

# SAVE OUR CEDAR CAMPAIGN 2024-2025

## WHAT IS MULANJE CEDAR?

The National Tree of Malawi, Mulanje Cedar (*Widdringtonia whytei*) is a towering conifer that can grow up to 50 meters in height. It is unique to Mt Mulanje and found nowhere else naturally on earth. Renowned for its fragrant resin, high-quality and termite resistant timber, this ecologically significant tree is prized for construction and artisanal crafts.

## THREATS TO MULANJE CEDAR.

Illegal logging, fires, population pressure and climate change have driven this iconic tree to the brink of extinction. Only a handful of mature coning trees survive today. This threatens the species ability to sustainably reproduce. Mulanje Cedar is now classified as Critically Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of species.

## WHY RESTORE MULANJE CEDAR?

**Biodiversity:** Mulanje Cedar is a keystone species that provides the cloud-forest habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, some of which uniquely evolved on the mountain landscape.

**Water regulation:** Through its extensive root system, Cedar forests can keep moisture in the soil, reducing surface run-off, and regulates water quality. This is critical for maintaining the water catchment areas on the mountain.

**Cultural significance:** Other important forest plants and animals associated with the Mulanje Cedar habitat are negatively impacted by its exploitation. This threatens the livelihoods of communities that depend on the mountain and its natural resources.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

To help restore and protect this Critically Endangered species, Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust is replanting, with public support, large areas of the mountain with Mulanje Cedar and other indigenous species.

### Your Support Will Fund:

- Purchase of seedlings from certified Community Cedar tree nurseries.
- Local livelihood opportunities to prepare restoration areas, transport and plant seedlings in historical Cedar cloud forest habitat (2,500m asl).
- Ecological Monitoring to assess seedling survival rates.

To find out more, contact Raheela Ahmed, Restoration Ecologist on [raheela@mountmulanje.org.mw](mailto:raheela@mountmulanje.org.mw)

or visit our website

[www.mountmulanje.org.mw](http://www.mountmulanje.org.mw)

## WHO WE ARE

Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust (MMCT), based at Mt Mulanje in south-eastern Malawi, is a registered conservation organization that was established in 2002. Our mission is to protect the mountain's biodiversity and natural resources, while enhancing the well-being of the surrounding communities.

