



Environmental Conservation

Malawi, Mangochi

Quick Overview

Embark on an enriching journey with our environmental campaign in Mangochi, Malawi!

Make a difference through tree planting, community engagement, and workshops on permaculture, waste management, and alternative energy. Gain invaluable teaching experience while helping Malawi become more sustainable.

Program Description

Environmental conservation is the practice of humans saving the environment from the loss of species and the destruction of ecosystems, primarily due to pollution and human activities. Conservation is vital to saving and helping both animals and trees, as we are all dependent on one another for survival. As trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), a major greenhouse gas in the atmosphere. When communities plant trees, they can help reduce the impacts of climate change in their local area and around the world.

You will contribute to this campaign in a variety of ways, but our program focuses on tree nursery education and efforts as a first step toward mitigating the effects of climate change and unsustainable practices. This means that you will be planting trees raised in our nursery in community centers such as schools, local markets, and clinics throughout the village. Our work to help communities plant trees is planned carefully so that issues like water availability and the suitability of tree species to the local area are taken into account. We also make sure that trees are planted at the height of the rainy season and when there is already moisture in the soil, giving the trees the best chance of survival.

The nursery also serves as a resource center for local villagers interested in creating their own tree nursery or garden at home. You will also be involved in the planning and delivery of environmental lessons on practical topics such as recycling at home and reducing one's carbon footprint, as well as broader topics such as the effects of climate change and the need for environmental concern.

As part of this program, we will also take the lead in garbage collection, garbage bin creation, home garden development, and other activities that will improve the sustainability of this growing community.

If you have a good level of physical fitness, enthusiasm, and a desire to make a difference that benefits the environment as well as the local community, this program is for you!

Your Role - General Information:

- **Community Engagement:** Engage actively with local communities in Mangochi, Malawi, by contributing to tree nursery construction, transplanting trees, and sharing knowledge on permaculture and agro-forestry techniques.
- **Workshop Coordination:** Collaborate with local staff to coordinate and conduct workshops aimed at integrating environmental curricula in schools. Promote sustainable use of natural resources, proper sanitation practices, and alternative energy methods. Facilitate activities focusing on environmental awareness, waste management, and the formation of environmental youth clubs.
- **Versatile Engagement:** Experience a diverse range of roles, from designing and establishing tree nurseries to participating in tree planting programs and reforestation activities. Get hands-on experience in permaculture and agro-ecology under the guidance of local experienced experts in these fields.
- **Skill Acquisition:** Acquire firsthand experience and in-depth knowledge about permaculture, agro-ecology, and environmental conservation concepts. Benefit from comprehensive information and practical involvement, developing skills vital for addressing environmental challenges.
- **Teaching Experience:** Engage in teaching activities, providing valuable insights and lessons on practical environmental topics like recycling at home, reducing carbon footprints, and broader issues concerning climate change and environmental sustainability.
- **Community Impact:** Contribute directly to increasing community awareness regarding environmental concerns and advancing the ecological sustainability of Malawi. Your involvement will support the development of sustainable practices and initiatives within the local community.
- Your commitment requires a cumulative duration of 6 hours each day.

Add-on: +Learning

There is no +Learning add-on available for this program.

Aims & Objectives

- Increase community awareness of environmental concerns
- Advance the ecological sustainability of Malawi
- Provide you with teaching experience, an invaluable life skill!

Schedule

Monday

- Breakfast at the accommodation – 0700hrs to 0800hrs

- Introduction meeting, House rules, Setting Expectations, Health and Safety Advice and explaining & handling of documents (Code of Conduct, Child Protection Policy, Media Consent, Etc...)
- Malawian brief history, Lessons in Malawian Culture, Do's and Don'ts and Basic Malawian Language Lessons.
- Lunch at the accommodation – 1200hrs to 1300hrs
- To ensure participants are well-acquainted with the surroundings, the coordinator will guide the participants to key spots like supermarkets, ATMs, and currency exchange centers and assist in obtaining a local SIM card with data (Airtel Network) for seamless communication during their stay.
- Dive into an introduction to agroecology and permaculture, gaining insights into sustainable farming and ecological practices.
- Dinner at the accommodation – 1900hrs to 2000hrs

Tuesday

- **Practical Engagement:** Assist in the Action for Natural Medicine (ANAMED) activities, contributing to planting seeds and seedlings in pots and tree planting within schools.
- **Alternative Energy & Medicinal Products:** Participate in alternative energy practices through paper briquette making and formation of medicinal products, aligning with sustainability objectives.

Wednesday

- **Diversified Learning:** Engage in paper briquette making, focusing on alternative energy practices, and learn about herbal medicinal product formation.

Thursday

- **Hands-on Initiatives:** Contribute to soap-making activities and recycling initiatives, promoting sustainable practices within the community.

Friday

- **Community Development:** Work in school gardens and tree nurseries, involving yourself in ongoing projects aimed at sustainable community development.
- **Environmental Trash Clean-Up Drive:** This event is a collective effort to combat environmental degradation by actively cleaning up trash and debris in and around the local community.

***** This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances *****

Starting Dates

During 2024

This program starts every week.

During 2025

This program starts every week.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Standard Requirements

Minimum age: 16

Maximum age: 65

Minimum English level: Intermediate

CRB required: On Signup

Passport copy required: No

Resume copy required: No

Required qualification: None

Additional Requirements

- Participants above 60 must secure medical clearance. For those under 18, a signed parental consent form is mandatory.
- A reasonable level of fitness is essential as a significant portion of activities occur outdoors under the sun.
- It's mandatory to have a yellow fever vaccination and obtain a valid certificate. It is required upon entry into Malawi. Lack of this certificate could result in entry refusal.
- Other recommended vaccines include diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal meningitis, rabies, and typhoid. For individuals at the highest risk, selective vaccines like Cholera might be advised for consideration.

Additional Equipment

- Sunscreen: High SPF for protection against the sun's rays.
- Sunhat: Wide-brimmed hat to shield from the sun.
- Sunglasses: UV protection for eye safety.

- Safety Glasses: For specific tasks that require eye protection.
- Work Gloves: Sturdy gloves for various maintenance activities.
- Closed-Toe Work Shoes or Sturdy Footwear: Durable footwear suitable for outdoor work.
- Repellent for Bugs and Mosquitoes: Insect repellent to prevent bites.
- Wet Wipes: For quick cleaning and hygiene.
- Face Masks: for dust.
- Hand Sanitizer: Portable sanitizer for personal use.
- Personal Toiletries: Including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.
- Personal Medication and First Aid Kit: Any prescribed medication and a basic first aid kit.
- Day or Backpack: For carrying personal items and essentials during activities.
- Reusable Water Bottle: To stay hydrated during work hours.
- Light Rain Gear: Poncho or lightweight raincoat for unexpected weather changes.
- Comfortable Clothing: Suitable for outdoor activities and varying weather conditions.