



Eco-Libris assessment – Second year of Operations (July 2008 – July 2009)

RIPPLE Africa

Prepared by: Geoff Furber, Director

1. General Information

- 1.1 Name of organization: [RIPPLE Africa](#)
- 1.2 Name of Director: [Geoff and Liz Furber](#)
- 1.3 Year of establishment: [2003](#)
- 1.4 Registered in (country): [UK](#)
- 1.5 Countries of operation: [Malawi](#)
- 1.6 No. of trees planted so far: Approx [3,000,000](#)
- 1.7 No. of trees planted in the 12 months ending on July 1st, 2009: [1,240,000](#)
- 1.8 Average survival rate of trees: [To be advised](#)

2. Eco-Libris tree planting's operations (these questions refer to the trees planted on our behalf): 16,400 trees

- 2.1 Out of total number of 16,400 trees and as of July 1st 2009, how many trees have been planted? - [3000](#) How many are still growing as seedlings in nurseries [13,400](#) and how many are at prior stage (seedlings haven't been purchased yet)? – [nil \(all seedlings produced by Ripple Africa community nurseries\)](#)
- 2.2 In what areas the trees were planted? Please fill in the attached excel and be specific as possible. [We currently have 100 tree clubs but for Eco-Libris we have nominated 10 community clubs in various areas in Nkhata Bay district – 1\) Ayipa Alimoyo, 2\) Chibwana. 3\) Chinjaya. 4\) Chisankha. 5\)Chitungulu. 6\) Chiya. 7\) Gamuti. 8\) Kalonga. 9\) Kamphongo. 10\) Kankhongwe. They have planted the trees in a variety of locations within their community areas.](#)
- 2.3 Please provide the planting schedule in these areas (when the seedlings are planted in nurseries, what are the months of planting, etc.) [Seeds planted June – Oct according to species and planted Dec 08 and Jan 09 – This is the start of the rains](#)

- 2.4 What species were planted, what is the genetic source (country of origin) of each species? [Mbawa - Hardwood good for timber \(Malawi\)](#), [Masambafumu – slow growing hardwood for timber \(Malawi\)](#), [Mtangatanga - Medium hard wood good for furniture and general timber \(Asia now naturalized in Malawi\)](#), [Msangu – Improve soil fertility \(Malawi\)](#)
- 2.5 How many hectares were planted as mixed forest? [16.4 Ha. Mixed will be planted of how many species? 4](#)
- 2.6 How many hectares were planted as monoculture? [None for Eco-Libris](#)
- 2.7 How many hectares were planted for agro-forestry uses? [nil](#)
- 2.8 What is the involvement of local communities with these planting activities? [Communities form local tree clubs who provide land and labour – communities are developing woodlots to provide sustainable wood together with trees for conservation purposes.](#) What are the social benefits of these specific trees that were planted, in present and in the future? [Conservation and retention of existing woodland](#)
- 2.9 Are there any specific environmental benefits for the plantings in these specific areas? [Soil stabilization and improvement, together with wildlife habitat retention.](#)
- 2.10 What is the management plan for the next five years for the trees that were already planted during the last year? – [Weeding, formative pruning, creation of fire breaks, forming irrigation basins for each tree and mulching.](#) What is the management plan for the next twenty years? - [Ongoing monitoring and management advice after 3 years of management as above together with community skill development](#)
- 2.11 Do you plant other species, which are not trees, in the same planting area? (Shrubs, Herbaceous, etc.) - [no](#) If you do, which species? What life form?
- 2.12 Out of the trees that were planted: [_0_](#) (number) trees were in "clean/ new" areas, [_0_](#) (number) trees were planted as fillings in areas with former plantations, [_3000_](#) (number) trees were planted as fillings in areas with natural vegetation.
- 2.13 Did you plant non native species? Which species? How many trees? [No not for Eco-Libris](#)
- 2.14 you are most welcome to add more details that you find important or interesting for us and for our costumers. [We are starting a large conservation program. We are working with 40 Chiefs who are currently finalizing areas within their responsibility that they want to protect. These are mainly hilly areas where people are carelessly cutting down trees and causing drastic erosion. These nominated areas will be gazetted and will become conservation areas in the near future and will be managed by each chiefs committee.](#)

3. Follow-up of the first year assessment

- 3.1 Were the 26,575 trees that were supposed to be planted out in Dec 08 /Jan 09 were planted? [Yes](#)
- 3.2 Could you verify that our funding would not be allocated to exotic plantations? [Yes](#)
- 3.3 Could you verify that non-native species (Sendrella in this case) were removed from the list of tree species that are planted on Eco-Libris' behalf? [Yes](#)

4. Ensuring the planting quality

With regards to our collaboration in our first year of operation, please choose for each characteristic shown in the table below the most suitable grade between 1-10 (1- cannot guarantee at all 10 – can fully guarantee) and add an X sign in the suitable cell. These grades should indicate your ability to ensure the quality of these characteristics. Please provide further explanations whenever necessary below the table.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Additionality										X
Planting the trees primarily as a mixed forest and not monoculture species									X	
Full collaboration with local communities										X
Usage of native species										X
Planting within one year from the payment										X
Ensuring trees planted on behalf of Eco-Libris will not be cut down								X		

Eco-Libris comments:

We thank RIPPLE AFRICA for their full cooperation in the preparation of the assessment and their willingness to provide all the requested details. Overall we are satisfied with the performance of RIPPLE AFRICA and believe that their commitment to high sustainable standards is maintained. We're also satisfied with their implementation of our comments on the last report. We look forward to continuing our work together.