – do you want to be part of our continued successes and achievements in Malawi? If you're interested in being involved email info@rippleafrica.org.

TRUSTEES & STAFF



We have made some additional appointments at RIPPLE Africa during this last year. Nikki started working with us in January 2016 after volunteering with us for 8 months in Malawi during the previous year. Nikki is our Project and Volunteer Coordinator and is heavily involved in Fundraising and PR. She is proving to be a great asset to the charity with lots of enthusiasm and fresh ideas. Nikki has fallen in love with Malawi and she splits her time between there and the UK, returning home to Spain in between too. Quite the jet setter!

David Glaser, a successful businessman and financier, and an old school friend of Geoff's has joined as Chairman of Trustees and is bringing a wealth of experience to the charity.

Charlie, who worked for the charity for nearly four years after his time spent volunteering with us, has also agreed to become a Trustee. Charlie is now working in Nigeria on a solar energy project but the joys of the internet means that we are still in close contact with him and he retains his love of Malawi.

GIFT CATALOGUE



Have you ever been stuck for an idea when buying a gift, whether it's for a birthday, Christmas or perhaps someone's wedding? Why not give them something different while making a difference to people's lives in Malawi. Take a look at our [Christmas Gift Catalogue](#)?

LOOK OUT FOR...

The **2017 RIPPLE Africa Calendar** – We ran a photography competition involving all past volunteers and visitors in order to feature their amazing photos taken during their time in Malawi with RIPPLE Africa. We invited three independent judges and the winner was announced - Kieran McCabe! The Calendars are available to buy, along with our Christmas cards [here](#).

The **RIPPLE Africa Christmas video** – the Aldenham students had great fun with the Malawian staff during their stay. This will be available on YouTube later in the year. Watch out for it...

LEAVE A LIFE-CHANGING LEGACY FOR THE PEOPLE OF MALAWI

One of the key features of RIPPLE Africa is sustainability. Leaving a gift in your will is one of the best tax effective ways to ensure that RIPPLE Africa's work continues into the future.

Understandably our families come first but, after you have looked after your loved ones, why not consider leaving a gift to RIPPLE Africa in your will that will make a life-changing difference. No matter how much you leave, your gift will make a huge and long-lasting difference to the people of Malawi. Your gift could ensure children get an education, have access to medical help, and protect the livelihoods of fishermen, enabling them to feed their families. Isn't that an amazing gift? If you would like to know more, please contact us.

THANK YOU

We can't thank all our sponsors, fundraisers, volunteers and supporters enough. Our projects can only continue because of you. Tawonga Ukongwa as they say in Malawi.

If you would like to make a donation, please follow these links

**UK and the rest of
the world**



USA



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