

Temwa Carbon Balance Report

July 2026

Temwa Carbon Balance Summary

Communities in Nkhata Bay North in northern Malawi are facing increasingly severe impacts of climate change, including heavy rainfall that causes soil erosion, prolonged dry seasons that hinder crop production, and resulting income losses that drive further deforestation. To tackle this, Temwa Carbon Balance (TCB) offers organisations and individuals an opportunity to balance their CO₂ emissions through community tree-planting, sustainable farming and community-led management of local natural resources in the hard-to-reach villages of Nkhata Bay North. Temwa has cumulatively planted 1.8 million trees across 720 hectares, including 333,765 trees across 134 hectares through TCB since 2020, with 62,434 seedlings planted between January and June 2026.

We are delighted to share TCB's continued success, marked by growing community involvement. Thank you for choosing to balance your carbon with Temwa - your support enables our life-changing work to continue.

Project Context and Aims



Figure 1. Tukurani VNRMC members collecting tree seedlings for planting.

TCB aims to restore forests and strengthen livelihoods by working with the communities in Nkhata Bay North to grow trees from locally managed nurseries into resilient woodlots, school orchards and protected natural forests, while building forest-friendly income streams that make standing forests more valuable than felled ones.

Community ownership sits at the centre of this model. Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMCs), school management committees and local leaders co-design simple, practical plans, deciding where nurseries will be established, which species will be raised, how and when seedlings will be out-planted, how firebreaks and patrols will be maintained, and how

income from honey or bamboo will pay for the next season's work. This is how your contributions to Carbon Balance are translated into measurable, long-term impact.

Between January and June 2026, TCB continued to scale its reforestation efforts, with strong progress in community-led tree planting and forest restoration.

Recent Project Achievements

In this reporting period, TCB made strong progress across forest restoration, community stewardship and forest-friendly livelihoods. Communities planted 53,934 project-supported trees and restored 21.5 hectares of degraded land by the end of March. Monitoring also identified more than 8,500 additional self-sourced trees planted by five individuals, bringing the wider seasonal total to 62,434 trees. As the planting season closed, the project shifted towards post-planting care, and community learning, reflection and planning for 2026/2027. Activities with VDCs, VNRMCs, schools, traditional leaders and partners strengthened local governance and promoted the value of forest-friendly livelihoods such as beekeeping and fruit tree production.

Tree Raising and Management

The 2025/2026 planting season progressed strongly during the first quarter of 2026. In January, nursery production increased by 2,213 seedlings, bringing the cumulative total to 71,302 seedlings, equivalent to 89% of the seasonal target of 80,000 seedlings. Monitoring showed that around 80% of seedlings were ready for planting, while communities, VDCs, VNRMCs and individual growers had already begun out-planting and continued nursery management.

Planting accelerated as the rains arrived earlier than the previous season. Communities planted 9,855 trees in January, 20,720 trees in February and 17,119 trees in March, bringing the project-supported seasonal total to 53,934 trees by the end of March. This represented 83.7% progress against the reported seasonal target of 68,001 trees and exceeded the 42,747 trees planted by the same point in the previous year. By the end of March, project-supported planting had restored 21.5 hectares of degraded or bare land.

The season also saw the establishment of new village forests and expansion of existing woodlots. In February, Sibanda village forest and Kasasire village forest were established in Kasasire VDC with 1,500 and 600 trees respectively. In March, a new village forest was established in Kabale, Manyenyezi under Kalonga VDC, where 758 trees were planted. These additions increased the cumulative number of project-supported woodlots to 73 since the project began. Monitoring also highlighted strong individual initiative, with five people independently sourcing and planting more than 8,500 additional trees, including cedar, pine, Gmelina and Khaya anthotheca. A key challenge during the period was the loss of around 8,000 seedlings at nursery level and in transit to planting sites, leaving fewer than 6,067 seedlings available for planting in early April. From April, activities focused less on new planting totals and more on post-planting stewardship, practical demonstrations, nursery planning, species selection, firebreak construction and preparation for the 2026/2027 season.

Trees Planted, Carbon Balanced

Carbon balanced by Temwa Since launched in 2020		How has your support helped to date?	
Trees planted	• 2020- 57,303 • 2021- 36,202 • 2022- 40,911 • 2023- 28,442 • 2024- 48,477 • 2025- 59,996 • 2026- 62,434	Trees species planted	• 190,850 Wood- based species • 99,227 Agroforestry tree species • 93 Herbal trees • 24,101 Water retaining • 2,020 Bamboo • 17,474 Fruit trees
		Planting locations	• Chigwere • Kanolo • Usisya • Manyenyezi • Kasasire Bula • Usingini • Chikwina • Honga • Bigha
Potential carbon benefits	32,366 tonnes of CO ²	Who is growing the trees?	• VNRMCS • Schools • Hospitals • Individuals

Stewardship of Natural Resources



Figure 2. Training on advocacy strategies.

From January to June 2026, TCB strengthened community stewardship of forests, land and water resources by working through local governance structures and supporting practical, community-led action. In January, advocacy training with Mabuli VDC in Usisya equipped participants with skills to identify and respond to natural resource challenges including deforestation, drought and land degradation. In February, planning meetings with chiefs, VDCs, VNRMCS and school committees in Kasasire and Manyenyezi improved coordination and helped communities organise tree planting calendars, roles and responsibilities.

Community ownership was particularly visible in Kasasire, where local structures organised seven tree planting exercises, three of which were supported by Temwa. A school woodlot at Kasasire Primary School was established with 600 trees, while planting around a newly built clinic will provide shelter for patients and help protect institutional land. In March, all VNRMCS under the project were engaged in tree planting in line with their natural resource management plans, and Evergreen VNRMCS mobilised 41 community members for one of the strongest planting turnouts of the season. April's joint conservation event with Nyika Media Club and Mzuzu Central Prison further strengthened stewardship by demonstrating firebreak construction, beehive hanging, pruning, swale rehabilitation and vetiver grass planting.

In May, communities in Usingini, Kasasire, Mchulu, Kalinde, Chigwere, Manyenyezi and Kanolo reviewed the season, identified governance gaps, revived or elected committees, discussed bylaw development, and prepared action plans for nursery establishment, land mapping, shade construction, pot filling and firebreak development. These activities strengthened the foundation for more coordinated community-based natural resource management in the 2026/2027 planting season.

Forest-Friendly Livelihoods

Over the past six months, communities in Nkhata Bay North continued to show how forest-friendly livelihoods can strengthen conservation by making standing trees more valuable to households and community groups.

Beekeeping remained an important example of this approach. In January, Mr Yakwapula, who had previously established a woodlot of more than 10,000 trees with technical and material support from the project, harvested 27 kilograms of honey from hives on his woodlot. He sold the honey for MKW 270,000, helping to meet household basic needs and farming costs while reinforcing the value of protecting the trees. In February, Chikoko VNRMC recorded two new beehive colonisations, bringing the total number of colonised hives to 3 out of 30 hives hung. Although still at an early stage, this showed potential for future honey production and stronger incentives for forest protection.



Figure 3. Trevor Chirwa pitting the pits ready for planting.

Fruit trees also became an increasingly important part of the project's livelihood and nutrition pathway. Monitoring at Kaulasisi School showed that fruit trees established in 2023 were being well maintained, with ring basin maintenance and weeding in place and some mulberries already flowering. At household level, Mr Shadreck Ngulube raised seedlings and planted 50 additional fruit trees, adding to his existing orchard of 64 trees. In April, Temwa staff strengthened their technical skills in fruit tree grafting and budding, building knowledge that can be shared with communities to improve future orchard establishment and productivity. In May, communities identified fruit tree propagation, grafting and improved tree management as priorities for the coming season, showing growing interest in fruit trees as a route to better nutrition, income and resilience.

Together, these livelihood activities demonstrate Temwa's integrated approach. When communities can earn income from honey, fruit and sustainable land use, they have stronger reasons to build and maintain firebreaks, protect woodlots, care for orchards and manage local natural resources for the long term.

Community Success Stories

Chikakamadoda Village Head leading the way to restore degraded land



Figure 4. VDC members tending the land.

In Kasasire VDC, Chikakamadoda Group Village Head is inspiring the wider community to restore degraded land and protect local natural resources.

He has restored 1.3 hectares by planting more than 3,300 indigenous and exotic trees. This growing woodland is helping to protect soils, increase biodiversity and strengthen ecosystem services, while contributing directly to Kasasire VDC's target of restoring 18.8 hectares through Forest Landscape Restoration.

His leadership has energised the VDC and strengthened local commitment to sustainable forest management. It also contributes to the district's wider ambition to restore 240 hectares through the planting of 600,000 trees. For Temwa Carbon Balance, Chikakamadoda's example is a powerful reminder that lasting restoration is possible when community ownership, local leadership and practical action come together.

Honey, forest protection and household resilience

Mr Geoffrey Kalichero is showing how beekeeping can turn forest protection into a practical livelihood. As a beneficiary of the Temwa Carbon Balance project, he received two beehives and training in beehive construction in 2024. Since then, he has expanded his apiary to 11 beehives, all strategically hung within his two-acre forest area. Nine of these hives are now colonised, helping to protect the forest from encroachment as community members are discouraged from cutting or clearing trees in an area where bees are present.



Figure 5. Geoffrey Kalichero with one of his beehives.

In the most recent season, Mr Kalichero harvested 17 kilograms of honey from two of his colonised hives. He sold part of the honey for MKW 120,000, using the income to support his household with basic needs such as daily relish. The remaining honey was kept for household consumption, providing nutritional and medicinal benefits for his family.

His success demonstrates the strength of Temwa's integrated approach to forest-friendly livelihoods - when communities are able to earn income and improve household wellbeing from standing forests, they have stronger incentives to protect them. Mr Kalichero's two-acre forest is now more than a restored landscape; it is a source of food, income, medicine and long-term environmental protection.

Bees and fruits for business - forests for life



Figure 6. Mr Choma in his existing individual forest.

Mr. Choma is demonstrating how beekeeping can create sustainable livelihoods while protecting and restoring natural forests. As a dedicated member of the Kuwunika VNRMC in Nkholero Village, he has embraced nature-based enterprises that benefit both his household and the environment.

Beekeeping is more than just honey; it is a business that supports healthy forests. Recognizing this, Mr. Choma identified a natural forest where he established 10 beehives, of which 6 have already been colonized. As

the colonies grow, he expects to increase honey and beeswax production, providing a reliable source of income while encouraging the conservation of natural forests. To further restore the landscape, Mr. Choma has planted pine, m'bawa, and acacia trees, helping to regenerate the forest and create a suitable habitat for bees. Healthy forests provide bees with food and shelter, while bees in turn improve pollination, supporting biodiversity and strengthening the ecosystem.

As a way of diversifying and increasing his household income, Mr. Choma has plans to venture into fruit production this season. He has 3.7 acres of land to plant an orchard of over 500 fruit trees. This investment will provide long-term income, improve household nutrition, and complement his beekeeping enterprise by creating additional flowering resources for bees.

Mr. Choma's efforts demonstrate that conservation and economic development can go hand in hand. By combining beekeeping, forest restoration, and fruit production, he is building a livelihood while contributing to climate resilience and the sustainable management of natural resources. Looking ahead, Mr. Choma hopes to expand both his beekeeping and fruit production enterprises, inspiring more community members to adopt integrated approaches that protect forests while creating lasting economic opportunities.

Economic empowerment through bamboo production

Mr. Chazeka is showing how bamboo can restore the environment while also providing a sustainable livelihood. A dedicated smallholder farmer and community forester, he manages over 5 hectares of woodlots, turning degraded land into thriving green cover that supports both his family and the planet.

His bamboo journey began in 2023, when he received 38 seedlings through Temwa Carbon Balance. With patience and care, he nurtured them into strong, healthy stands. Today, bamboo is more than just a plant in his fields, it provides firewood for his household and a source of income. By selling bamboo poles at MWK 8,000 each, he has already earned over MWK 1,400,000, meeting essential family needs and proving that forestry can be profitable. In the 2025/2026 season, Mr. Chazeka expanded his efforts,



Figure 7. Mr Chazeka in his bamboo woodlot.

planting 3,000 trees on 1 hectare of land. This bold step restored degraded land and strengthened forest cover for future generations. Alongside bamboo, he also practices beekeeping.

By reducing pressure on natural forests and promoting conservation, Mr. Chazeka has demonstrated that forestry can be both profitable and green. Looking ahead, his vision is clear, expand bamboo production, connect with reliable buyers and continue leading by example. From bamboo poles to buzzing beehives, Mr. Chazeka is a living testimony that with commitment and support, communities can thrive while protecting the planet.

Restoring land and rebuilding trust



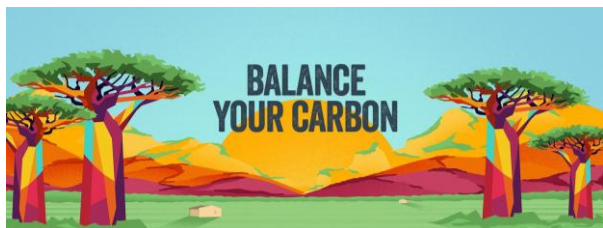
Figure 7. Nyika Media Club President Feston Malekezo, Temwa and Mzuzu prison staff working together to plant vetiver grass along a swale.

At Honga and Jembe villages, a tree planting event became more than a restoration activity; it became a powerful example of partnership in action. Community members, local governance structures, Nyika Media Club and the Malawi Prison Service came together - each bringing a unique strength. Communities contributed local knowledge and custodianship of the land, the prison service provided manpower and institutional support, and the media club helped carry conservation messages beyond the event through 'solution journalism'.

The day went beyond planting trees. Demonstrations on firebreak construction, beehive hanging and pruning helped reinforce practical skills for sustainable forest management, while local leadership endorsement encouraged community ownership and long-term commitment. The involvement of Mzuzu Prison also carried an important social message: by working alongside communities in environmental restoration, the prison service challenged stigma around released prisoners and showed that former inmates can contribute positively to development. Together, the partners strengthened immediate restoration efforts while building trust, inclusion and momentum for future environmental action.

Thank you

Thank you for choosing to offset your carbon footprint through Temwa Carbon Balance. As communities continue to grapple with the challenges of chronic poverty and climate change, the need for support in tree planting and forest-friendly livelihoods continues to grow. Your contribution helps regenerate forests, empowers communities to build sustainable livelihoods and strengthens their long-term resilience.



*Donate today via our QR code
or balance your carbon footprint
with Temwa Carbon Balance.*

Registered charity no: 1185889

For more information, please contact:

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