

# Planting Trees campaign update



## The issue

As Malawi's population grows, forests are rapidly disappearing – cleared for farming, homes, and firewood (for cooking). This leads to depleted soil, worsening droughts, and the loss of wildlife habitats.



## The approach

We work alongside farmers, schools, and community groups to plant trees.

This provides a sustainable source of wood, reduces pressure on natural forests, and gives nature space to recover.

But this project goes beyond planting trees. We also 'plant' knowledge – teaching communities the importance of a healthy ecosystem. Because when you value nature, you protect it.

## Getting ready for tree planting season

The final months of each year mark the start of the seedling phase, when young trees are raised in tree nurseries. During this time, the Ripple Africa team provides seeds, planting tubes, hands-on training, and ongoing monitoring to ensure the seedlings grow strong and healthy. When the first rains arrive in December, the tree-planting season officially begins.

Haswell Mwale, from Mvulu Village in northern Malawi, has planted 1,400 *Pinus oocarpa* seedlings. His motivation is twofold: to help rehabilitate the local environment and to create a long-term source of income for his family. In around 20 years, when the trees can be harvested for timber, he expects them to be highly valuable due to Malawi's severe shortage of timber – providing lasting benefits for his household, including his two children.



Haswell Mwale inspects his tree nursery

*The Ripple Africa team use motorbikes to reach the many tree nurseries within our campaign*

