



Temwa Carbon Balance Quarterly Report

December 2020

Temwa Carbon Balance Summary

Welcome to Temwa's first-ever Carbon Balance Report. The Temwa Carbon Balance scheme 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 Nkhata Bay North, a hard-to-reach area in Northern Malawi. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has caused severe health and economic disruptions in the area, Temwa Carbon Balance has been running since its launch in early 2020 – and the communities and forests you have invested in are still being supported. With 18,000 trees already planted, we are exceeding our carbon balance target for our first year of operation. We had hoped to send this report sooner, but as a result of staff being furloughed following Covid-19, we had to put a pause in our communications.

Community Activity Update

Around 90% of households in Nkhata Bay North are smallholder subsistence farmers. Although the communities depend on their local natural resources for survival, poverty forces them to use the resources unsustainably – exacerbating the same problems. Temwa Carbon Balance, alongside Temwa's broader programmes in agriculture, health and education, address the interlinked challenges these communities face in a holistic way. In line with our community-led approach, all our programmes are designed, implemented and adapted in tandem with the communities' own local development strategies and evolving needs. Our aim is to strengthen local structures so they can take over our programmes and drive their own development, independent of international support.



Tree planting in 2020 – In Malawi, communities grow tree seedlings in nurseries from August and outplant the seedlings during the rainy season from December to March. Temwa Carbon Balance was launched in the middle of this annual tree planting season and early on we supported tree planting events in communities that had been raising seedlings in local nurseries. So far 10 locations have been designated as Temwa Carbon Balance sites. We are very pleased to report that we are exceeding our targets: the potential carbon benefits of the trees planted so

far are 50% higher than the total amount of CO2 emissions that Temwa has committed to balancing since the scheme was launched (see table below).

Carbon balanced by Temwa (Dec 2020)	
Carbon balance commitments	1,485 tons of carbon
Trees planted	18,068 trees
Potential carbon benefits ¹	2,263 tons

How has your investment helped?	
Trees species planted	17,593 trees for timber (pines and acacia) and 475 agroforestry trees
Planting locations	10 woodlots and 1 agroforestry farm
Beneficiaries	15,237 trees grown by 8 families (48 people) and 2,831 trees in 2 community-owned forests benefiting 300 people

Tree planting in 2020 focused mainly on landscape conversion, transforming previously deforested areas into woodlands that will be used for timber. There is high local demand for timber, and families living in poverty are starting to realise that growing, harvesting and replanting trees for construction materials is a sustainable, long-term investment for future income. Pine trees are felled for timber after they have matured, which takes about 30 years. Because the carbon is stored in timber even after the trees have been harvested, tree-planting for timber is an effective method of carbon capture, unlike the sale of firewood and charcoal, which leads to carbon being released back into the atmosphere. Not all trees in a woodlot will necessarily be felled and the types of tree species and planting locations will increase over time based on community priorities. Seedlings are growing well for the 2020-2021 planting season, and starting from January, the communities are ready to plant more pines, mahogany, moringa and agroforestry trees that help improve soil quality in agricultural fields.



Strengthening local stewardship of natural resources – Temwa Carbon Balance works in close collaboration with local governance structures, such as Area and Village Development Committees, whose representatives have been participating in all activities. We want to ensure that the activities are aligned with local development plans and that the local governance structures will have the knowledge and skills to promote reforestation and forest-friendly livelihoods in their areas, including the protection of trees through local bylaws and patrols. In 2021, we will also launch a participatory community monitoring system for the Temwa Carbon Balance scheme to track progress.

¹ As the trees planted are still in early stages of growth, this is an estimate of the amount of CO2 that the trees will balance over 20 years. The calculation takes into account the estimated reduction in tree survival rates over time due to factors such as thinning, bush fires, plant diseases and felling. Once the trees reach adequate maturity, our carbon benefit assessment will be based both on current actual and long-term projected benefits.

Community Stories

“Climate change threatens the way we live, we need more trees. We used to have good forests but they are disappearing.”

These are the words of Lovemore Mughoho from the village of Bununkhu. He is the chairperson of his local Village Development Committee, a locally elected structure under the district council that is responsible for implementing development activities in their area. Lovemore told Temwa how the weather is getting bad, and deforestation makes the only road in the region even harder to use. This means it is not easy to make money to live. “We are planting trees and we have laws against deforestation, but we need more. We want to build mountain road blocks, so we can catch people who are cutting down trees. Our village wants to regenerate the forests.”



Your support through Temwa Carbon Balance is helping communities engage in tree planting and enforce the local forest bylaws that they have in place.

“Today I am proud to tell the world that I am an influential citizen of Malawi”



Edna Kamanga is a farmer and mother of four, living in Njiri village. She is proud of herself “because I have contributed to the reduction of carbon in the atmosphere by planting over 1,500 trees”. Charcoal production used to be a common way to earn money in Edna’s village and trees were cut down on a daily basis. Learning about sustainable farming through Temwa, Edna began to understand that she does not have to cut down trees to earn an income. She learnt how to manage tree nurseries and woodlots, sharing her new skills with others too.

Edna and her family now enjoy food security, thanks to sustainable farming, investment in tree planting and livestock production that also provides organic manure for their fields.

By supporting Temwa Carbon Balance, you will help families like Edna’s to engage in sustainable livelihoods that bring them money and food. This reduces reactive tree cutting to make money by selling firewood or charcoal – activities that would further erode the soil and people’s ability to cope.

Building momentum

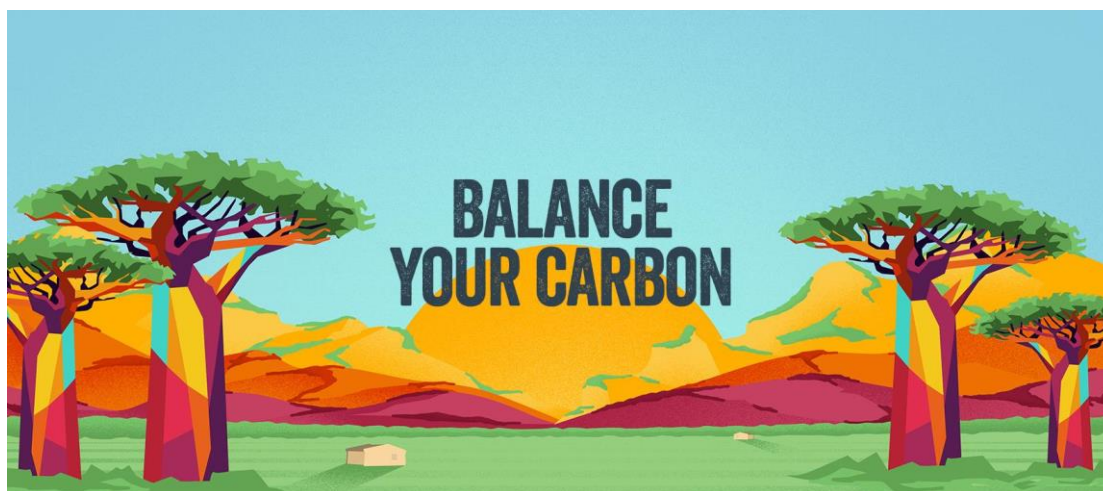
Based on our past experience, the focus of tree planting in the communities in Nkhata Bay North has gradually shifted, based on demand, from communal planting to schools and individual households. Temwa Carbon Balance works both with community groups and committed individuals. This approach has increased long-term sustainability, as forest management is becoming more self-organised and led by individual community members who can act as agents of change in their villages.

During the past year, we have also noticed that the communities are becoming increasingly aware of the ways that environmental action and profitable livelihoods can be mutually reinforcing. Thanks to Temwa's awareness campaigns, community members now know more about climate change, deforestation as well as local adaptation and mitigation strategies. They have also seen how their fellow farmers are starting to financially benefit from forest-friendly livelihoods. These viable businesses include beekeeping, raising and selling tree seedlings, sale of fruit from orchards, and growing pines and other trees for construction materials – for many of these products there is existing local and regional demand. Temwa Carbon Balance is responding to this momentum and demand in the communities by providing opportunities for community members to benefit from forest-friendly livelihoods, while restoring the natural landscape.

Thank you

Since we launched Temwa Carbon Balance in early 2020, we have been overwhelmed by the momentum it gained and the positive impact it will have for our planet and the communities in Malawi. The scheme is generating a lot of local interest in Malawi, especially as climate change and Covid-19 are highlighting the need for communities to adapt. While the scheme is reducing your carbon footprint, it provides these remote Malawian communities new sustainable livelihoods that make them more resilient to crisis – and can eventually lift them out of poverty.

Many thanks for your generosity and commitment to balancing your carbon and supporting sustainable development in our remote partner communities.



www.carbonbalance.temwa.org

Temwa is a registered NGO in Malawi and a registered charity in England (No. 1185889)