



## Fruitful Office's Fruit Tree Growing Project

### Each basket or box you buy - we plant 1 fruit tree!

From February 2008 onwards, Fruitful Office has committed to planting 1 fruit tree for every fruit basket we sell to our clients! Together with **Ripple Africa**, a charity working with 75 village communities in Malawi (Africa), we will initially be planting **pawpaw and guava trees** in fruit tree nurseries. We believe this project is important because:

- More trees planted = less carbon dioxide in the air. This programme helps to tackle the issue of deforestation in Africa, and the resulting impact on global warming
- It provides the means and know-how to develop small businesses in poor, rural communities in Malawi – the trees and the fruit from the trees will be either sold to individuals and small semi-commercial growers/traders



After the rainy season, during the month of May, the nursery is established and polythene tubes are filled with a mixture of compost and earth. Seeds are planted from July through to September, and the seedlings are raised and nurtured until January when they are planted out. Fruitful Office's tree contributions will be added to Ripple Africa's existing 75 village nurseries, producing the first saplings for planting in January 2009.

### What does Ripple Africa do?

Malawi is a poor country and 80% of the people live in rural areas. Wood is a necessary part of everyday life, and there is tremendous pressure to clear forests for agriculture. As a result, deforestation is a major problem in the area, as it not only removes the benefit of the trees themselves, but degrades the soil's fertility as topsoil is washed away in the heavy downpours of the rainy season. As the soil degrades, crops fail, and more trees are cleared to grow crops for food.

British charity Ripple Africa is already working with 75 village communities, in an area of Malawi about the size of Kent, on an ambitious environmental programme to build sustainability into woodland management.

Ripple Africa's existing programmes include growing many thousands of trees, encouraging coppicing from managed woodlots rather than cutting down whole trees for firewood, and the use of clay stoves for cooking rather than open fires - which means that families need less wood each year.



Fruitful Office's investment is for the equipment, seeds, tubes, training and buying budding stock at existing and new fruit tree nurseries, to help reduce the impact of deforestation.



[www.rippleafrica.org](http://www.rippleafrica.org)

### What are pawpaws and guavas?

Pawpaw fruit trees are cultivated in tropical environments. The origin of the word pawpaw is highly debated, but it does have numerous other common names, often very local, such as **prairie banana**, **papayo**, and **ozark banana**. Pawpaws have a flavour resembling a combination of banana, mango and pineapple.



Guava trees are cultivated in many tropical and subtropical countries for their edible fruit. Guavas are considered "[superfruits](#)", being extremely rich in vitamins [A](#), [B](#), and [C](#). A single guava fruit contains more vitamin C than a typical [citrus](#) fruit; the rind alone contains over five times more vitamin C than an orange. It also contains high amounts of calcium – which is unusual in a fruit.