

# 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.

## A delayed start, a strong recovery

Unpredictable rains delayed the start of **planting season** in parts of Malawi, with dry spells in Salima and Nkhotakota temporarily pausing activity.

As soon as the rains returned, Ripple Africa teams were back in the field supporting farmers and community groups to resume planting.

The **Ntenje Forest Club**, a group of 23 members (mostly women), raised 8,000 seedlings to expand their community forest — creating a more sustainable source of firewood for the future.

Members currently spend hours each week collecting firewood. By growing their own forest, they are reducing pressure on natural forests while building long-term resilience for their community.



*Members of the Ntenje Forest Club, mostly women, worked together to raise seedlings for their community forest – now planted following the return of the rains*