



Eco-Libris assessment – Third Year of Operation (July 2009 – July 2010)

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: [3,250,000 approx](#)
- 1.7 No. of trees planted in the 12 months ending on July 1st, 2010: [268,000](#)
- 1.8 Average survival rate of trees: [60% \(drought after planting\)](#)

2. Eco-Libris tree planting's operations (these questions refer to the trees planted on our behalf): 11,950 Trees

- 2.1 Out of total number of 11,950 trees and as of July 1st 2010, how many trees have been planted? – [2,500](#) How many are still growing as seedlings in nurseries [9,450](#) and how many are at prior stage (seedlings haven't been purchased yet)? [Nil](#).
- 2.2 In what areas the trees were planted? Please fill in the attached excel and be specific as possible. [The trees for Eco-Libris were planted in 5 clubs.](#)
- 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 09 – Oct 09 according to species and planted Dec 09 and Jan 10 – 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 \(Malawi\); Msambafumu – slow growing](#)

hardwood for timber (Malawi); Senna Siamea - medium hard wood, good for poles and firewood (Asia, now naturalised in Malawi); Msangu – improves soil fertility (Malawi).

2.5 How many hectares were planted as mixed forest? Mixed of how many species? 10 hectares.

2.6 How many hectares were planted as monoculture? Most areas are mixed but with a limited variety of species.

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? What are the social benefits of these specific trees that were planted, in present and in the future? Communities form local tree clubs who provide land and labour – communities are developing woodlots to provide sustainable wood together with trees for conservation purposes.

2.9 Are there any specific environmental benefits for the plantings in these specific areas? Soil stabilisation 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 three 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, 2,500 (number) trees were planted as fillings in areas with natural vegetation.

2.13 Did you plant non native species? Which species? How many trees? We are planting a lot of Senna Siamea which, although not indigenous, has been grown in Malawi for many years and is very popular with the communities.

2.14 You are most welcome to add more details that you find important or interesting for us and for our costumers. We are involved in two large conservation programmes to conserve the forested hills. We have been conducting awareness programmes and talking to chiefs to

establish future bylaws for the area. We will then, together with the Forestry Department, the communities and the District Assembly, try to establish Village Forest Areas.

3. Follow-up of the second year assessment

3.1 Were the 13,400 trees that were supposed to be planted out in Dec 09 /Jan 10 were planted? [Yes](#).

3.2 Could you confirm that our funding wasn't allocated to exotic plantations or non-native species? [Some planting is for indigenous hardwood trees, but communities are always requesting quick growing trees for firewood and poles so that indigenous trees can be protected.](#)

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					

[The communities want to grow trees for timber and firewood and are keen to protect existing forests. By growing quick growing trees for local usage, it is helping to protect the adult indigenous trees. Communities are generally not interested in planting trees that will not be of commercial benefit.](#)

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 will work with RIPPLE Africa to find how we can ensure that a greater percentage of trees planted on behalf of Eco-Libris would not be cut down. We look forward to continuing our work together.