



## **Eco-Libris assessment – First year of Operation (July 2007 – July 2008)**

**RIPPLE Africa**

**Prepared by: Geoff Furber, Director**

### **1. General Information**

- 1.1 Name of organization: **RIPPLE Africa** ([www.rippleafrica.org](http://www.rippleafrica.org))
- 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: **2,000,000 (yr1 50,000, yr2 550,000, yr3 1,400,000)**
- 1.7 No. of trees planted in the 12 months ending on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008: **1,420,000**
- 1.8 Average survival rate of trees: **Varies between 50% and 90%, better latterly**



*Catherine and Jefferson Chirwa near the Mwaya tree nursery in Nkhata Bay District in Northern Malawi.*

## **2. Eco-Libris tree planting's operations (these questions refer to the trees planted on Eco-Libris behalf): 27,575 trees**

2.1 Out of total number of 27,575 trees and as of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, how many trees have been planted? How many are still growing as seedlings in nurseries and how many are at prior stage (seedlings haven't been purchased yet)? **1,000 planted. 26,575 will be planted out in Dec 08 /Jan 09, currently growing in nurseries**

2.2 In what areas the trees were planted? Please fill in the attached excel and be specific as possible. **The area designated to Eco-Libris is next to Chifira - a village in the Nkhata Bay District about 3km in from the lake. Will get more details on this on next visit and after the next planting period. We are improving our record keeping of the various planting projects.**

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 are planted from June to November and seedlings are planted out December to February**

2.4 What species were planted, what is the genetic source (country of origin) of each species?

**Mthethe - Indigenous  
Msambamfumu - Indigenous  
Msangu - Indigenous  
Mbawa - Indigenous  
Sendrella – Asia  
Mkunkhu - Indigenous  
Napini - Indigenous  
Masuku - Indigenous  
Senna spectabilis – Tropical America  
Mango  
Lemon  
Orange  
Pawpaw**

2.5 How many hectares were planted as mixed forest? Mixed of how many species?  
**1 hectare – 1000 trees**

2.6 How many hectares were planted as monoculture? **Zero hectares**

2.7 How many hectares were planted for agro-forestry uses? **Individual farmers plant these with their crops**

2.8 What is the involvement of local communities with these planting activities? **The local communities manage the nurseries and plant the trees. The trees belong to the communities.**

What are the social benefits of these specific trees that were planted, in present and in the future? Many trees are for the communities to use for firewood and timber, other trees are for fruit, and some trees are to be kept as forest areas. Growing these trees sustainably will help to preserve existing forests.

2.9 Are there any specific environmental benefits for the plantings in these specific areas?

Where new seedlings are planted, the communities look after the land and consequently protect the secondary growth of trees that were previously in the area. Also, grasses become thicker and can be used for thatching, and gradually the soil improves

2.10 What is the management plan for the next five years for the trees that were already planted during the last year? What is the management plan for the next twenty years?

There is ongoing environmental training, and communities are trained how to look after and manage the woodlots so that they can provide fuel and timber long into the future.

Woodlots that are planted for firewood are ready for coppicing after 5 years and can be harvested every 3 years thereafter. RIPPLE Africa will be working with the communities and the Forestry Department for many years, and our aim is to monitor the community projects to make sure that there is an ongoing culture of planting trees, using wood sustainably, and caring for the environment.

2.11 Do you plant other species, which are not trees, in the same planting area? (Shrubs, Herbaceous, etc.) If you do, which species? What life form? Not yet; however, we want to explore planting nitrogen fixing plants like peanuts which will generate income and help the growth of the trees in the early years

2.12 Out of the trees that were planted: \_\_\_\_\_ (number) trees were in "clean/ new" areas, \_\_\_\_\_ (number) trees were planted as fillings in areas with former plantations, \_\_\_\_\_ (number) trees were planted as fillings in areas with natural vegetation.

Difficult to answer – normal areas are previously farmers' old fields that have become exhausted due to over production of crops (cassava); prior to that, the fields were natural forest

2.13 Did you plant non native species? Which species? How many trees?

We plant:

Indigenous 60%

Exotic 20%

Fruit trees 15%

Nitrogen fixing trees 5%

2.14 you are most welcome to add more details that you find important or interesting for us and for our costumers.

*For this section, you are most welcome to add any supporting material you find relevant to the questions.*

### 3. 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 look forward to continuing our work together.

Two specific issues we will address in our future work with RIPPLE AFRICA:

1. We would like to make sure that our funding would not be allocated to exotic plantations.
2. Non-native species (Sendrella in this case) will be removed from the list of tree species that are planted on Eco-Libris' behalf.