

Tree planting in Namwala

During the first student trip to Zambia in 2006, we planted trees along the school's access road together with students and teachers from Namwala (picture left). The young trees were donated by Lydia Maonde, wife of the first principal of Namwala Secondary School. During my visit in August 2019 (picture on the right) it became apparent that the trees are thriving. For me they are a positive symbol of the commitment of the Stiftsschule to its partner school in Africa.



During the planting campaign in 2006 we took pictures of the participants. They tell a sad and a beautiful story. Some pictures show those teachers who unfortunately are no longer with us: Maureen Chate, Banji Lumamba, and Werner Küttel, sports teacher at the Stiftsschule † 2014 (picture left). The picture on the right shows Angela Steinauer, student at the Stiftsschule from 2001–2007, who has become a new member of the board of the Namwala Secondary School last November.



The smaller young trees had to be protected from the voracious cattle. Fortunately, most of the young trees have survived and bloom abundantly every year in July and August.



Since then, we have repeatedly carried out planting activities during our visits together with the students of Namwala. Even though most trees are growing nicely, a recurring problem is our inability to sufficiently protect the young trees from the environment.



Last year, one of our partners' workshop in Namwala was underutilized due to the poor economic situation in the country accompanied by a bad harvest due to lack of rain. To support him, we asked him to manufacture 84 protective cages for young trees. These were used in a reforestation program triggered by the clear cutting of the last decades for firewood, charcoal and building material. This program also tries to set an example in the fight against climate change in an area that is already suffering from the consequences of climate change, with desertification and increasingly frequent and severe storms. The trees give support to the soil, protect the houses as windbreakers against storms and provide shade from the scorching sun.

