

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian  Biantyre Synod

Mulanje Mission Hospital

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Tree Planting Season Report

December 2019 – April 2020

Reported by

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Introduction

On 16th January the tree planting season was launched at Mlatho Hill in Misanjo, Traditional Authority Mabuka in Mulanje with a call for community members to plant more trees and taking care of the surviving trees for better life.

Annually, the Malawi government announces the observance of a National Tree Planting Season and encourages all people to participate. Since the economy of Malawi is heavily based on agriculture, everyone is expected and encouraged to plant at least one tree. Planting trees will help improve the environmental situation in Malawi and protect the soil from deterioration.

The National tree planting season is annually observed from December to April. The rainy season in Malawi begins in September and lasts till April. The air is humid and hot: the best time to plant native trees.

Under the slogan “Plant and Manage Trees to Secure the Environment” 39,518 thousand trees were planted in the MMH catchment during the season, covering 15.8 hectares of land. Mulanje Mission Hospital will continue encouraging afforestation programmes targeting catchment as a key factor of conserving water, food and environment.

Objective

The tree planting season aims to raise awareness to the society on the importance of planting and saving trees and the environment.

MMH strives to reduce soil erosion, increase soil cover and availability of bio-fuel, increase carbon capture and provide income to local communities.

Target Areas

The target areas include:

1. Model villages: Bololo, Mwamadi, Tambala, Wasi, Bwanali, Mwanamvula, Sikoya and Tambala-Mikoko.



The hospital matron planting an indigenous tree – opening ceremony



Group Village Headman Misanjo has taken the lead in his area

2. Catchment areas: Mlatho Hills, Ruo river, Lichenya river and Thanguzi river
3. Primary Schools; Samson, Nachiwale, Khunguni, Ngolowera, Chibanti, Likhubula, Kachere 1, Misanjo, Sikoya and Kanjedza
4. Mulanje Mission and immediate surroundings.



Pupils at Misanjo Primary School planting fruit trees in the school orchard

Species planted out

The following species were planted out during this season:

Species	Common Name	No of Trees	Source
<i>Khaya nyasica</i>	East African mahogany	4211	Procured/Farmers
<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>	Mtangatanga	8319	Farmers
<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	Quickstick	6732	Farmers
<i>Senna siamea</i>	Cassia	6820	Procured/Farmers
<i>Faidherbia albida</i>	Apple-ring acacia	8124	Farmers
<i>Senna spectabilis</i>	Golden wonder	1132	Procured/Farmers
<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Moringa	820	Farmers
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Mangoes	1200	Procured
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Sweet apples	600	Procured
<i>Persea americana</i>	Avocado pears	180	Procured
<i>Prunus persica</i>	Peach	160	Procured
<i>Genus morus</i>	Mulberry	320	Procured
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Citrus	900	Procured
Total		39518	

Wider strategy

To achieve our intended goals, we have developed strategies which aim to improve the coordination and effectiveness of greening efforts, and to make greening an integral part of future activities. We encourage community participation to promote planting and care of trees through Village Natural Resource Management Committees. The main initiatives being undertaken are set below:

1. Active Planting Programme

As a project we have compiled a catchment management plan for the specific period of three years to facilitate planning and monitoring of related progress and outcome. The programme covers the following aspects:

- Incorporation planting elements into all our works which include Irrigation Schemes, Hill side planting and river bank management.
- Carry out homestead planting in all the model villages
- Establish and manage school and community orchards

2. Enhancing Forestry Opportunities

We will continue encouraging community members to utilize the forestry areas by practicing bee keeping, mushroom production and collection of herbs while conserving the trees.

3. Community Support and Government Involvement

The wide participation of the community and government forestry department is also crucial to the success of our tree planting exercise. Furthermore, the community plays a significant role in the planting and management of the trees and the environment. The community members through their well-established groups will continue to establish tree nurseries and raise tree seedlings in their respective villages. This will help them to have adequate seedlings each year.

The establishment of By-laws in the catchment area will assist in the protection of the trees and the environment. Currently, the Misanjo Community have formulated by-laws which are due to be presented to the entire community by the end July, 2020.



Salamba Community tree nursery

Furthermore, the project will mount a variety of community involvement and public education activities for various target groups to foster an altitude of planting and caring of trees. These activities include school talks, community trainings, and community sensitizing meetings.

The project will continue to encourage members of the public to assist in monitoring the conditions of the trees in the catchment.

Challenges and Way forward

- Lack of enough moisture in some of the planted area. Community members were advised to mulch and water the seedlings at least once a week. Survival will be monitored.
- Animal rampage - Community members have constructed tree guards in all areas that are prone to animals
- Bush fires -members were advised to make fire breaks.



Pupils with seedlings and beehive

Financial support

The overwhelming majority of tree seedlings were reared in community tree nurseries, with only small external inputs. Some seedlings (improved varieties) were bought at commercial tree nurseries. The following donors supported this year's tree planting exercise: The Good Little Company, Fane Valley, Greenpop, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

In addition, individuals and companies who had compensated carbon emissions received certificates. Their contributions were used too, and realized 25 tonnes of CO₂ captured.



Schoolteacher and pupils

Looking to compensate your carbon emissions?

It is possible to compensate for CO2 emissions through tree planting at Mulanje Mission Hospital, improving the livelihoods in rural Malawi. Please get in touch if you would like more information.

www.mmh.mw/what-we-do/sustainable-livelihoods-programme/

