



Case Study 1 Seedling Distribution to Communities and Schools Around Kayelekera

Lotus is committed to environmental sustainability and collaborating with local communities to create meaningful and lasting positive impacts. One of focus areas is the rehabilitation and mitigation of vegetation clearing, to promote and conserve biodiversity.

Over 80% of the population in Malawi use biomass (firewood and charcoal) for heating and cooking purposes. The sources of the biomass in Malawi is the indigenous forests in rural areas. Despite efforts by the government to regulate the use of firewood and charcoal through the Department of Forestry, unsustainable clearing of vegetation is a difficult issue to resolve and is ongoing.

Lotus' Environment Department oversees the conservation of biodiversity and ecology around Kayelekera. The department is guided by Lotus' Environmental Management Plans (EMP) and Environmental Monitoring Programs to manage biodiversity. One of the key elements in the EMP is progressive rehabilitation of areas that are affected directly or indirectly by mining operations. Significant progress has been made in progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas within our project area.

The forest surrounding Kayelekera and the nearby villages is slowly being cleared for biomass production. Lotus is keen to support community rehabilitation programs and through engagement with Community Leaders, it was agreed that communities should be encouraged to participate in reforestation programs. These include sustainable use of trees and planting trees in bare land.

To support this initiative, Lotus offered to distribute free seedlings to local communities to enable them to contribute effectively towards ecological and biodiversity conservation. The seedlings were given to community leaders and schools. Assistance was provided during planting to educate the local communities about the importance of protecting and conserving native vegetation. In FY2023, 3130 tree seedlings were donated to communities around Kayelekera and Sinfukwe as detailed in the table below.

Site Location	Number of Seedlings
Juma Primary School	330
Kayuni Primary School	1000
Kalowe Primary School	500
Kamanga Primary School	150
Chiteka Primary School	100
Kayuni Secondary School	250
Milenie Hills	800
Total	3130

The objective of this seedling program was to encourage an ecological conservation culture within the communities around Kayelekera.

The Government Forestry and Conservation officers based around Kayelekera are supportive of the project and are evaluating how they could replicate the seedling program over a larger area.

