

THE IMAGO FOUNDATION

Overview...

The Imago Foundation is a charity that operates in Malawi, with a focus on **education** and **permaculture**. We aim to tackle the issue of education at **grass-root level**, rather than provide support around a system that doesn't work. Thus, we offer holistic education that includes **theoretical and practical knowledge**, whilst utilising outside space. Simultaneously, we tackle the issues of **nutrition** and **environmental degradation** by shifting community mindset towards permaculture, as a means to nourish both the people and the land.

Where it all began...

I (Hanna) first went to Malawi as a volunteer in **2014** for 20 months where I taught in a small primary school to year 5 and 6 children.



My year 5's staying behind to enjoy reading

During this time, although I absolutely loved it, I witnessed **extreme poverty** and the every day struggles that are often taken for granted; I realised how much of an **opportunity education** is and how **vital agriculture** was for daily life. This, combined with the incredible experiences I'd had there, confirmed to me that this was what I wanted to do with my life; and from then on it became my mission.

Looking happy with the maize we raised £800 for during 2015 drought.



Our mission to help...

Upon return to the UK in 2016, I (Hanna) met my now-husband, Martyn! After **multiple trips** back to Malawi, and **thorough analysis of various reports/studies**, we decided that together we needed **more hands-on experience** of the national education and charity sector. So, after saving for a few years, we bought a van, converted it to a motorhome, and shipped it to Malawi with the idea that we could **travel to various projects** whenever we needed. In fact, we managed to visit a total of **22 organisations** in a year, which encompassed:

- 10 Permaculture/sustainability sites
- 17 Charities
- 4 Technical Skills Colleges
- 9 primary schools, 1 that we helped establish
- 12 Nurseries
- 10 Educational wrap-around services

After all of these visits, research/analysis and on-the-ground experience, we determined the **3 main issues:**

- Land Use and Nutrition
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Management of Project

Hence, The Imago Foundation was born...

Imago - The final stage of a butterfly

- An idealised mental image of the self
- Process of growth and development
- The butterfly effect: Small changes, profound outcomes.



What we will do...

- **Nursery** : Children in Malawi currently do not start school until they're 7-years-old. Our nursery will allow children to start at 3-years-old to make the most of their **formative years** and build **strong foundations** for primary school.
- **Primary School** : Classes of 100+ students copy day-by-day national lesson plans and memorise phrases for exams. Our primary school will deliver a tailored curriculum with a focus on exploration and theme learning.
- **Permaculture and Environment Protection** : Our gardens will enable pupils to plant and harvest crops, cook nutritious meals, and also ensure at least 1 meal per day for students. Waste management, tree planting and alternative fuel sources etc will also be incorporated.

What we've done already...



Martyn and I meeting with Lake Malawi National Park

- Purchased **6.5 acres of land** for the charity
- Given **15 jobs to the community** - 3 permanent and 12 temporary
- Met chiefs of multiple levels to discuss development
- Taught small-scale English and permaculture
- Worked with **National Parks** and village environment groups
- Held discussions with Ministry of Education, Lands and Immigration
- Connected with **Limbe Rotary Club**

The next year...

- **Borehole** - Ensure sanitation, provision of safe drinking water, and irrigation for crops
- **Fence** - Prevent encroachment and secure the safety of pupils
- **Nursery** - Give local children strong foundations ready for primary school
- **Land care** - Continue to plant crops and trees, ready to harvest for the students
- **Community projects** - Introduce alternative fuel sources, create compost from waste etc

Surveyors on our land detecting the best location for a borehole



Total - £47,400 (Borehole drilling, water tower, tank and connections; nursery building, equipment, toilets and staff; fence posts and sheets.

**ZIKOMO KWAMBIRI! (THANK YOU)
HANNA AND MARTYN KING**