

PROVIDING A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT

E-mail: info@rippleafrica.org

Website: www.rippleafrica.org



FF671 Ripple Africa Fish For Tomorrow – support for Nkhotakota District FINAL REPORT

FE Reference Number:	FF671
Date of Grant Accepted:	27 th June 2023
Amount:	£52,808
Name and Location of Project:	Nkhotakota District, Malawi
Actual expenditure:	See Expenditure Section below

Reasons for the request:

Ripple Africa was seeking funding towards the cost of the Fish for Tomorrow project in Nkhotakota District to ensure that the project continues to progress in the district until sustainable funding from a District Fishing Permit fee is introduced. In 2021, Fondation Eagle contributed £30,000 towards the project in Nkhotakota which enabled us to secure some additional funding for the project from other funders. However, we still had a funding shortfall and in June 2023, Fondation Eagle awarded Ripple Africa £52,808 for six months funding for the Fish for Tomorrow project in Nkhotakota District.

This report outlines the key achievements in the district between July 1st 2023 and 1st January 2024.

Activities carried out

We are working with 65 Beach Village Committees (BVCs) and are protecting 13 breeding areas in the district. Joyce Banda continues to run the project with the support of 3 coordinators. Joyce sits on several district committees and has built up a good working relationship with the District Fisheries Officer and his team.

Photos of activities carried out are at Annex 1

Joyce and the team have held:

- Seven Sub-Fisheries Association Policy Assessment meetings.
- 21 review and planning meetings with BVCs.
- Seven Sub-Fisheries Association Review and Planning meetings.
- Two Fisheries Association Review and Planning meetings.
- Seven Area Development Committee Meetings on Monofilament Ban.
- 31 community awareness meetings on Fish Conservation.
- 35 school talks campaigns in primary and secondary schools in the project area.
- Six implementing partners' monthly management meetings.
- Three Stakeholder quarterly information sharing meetings.
- Five stakeholder meetings on the implementation and signing of the by-laws and the process of securing their approval by the Ministry of Justice.

The team have also:

- Carried out 35 Inspections of shops selling monofilament nets followed by the issue of warning letters to inform shop owners that they will be fined if they continue to sell these nets.
- Introduced Bunt number 12 Chilimira nets to four fishers and a Fisheries Association Committee. Bunt 12 is a larger meshed net for catching Usipa that has been used in Nkhata Bay District and has protected juvenile Usipa. Fishers there are now earning more money as they are catching and selling larger Usipa, a sardine like fish which is the most commonly caught fish in Lake Malawi.
- Revamped and trained 14 under-performing BVCs in the project area. This involves electing new members to ensure that all BVC members are fully committed to the project and understand their role in it.
- Conducted 25 awareness raising meetings on the introduction of District Fishing Permit fees in the project area.
- Conducted 30 breeding area inspections.
- Collected data on fishers, BVC performance, breeding area performance and catch and income. Examples are at Annexes 2, 3 and 4

Challenges:

- Lack of support from some chiefs which has been addressed through holding face to face meetings between local leaders and District Council members to reiterate the need for them to support the project.
- Inactive BVC Members who do not participate fully in the projects' activities. This has been addressed by revamping 14 BVCs, electing new members and training them to ensure that they are effectively carrying out their duties.
- Resistance to change by some fishers. This has been addressed by holding awareness raising meetings with chiefs, BVCs and fishing communities about the importance of conserving fish by following the bylaws. We have also donated a boat to Fisheries to enable more patrols to be carried out by Fisheries and BVCs.
- Failure of some legal fishers to pay for fishing gear licensing. This has been addressed by conducting more gear licensing awareness meetings with BVCs and fishers.
- Persistent use of monofilament nets by some fishers in the project area. This is being addressed by empowering BVCs and local leaders to conduct patrols and confiscate these nets and also by ensuring that new nets can no longer be purchased.
- Failure of some chiefs and some BVCs to use the by-laws effectively during case hearings. This is being addressed by holding review meetings on case management to ensure that everyone understands the need to use the fisheries bylaws effectively.
- Failure of some fishers to pay for local fishing gear permits. This is being addressed through conducting more licensing awareness meetings with BVCs and fishers. These local permits provide income for the BVCs to help them carry out their patrols.

Successes:

- Confiscation of 15 fishing dragnets (beach seine nets) which are illegal. Two fishers caught using these in Chia Lagoon have been referred to court.
- Confiscation of 30 monofilament fishing nets and four large monofilament fishing nets. Two fishermen have been fined 400,000 Malawi Kwachas.
- Confiscation of four mosquito nets.
- Confiscation of three trawl nets operating during the closed season

- Confiscation of 16 Chilimira fishing nets operating without fishing permits.
- All breeding areas are now being fully protected by the BVCs who are conducting patrols and holding fishers' meetings to ensure that no fishing is carried out in these areas.
- Introduction of larger meshed fishing nets (Bunt 12) in the project area to catch larger fish and protect the younger ones (known locally as bunya)

Areas where we have not progressed as quickly as hoped are:

Signing of the revised bylaws.

Nkhotakota District has bylaws already in place but there is now a national requirement for each district to develop Fisheries Management Plans to underpin the bylaws. This is a collaborative process involving fishing communities, Village Headmen and Group Village Headmen (Chiefs), Traditional Authorities (Senior Chiefs), Village and Area Development Committees and District Governance bodies - obviously this all takes time. Once the management plans have been agreed, the bylaws then have to be amended slightly so that they align with the management plans and they then have to be formally agreed at both district and national level and then they can be signed. We have just finished developing Fisheries management plans for Nkhotakota which are with Fisheries headquarters for the final touches. We are hoping that the new bylaws will be signed soon but as the district already has their former bylaws in place, this delay has not adversely affected the project.

Development of the District Fishing Permits

Discussions on the introduction of the District Fishing Permit fee have also been slower than we had hoped. Briefing meetings are being held to prepare for District Executive Committee approval and fishing communities are being made aware of the planned change and the amounts that they will have to pay.

Future Plans

- We will continue with the monitoring of the BVCs and retraining / reforming as necessary. We will also continue to audit the protected breeding areas and ensure that the local BVCs are protecting them effectively. We will also continue to hold regular meetings with fishers and community members to reinforce the bylaws and also school talks to ensure that the messages are delivered to the next generation of fishers.
- We will also continue to work with the District Council to get the new District Bylaws agreed once the Management Plan is in place. We hope that the signing of the bylaws will take place in the next few months.
- We will also aim to continue to work at District level to introduce District Fishing permits to provide a sustainable income for the project moving forward. We will hold further awareness raising meetings on the introduction of the permit fees with fishers.
- We will work with the District Fisheries Officer to ensure that all monofilament nets are taken out of circulation and hold face to face meetings with fishers who are caught using them to ensure that they understand the consequences of using these.
- We will hold more closed season awareness raising meetings to protect fish during the breeding season.
- We will assist District Fisheries with the annual frame survey and fisheries data capture exercise.

Expenditure

Fish Nkhotakota Fondation Eagle Contribution	Code	Budget		Expenditure	
		Total Cost MK	Total Cost £	Total Cost MK	Total Cost £
Salaries – Ripple Africa Coordinators & Managers	VNS	13,323,900	£11,103	15,786,675	£10,084
Travel and Subsistence Ripple Africa staff	VNAC	4,450,500	£3,709	4,654,063	£2,953
Phone and Data Costs	VNC	1,449,000	£1,208	810,300	£521
Travel and Subsistence Fisheries staff	VNAF	15,628,500	£13,024	13,666,230	£8,549
Travel and Subsistence Chiefs & Community	VNAH	2,915,250	£2,429	15,316,888	£9,599
Travel and Subsistence Other Govt staff	VNAG	4,971,450	£4,143	2,807,010	£1,924
Enforcement costs	VNEN	1,725,000	£1,438	6,891,655	£4,216
Monitoring and Evaluation	VNME	1,380,000	£1,150	1,409,795	£900
Other	VNO			3,497,770	£2,450
Office costs	VNOC	1,863,000	£1,553	2,836,500	£1,847
Vehicle maintenance	VNV	3,450,000	£2,875	4,217,193	£2,643
Vehicle Fuel	VNVF	6,693,000	£5,578	4,729,175	£3,035
Motorbikes Maintenance	VNM	2,070,000	£1,725	5,302,936	£2,798
Motorbike Fuel	VNMF	3,450,000	£2,875	3,456,892	£2,199
Total		63,369,600	£52,808	85,383,081	£53,717

The £2,450 figure under the ‘Other’ VNO code was for the purchase of Bunt 12 chilimira nets which we have given to four fishers and one Fisheries Association. We have found in Nkhata Bay District that by getting some fishers to use these and record the sizes of the Usipa that they catch, others then want to purchase their own larger meshed nets to get the same financial benefits.

As we move funds over to Malawi on a monthly basis, the exchange rates that we used are as follows:

July	£1: 1,382 Malawi Kwacha
August	£1: 1,426 Malawi Kwacha
September	£1: 1,447 Malawi Kwacha
October	£1: 1,463 Malawi Kwacha
November	£1: 1,488 Malawi Kwacha
December	£1: 2,192 Malawi Kwacha (following the devaluation of the Kwacha)

We therefore had some help with the rising costs from more favourable exchange rates. The increase in costs in Kwacha was 34.7% but in sterling it was only 1.7%.



Larger meshed (Bunt 12) nets now in use by four fishers in Bondo and Ngala.



Beach Seine confiscated in Chia Lagoon.



Donation of a boat to Nkhotakota Fisheries Office by Force Ngwira, Ripple Africa's Country Director.

This will be used by Fisheries and BVCs to patrol the lake and enforce the bylaws.



Dragnets and Monofilament nets confiscated by Congole BVC.



Stakeholder information sharing meeting.



Newly elected Chiwi BVC members being trained.



Kanyenda Sub-Fisheries Association meeting to discuss local permits and fishing gear licensing.



Inspection of fishing gears at Makanja.



Mosquito nets confiscated by Kambutu BVC Members.



Inspection of shops selling monofilaments.



Inspection of nets being used by fishers carried out by Kachere BVC members.



Community awareness meeting on the Fish for Tomorrow project at Mbalame.



Kasitu BVC Community awareness meeting.



Nkhotakota District Fisheries Association Review and Planning meeting.



Kambutu BVC Member during breeding area inspection.



Ripple Africa and District Fisheries Staff Project Management Meeting.



Fishing gear inspection at Chilowa.

BVC PERFORMANCE

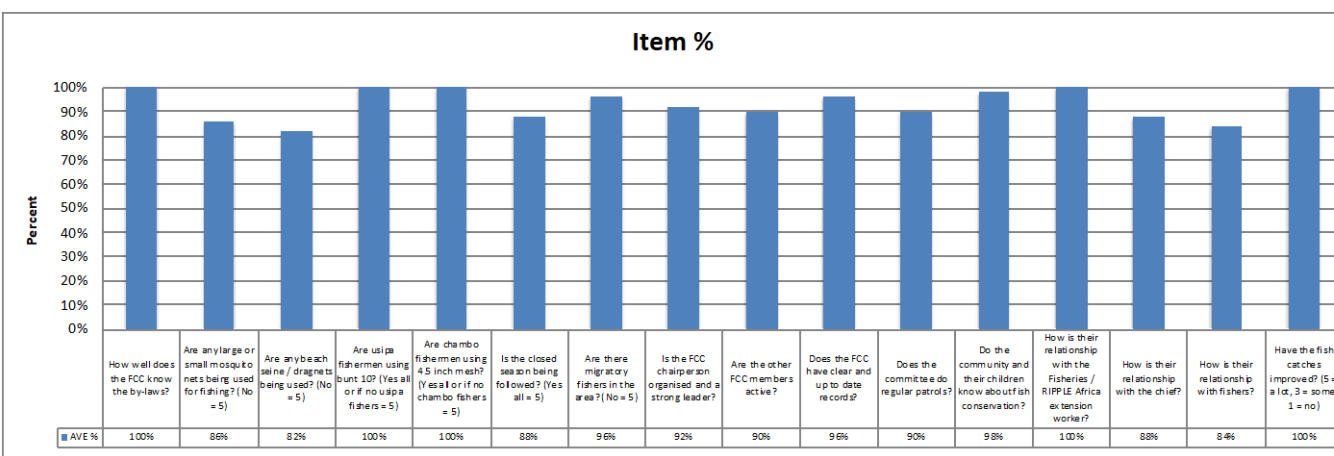
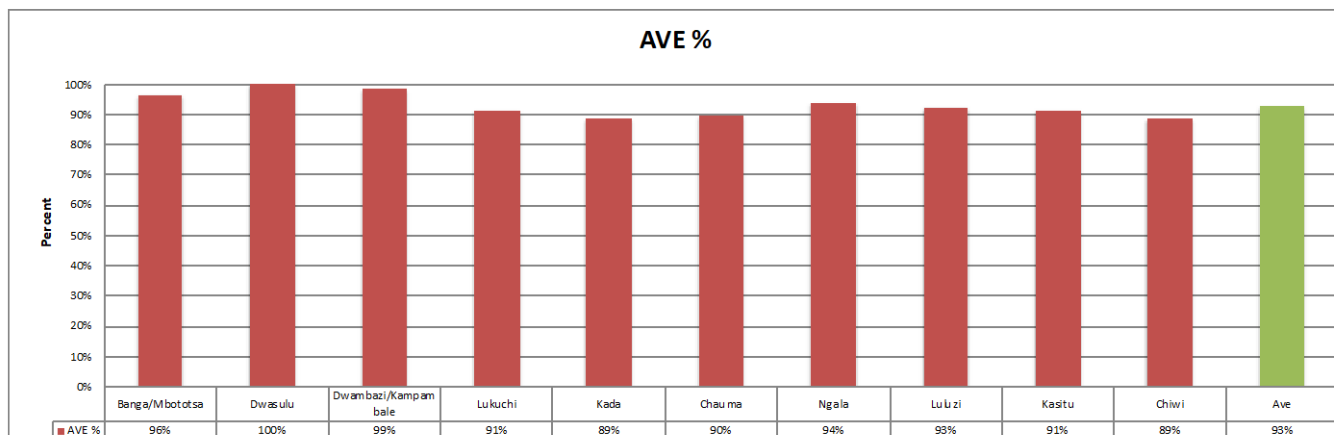
Date:	20-Nov-23	Qty	10	MAX each	80	Max all	800	Total all	931%	Ave	93%	
Names and numbers (1 to 10)												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Item %
Stratum:	05-Jan-00	Banga/Mbototsa	Dwasulu	Dwambazi/Kampambale	Lukuchi	Kada	Chau ma	Ngala	Luluzi	Kasitu	Chiwi	Average
RIPPLE Manager:	Joyce Banda											
Extension worker:	Wingstone Machemba											
District:	Nkhota-kota											
TA:	Kanyenda											
TOPIC	ITEM	Banga	Dwasu	Dwambi	Lukuch	Kada	Chaur	Ngala	Luluzi	Kasitu	Chiwi	Ave
Bylaws - Gear	How well does the FCC know the by-laws?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Bylaws - Gear	Are any large or small mosquito nets being used for fishing? (No = 5)	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	86%
Bylaws - Gear	Are any beach seine / dragnets being used? (No = 5)	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	60%	80%	80%	80%	80%	82%
Bylaws - Gear	Are usipa fishermen using bunt 10? (Yes all or if no usipa fishers = 5)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Bylaws - Gear	Are chambo fishermen using 4.5 inch mesh? (Yes all or if no chambo fishers = 5)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Bylaws - Other	Is the closed season being followed? (Yes all = 5)	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	80%	100%	80%	80%	88%
Bylaws - Other	Are there migratory fishers in the area? (No = 5)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%	96%
Leadership	Is the FCC chairperson organised and a strong leader?	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	100%	100%	100%	80%	92%
Leadership	Are the other FCC members active?	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	90%
Records	Does the FCC have clear and up to date records?	80%	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	96%
Activities	Does the committee do regular patrols?	80%	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	100%	80%	100%	90%
Activities	Do the community and their children know about fish conservation?	100%	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%
Relationships	How is their relationship with the Fisheries / RIPPLE Africa extension worker?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Relationships	How is their relationship with the chief?	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	88%
Relationships	How is their relationship with fishers?	80%	100%	100%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	84%
Fish catches	Have the fish catches improved? (5 = a lot, 3 = some, 1 = no)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
16	AVE %	96%	100%	99%	91%	89%	90%	94%	93%	91%	89%	93%

5 = Excellent, 4 = Good, 3 = Average, 2 = Poor, 1 = Very Poor

BVC PERFORMANCE

Total and Ave Scores as % 1-10

TA: Nkhota-kota



We carry out samples at several beach landing site to analyse the number if small, medium and large fish caught and can then estimate the monthly income for the fishers based on market prices. As these graphs demonstrate, more large Chambo are being caught, with a consequent increase in income for the fishers. Chambo can still be caught using long lines during the closed season.

Kambutu

