

Produced by:



Wildlife Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)

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and

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Produced for:



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Funded by:

**DARWIN
INITIATIVE**



MALAWI'S NATIONAL TREE

Mulanje Cedar Poems /Ndakatulo

Compiled by Jordan Sontho

Edited by Kondwani Chamwala

Preamble

The Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) – Mulanje in collaboration with Mulanje Poetry Association organised an Environmental Poetry Competition for Secondary School based Wildlife Clubs under the theme Save Our Cedar.

The aim of the competition was to raise awareness on the on-going cedar (Widdringtonia Whytei) planting exercises while sharing the knowledge on the importance of the tree. In addition, the competition also helped to expose poetry talents in schools.

The overall aim of Save Our Cedar project is to restore, the Malawi's National Tree, (The Mulanje Cedar) which is critically endangered due to over exploitation.

This project is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) through its Darwin Initiative and is implemented by an expert partnership of the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT), Forest Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM) and the Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

The Environmental Education and Communications Programme of the MMCT is spearheading the public awareness of the project.

The Poetry competition was therefore, part of awareness and was open to all Wildlife club affiliated with WESM Mulanje Branch.

Twenty winning poems went away with various prizes and here they are published.

- Editor

Kupulumutsa Sida

Mulanje Cedar/Sida/Nkungudza ndi mtengo omwe umapezeka m'Phiri la Mulanje kokha mdziko la Malawi. Kuchokera ku mtengo umenewu anthu amatha kucheka matabwa abwino komanso olimba, osadyeka ndi chiswe. Umathanso kugwiritsidwa posema ziboliboli.

Phindu la mtengowu lapangitsa kuti anthu azingodula mwachisawawa kotero kuti pano mitengo ya Cedar yatsalamo yochepa kwambiri m'phirimu. Kuwonongeka kwa Cedar ndi mitengo ina kwadzetsa kusowa kwa chuma kwa anthu ozungulira nkhalangoyi kukokoloka kwa nthaka komanso kusefukira kwa madzi chifukwa chakuti madzi amabwera ambiri komanso mothamanga kuchokera m'phirimu nyengo yamvula ikafika.

Kwa nthawi yaitali anthu ena amakhulupilira kuti Mulanje Cedar ndi chozizwa chochokera kwa Chauta. Kotero palibe nzeru ya munthu imene ingathe kuteteza mitengoyi kuti isathe mphiri kaamba kakuti Cedar sadzalidwa.

Koma kafukufuku watsimikiza kuti Cedar wambiri yemwe agwiritsidwa ntchito lero anadalidwa kalekale. Mwachitsanzo, misitu ina ya Sombani, Chambe, Lichenya ndi Fortlister inachita kudzalidwa.

Cedar wina anakadalidwanso ku Zomba ndi ku Chikangawa ndipo anachita bwino. **Kotero nzotheka kubwedzeletsa mtengowu.**



Call for Membership

The Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) was founded in 1947. It is a membership not-for-profit organisation with a wide range of members, which includes companies, institutions, individuals/families and school, and community based wildlife clubs.

Since its inception WESM has been the principal national not-for-profit organisation working in the field of wildlife and environmental conservation. Their work is wide-ranging. They carry out scientific investigations, particularly on endangered species; they run environmental education and awareness campaigns; they lead projects helping communities to make sustainable use of their natural resources.

WESM has nine branches in the country including Mulanje Branch which have been operating in Mulanje, Thyolo, and Phalombe for 14 years.

The branch is therefore informing companies, institutions, individuals/families and school, and community based wildlife clubs that the 2018 membership is open.

A membership fee is as follows;

1. School Membership:

Primary: K1000 Secondary/Club: K2000

2. Individual Membership:

Bronze: K2,500 Silver: K5,000 Gold: K10,000

3. Corporate Membership:

Bronze: K20,000 Silver: K 50,000 Gold: K100,000

Affiliate now!

For more details contact: **0888 475 208**

Visit us in MMCT Building opposite Mulanje View Motel.

Table of Content / Zamkatimu

Save our Cedar	2
Ndine Cedar	2
The Message	3
Tikondwere ndi Cedar	3
Ndisamalen	4
Protect Cedar	4
Ndilira ine Cedar	5
Let's Protect our Cedar	5
Save me	6
Wandigometsa Cedar	6
Cedar Tree	7
Cedar Knows	7
Conserve Cedar	8
Wangawanga Cedar	8
Ndine Cedar	9
I am the Cedar	9
Ine ndine Cedar	10
Cedar	10
Man and Cedar	11
Ndiwe opambana Cedar	11

SAVE OUR CEDAR

BY Bright Njati (Likani CDSS)

Let's save our cedar
Our own famous tree
The tree that attracts more tourists
Bringing income to Malawi
Let's save our cedar

Let's save our cedar
The tree that makes Mulanje beautiful
The tree that protects our nature
Let's save our cedar

NDINE CEDAR

BY Innocent Matipa (Widzo PVT Secondary School)

Ndine Cedar
Mtengo okongola
Mtengo opatsa chidwi padziko lonse lapansi
Ndimakongoletsa dziko
Ndimakongoletsa Mulanje
ndine Cedar

Ndimapezeka malo osankhika
Nchifukwa chake nditchedwa opambana
Icho chisamaliro ndimafuna
Poti nane ndine mtengo monga yonse
Ndine cedar

Ndine cedar
Ndimadana ndi chiswe
Ndigwiritseni ntchito mosamala
Ndiyeyekeni monga dzira
Poti ndadziwika kuti ndine ofunika kwambiri
Ndisamalani, nditetezeni
Ndine Cedar

MAN AND CEDAR

Ellena Chise (PAK Pvt Sec. School)

Cedar,
Is a gift of God to the people?
But they have forgotten
Recklessly they are cutting it down
Setting out fire in its forest

Previously,
We could still see cedar
We could still touch cedar
We could still bath its water
We could still breathe its fresh air
But it is no longer

Man,
Our mother nature should be preserved
Our cedar should be replanted
Our cedar should be conserved
Our cedar should be saved

NDIWE OPAMBANA CEDAR

By Stephano Bangala (Luchenza CDSS)

Ndi iwe opambana cedar koposa
Phiri lonse la Mulanje wasenza ndi iwe cedar
Pakuti lonse phiri lidziwika ndi iwe cedar
Ndi iwe opambana cedar

Wayenera kutchulidwa opambana
Poti chako chitetezo ku chilengedwe ndichapamwamba ndithu
Palibenso mtengo wina ungafane nawe
Ndi iwe opambana cedar

Wayenera kusamalidwa Cedar
Ndisayatse tchire ndisakudule mosayenera
Kuopa psiti ungatheletu
Ndi iwe opambana cedar

INE NDINE CEDAR

Daniel Nkhoma (Widzo pvt Secondary School)

Ndine odabwitsa zedi mmaonekedwe
Ndimapezeka mmaiko ochepa okha
Komanso maboma ochepa chabe
Ine ndine cedar

Pamene ndamela ndipomwe ndikulira
Ndikasamusidwa kupititsidwa pena ndimafa
Koma ndimadzalidwa monga mntengo uliwonse
Ndimatenga zilumika zochulukuka kuti ndikhwime
Kotero ndisamaleni osandidula wamba
Poti sindiphukira monga mitengo ina
Ine ndine cedar

CEDAR

Manuel John (Kabichi CDSS)

Cedar your nature is amazing
With your leaves ever green
Your branches a shed to Mulanje Mountain
Making mount Mulanje a beauty
Attracting tourists from far and near
Boosting Malawi's economy

Cedar naturally you grow
Planted you are
In areas that suit you
Areas full moisture and manure
With mulching and watering you flourish

Cedar enemies surrounds you
Bush fires, deforestation, bad weather
Protection you need
Fire breaks, guards, sensitizing
Cedar your nature is amazing

THE MESSAGE

Chifundo Guta (PAK Pvt Sec school)

Warm hands holding my own
Reluctantly she led me on
Open your eyes don't be scared
Oh what a beauty it's me Mount Mulanje
I have a message from cedar

Beautiful cedar on Mount Mulanje
Child it is I mother earth
Let's plant her, care her,
Let's save her
It's a message from cedar

TIKONDWERE NDI CEDAR

Tiyamike Jamu (Likani CDSS)

Tikondwere ndi Cedar
Indedi tikondwere
Mwa iye tipeza zambiri
Icho chilengedwe komanso chuma cha dziko
Tikondwere ndi cedar

Tikondwere ndi cedar
Timusamale timuteteze
Poti naye ali ngati mitengo ina
Afunika chisamaliro chathu
Osadula wamba mitengo yake
Tikondwere ndi cedar

Tikondwere ndi cedar
Poti naye angadzalidwe ndi kusamalidwa
Angathesotu kutetezedwa monga ina mitengo
Mwaiye tipedza zonse zofunika
Tikondwere ndi cedar

NDISAMALENI

By Manuel Gomani (Luchenza CDSS)

Ndine odabwitsa kwambiri
Ndine ofunika koposa
Ndine osowa ndithu
Ndine waphindu mbambadi
Ndisamaleneni ine cedar

Kwanga komera mkuphiri
Komansotu ku chigwa komwe ndikhazikika ine
M'bawa, mkunguza ndiwo abale anga
Komatu onsewa saposa ine
Azungu akunja ndi ena onse
Aoloka mapiri, nyanja kufuna kuwona ine
Ndisamaleneni ine cedar

PROTECT CEDAR

BY Ellen Kadaya (Chambe CDSS)

As it is the same with all pine family trees
So is Cedar
Can be planted, cared for and protected
Takes a short period of time to germinate
Let's plant Cedar

Let's take care of Cedar
Just like any other tree
Constructing fire breaks
Watering frequently
Let's take care of Cedar

Let's protect Cedar
Speak out its value
Avoid cutting it off
Punishing people who destroy it
Let's protect Cedar

NDINE CEDAR

Brian Chitseko (Chambe CDSS)

Ndine Cedar
Okoma maonekedwe ndiye ine
Ilo dziko la Malawi ku phiri la Mulanje
Maso mwa wanthu ndiwala
Ndine Cedar

Mdziko chuma ndipereka
Awo maonekedwe ndisinthu
Ndipezekatu mayiko ochepa
Kuno ku Malawi kwathu ndi ku Mulanje
Ndine Cedar

Ndisamaleneni nditetezeni
Obadwa akudzawo afunatu kuwona ine
Pakuti nawo phindu langa alifuna
Ndine cedar

I AM CEDAR

By Cecilia Kadzanja (Maveya CDSS)

I am cedar
I am Malawian
I am more important to people
Plant me like any other tree
I am cedar tree

Care for me as I need your hand
My availability is important for all
Plant care and conserve me
Like any other tree love me
I am cedar tree

CONSERVE CEDAR

By Lyson Chikopa (Mulomba CDSS)

Conserve cedar
Our own unique-famous tree
Tourists it attracts
Income to the country it brings
Conserve cedar

Conserve cedar
Beauty it brings to mount Mulanje
Nature it protects
Plant cedar, protect cedar care for cedar
Conserve cedar

WANGAWANGA CEDAR

Steven Chitseko (Likani CDSS)

Wangawanga cedar, mwaiwe ndidalira
Kwako kupezeka kupindilira dziko
Poti ubwino wako ndiwosanena
Kwawanthu ndizamoyo zonse
Mwaiwe cedar zidalira
Wangawanga cedar

Wangawanga cedar
Icho chisamaliro uchifuna
Kuti ukhale mpaka muyaya
Kudzalidwa uko ufunika kuti uchuluke monga mitengo yonse
Kusadulidwa usanakhwime kufunika poti nazo mbewu titenga mwaiwe
Wangawanga cedar

Tikusamale monga mitengo yonse
Tikudzale monga tichitira mitengo ina
Tikusamale monga mtundu wonse wamitengo
Poti ubwino wako ngochuluka
Wangawanga cedar

NDILIRA INE CEDAR

BY Racheal Kanthiti (Mulanje Secondary School)

Kalanga ine ndilira
Ndidalakwanji ine Cedar?
Ndilira ine Cedar

Alendo akunja kutali ndiawo
Kubweretsa chuma ku dziko lathu
Phiri la Mulanje ndi ilo
Kupitilira kudziwika chifukwa chaine
Ndilira ine cedar

Ndidalakwanji anthuni?
Kundikhapa kundigwetsa kundidula matabwa
Kunditenthapamodzi ndi nkhalango yonse
Ndisamalani anthuni, phindu langa nlalikulu
Ndilira ine cedar

LET'S PROTECT OUR CEDAR

By Christopher Manyozo (Chisitu CDSS)

Let's protect our cedar
Our own famous Malawian tree
The tree that attracts more tourists
The tree that brings income to our country
Let's protect our cedar tree

Let's protect our cedar
It can be protected like any other tree
Let's plant Cedar
It can be planted like any other tree
Let's love cedar
It can be loved like any other tree
Let's protect our cedar

SAVE ME

By Norah Kamanga (Widzo pvt Secondary School)

I am cedar tree
I am very important, I act in many roles
Plant me like any other tree
I am cedar tree

Oh! Malawians hear my cry
Plant care and conserve me
My availability is important to all
Save me

WANDIGOMETSA CEDAR

By Justin Petulo (Luchenza CDSS)

Nditakudziwa ayi ndithu ndachita jenkha
Ndikumazifunsa mafunso nkumati
Adakuninkha lokoma chotere dzina ndiye yani?
Maka ndikadekha nkumaduduluza changa chokazinga chimanga
Ya malemu agogo ndalema nditakhalira
Wandigometsa cedar

Kamphepo komka kuzambweKuchokera ku vuma
Kakulankhula malilime mkati mwa mnkhutu
Anga maganizo amakhala patali
Nanga pokupasapo amnkaganizani
Dzina losachindikala politichula
Wandigometsa cedar

Wayenera kutchulidwa ngwazi iwe
Okuteteza iwe anyamula yawo mifuti ingakhalenso chibonga
Kuthana ndiyense okuononga
Ndisayatse tchire ndisakudule mosayenera
Kuopa psiti ungathe
Wandigometsa cedar

CEDAR KNOWS

Charles Likomba (PAK Secondary School)

Do you know? Do you understand?
Do I know? Do I understand?
Cedar knows

Every time you cut her
Every time you burn her
Cedar knows

Cedar knows you need her
Cedar knows you need water
Cedar knows you need fresh air
Cedar knows you need beauty
Cedar knows you need tourists

Now you know. Now I know
How much we need cedar
Is much as how she needs us
Help cedar, plant cedar save cedar
Cedar knows

CEDAR TREE

By Sunganani Matiasi (Luchenza CDSS)

As I go in the forest
I see trees as they grow
As I go deep into Mount Mulanje
I see cedar tree as it grows

The best tree in Mount Mulanje
It attracts more tourists
Hence giving us air to inhale
Giving us water-shade everyday

Today is a great day
It's a love fulfilling time
Cedar fulfils our lives
So care for the life of cedar