# National Elephant Action Plan Malawi



## 2015-2025 Department of National Parks and Wildlife



## National Elephant Action Plan for Malawi (NEAPM); December 2015

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Citation: NEAPM, 2015, National Elephant Action Plan for Malawi, DNPW, Lilongwe,

Malawi





Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

The National Elephant Action Plan for Malawi was developed by DNPW in consultation with all key national stakeholders, with financial and technical support from Stop Ivory.

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**Acronyms** 

AEAP African Elephant Action Plan
AED African Elephant Database
CA Community Association

CBO Community Based Organisation
CCA Community Conservation Area

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and

Flora

Defra Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

DFID Department for International Development

DF Department of Forestry

DNPW Department of National Parks and Wildlife

EPI Elephant Protection Initiative

FR Forest Reserve

HEC Human – Elephant Conflict

IACCWC Inter-agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime

IFAW International Fund for Animal Welfare

IWTR Illegal Wildlife Trade Review

IUCN International Union for the Conservation of Nature

LWT Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

MRA Malawi Revenue Authority

MIKE Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants

MUWA Multiple Use Wildlife Area

NEAP National Elephant Action Plan NPWA National Parks and Wildlife Act

PPP Private, Public Partnership

RSPCA Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

SADC Southern African Development Community

TFCA Trans Frontier Conservation Areas

UNCAC United Nations Convention against Corruption

UNTOC United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

WAG Wildlife Action Group

WCS Wildlife Conservation Society
WMA Wildlife Management Authority

WP Wildlife Policy of Malawi



## **Executive Summary**

In Malawi, out of the 9, but possibly 11 protected areas that contain elephants, it is only in Liwonde National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve, and possibly Thuma Forest Reserve where elephant populations have been increasing in recent times. Each of the remaining elephant populations has gradually reduced in size and range, with the result that the national population currently numbers close to 1,800 elephants. Conservation efforts in Malawi are met by a number of challenges that include on-going poaching for ivory and land pressure, compounded by high human population densities and an agro-based economy, resulting in an ever increasing demand for land coupled with human-elephant conflict. Malawi is also facing major challenges in combating the trade in illegal ivory, transiting by land as well as by air, whereby it is both a source and a transit country for ivory originating from various countries in the region. It is also being used as a major transit hub for illegal wildlife products, where traffickers and traders in ivory as well as illegal hunters are taking advantage of porous borders, corrupt practices, weak legislation, lack of specialized prosecutors, low penalties for offenders, and above all an acute lack of resources to remedy these shortcomings. Not all is lost, and reversing the trend may be hard but not impossible. DNPW fully recognizes the problem, and has already made some steps in the right direction. An excellent start was the establishment of the 'Inter-agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime' (IACCWC) in 2014. IACCWC comprises representatives from all relevant enforcement, judicial and prosecution agencies, and was established as an inter-agency platform to facilitate communication and collaboration.

The first general threat to Malawi's elephant population is ineffective law enforcement at the site level. Law enforcement is at the basis of efforts to reduce illegal killing of elephants, primarily through ranger-based patrols, but also through intelligence and investigations, roadblocks and other means. In some conservation areas field staff has been effective in curbing elephant poaching, but in others operations have neither been effective nor efficient, not least because key ingredients such as equipment, sufficient numbers of well-trained and motivated personnel and investigations and informer networks were not in place. Thus, a comprehensive suite of actions is proposed to build capacity at the site level. The second, third, and fourth general threats to Malawi's elephants relate to poor governance and inadequate stakeholder collaboration resulting in ineffective law enforcement at the central level. Both national and international effective cooperation between enforcement agencies is hindered by the absence of clear channels of communication. The establishment of a regional intelligence taskforce will boost the effective capacity to investigate and prosecute transnational crimes. On a national level, poor communication and collaboration between enforcement agencies, such as DNPW, MRA, police, judiciary and DPP has resulted in lenient sentences for ivory poachers, thereby facilitating the killing of elephants. Therefore, it is necessary to establish an overt central investigations unit within DNPW, alongside a joint covert and reactive investigations taskforce comprised of DNPW, police, DPP, MRA and immigration, exchanging information and communicating on a regular basis, and carrying out joint operations. The fifth and sixth general threats to Malawi's elephants are the result of poor land management, communities not involved with and not receiving tangible benefits from wildlife conservation, resulting in poor relations between DNPW and the fringe communities. Poor land-use management around protected areas has facilitated humanelephant conflict. These conflicts range from crop damages, property losses to human fatalities or injuries. Crop-raiding by elephants is a severe problem, with farmers frequently



losing an entire year's crop overnight, while not only risking their lives in defense of their crops, but their entire livelihood as well. Human fatalities are simply not acceptable but not completely avoidable. One of the contributing factors to poaching is the inadequate involvement of communities situated in the vicinity of protected areas to participate in conservation and reap tangible benefits at the household level which has exacerbated conflict between communities and government. A suit of actions is proposed to mitigate this conflict situation.

The site-specific threats vary from one protected area to the other, but all relate to one of the above described general threats to Malawi's elephants. With African Parks managing Liwonde National Park and Majete and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserves, DNPW can focus on its northern TFCA and its elephant populations in Kasungu National Park, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and Nyika National Park. Moreover, to safeguard its last free-ranging elephant populations in the forest reserves that come under the jurisdiction of DF, DNPW needs to establish a management agreement with DF.



## **Background**

At the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), the Parties adopted Decisions 14.75 to 14.79 regarding the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*). These Decisions were developed following extensive dialogue and in recognition of the fact that many of Africa's elephant populations are under threat and require co-ordinated and immediate action to turn the tide and to provide effective long-term protection.

Decisions 14.75 to 14.79 mandated the African elephant Range States to, among other things, develop an African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP) and to set up an African Elephant Fund. Pursuant to the AEAP is the development of National Elephant Action Plans (NEAPs) to address country specific issues, by identifying and prioritizing objectives and actions required to protect national elephant populations. The Draft NEAP for Malawi was produced by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in July 2015, with financial support from Stop Ivory, and technical input from stakeholders, which included African Parks, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, RSPCA and Stop Ivory.

Wildlife conservation in Malawi is governed by the National Parks and Wildlife Act (2004) as principal legislation. DNPW is mandated to protect and conserve wildlife in protected areas such as National Parks and Wildlife Reserves in collaboration with other stakeholders, especially fringe communities. The Department of Forestry (DF) is mandated to conserve national forestry resources to uplift the quality of life for the benefit of the nation. The sector strives to empower communities through community-based forest management programmes that focus on the augmentation, management and protection of forests on customary land.

In Malawi, human population densities increased from about 40/km² in the early 1960s to roughly 180/km² in 2015, an increase by factor 4.5 in a little over half a century. This rapid population increase resulted in a fundamental change in land-use patterns and life styles, where the 9 or possibly 11 protected areas that still contain elephants have become mostly isolated islands of wilderness, surrounded by a sea of cultivation and settlements. Although Malawi never had a large elephant population to begin with, such as in some of its neighbouring countries, due to a combination of agricultural expansion and habitat loss outside its protected area system, and ivory poaching, elephant numbers have gradually declined over the past few decades.

Out of the 9, but possibly 11 protected areas that contain elephants, it is only in Liwonde National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve, and possibly Thuma Forest Reserve where elephant populations have been increasing in recent times (not including the recent relocation of elephants in Nkhotakota WR). Each of the remaining elephant populations has gradually reduced in size and range, with the result that the national population currently numbers between 1,441 and 1,999 elephants (African Elephant Database; IUCN – The International Union for the Conservation of Nature), while actual numbers are probably close to 1,800 elephants (this report). Throughout the elephant range, human – elephant conflict is common.

Thus, conservation efforts in Malawi are met by a number of challenges that include ongoing poaching for ivory and land pressure, compounded by high human population densities and an agro-based economy, resulting in an ever increasing demand for land coupled with human-elephant conflict.



Malawi is also facing major challenges in combating the trade in illegal ivory, transiting by land as well as by air, whereby Malawi is both a source country and a transit country for ivory originating from various countries in the region. As documented by the Illegal Wildlife Trade Review (IWTR), information collected clearly revealed that Malawi is being used as a major transit hub for illegal wildlife products (Waterland et al., 2015). Traffickers and traders in ivory as well as illegal hunters are taking advantage of porous borders, corrupt officials, weak legislation, lack of specialized prosecutors, low penalties for offenders, and above all an acute lack of resources to remedy these shortcomings.

Not all is lost, and reversing the trend may be hard but not impossible. DNPW fully recognizes the problem, and has already made some steps in the right direction. An excellent start was the establishment of the 'Inter-agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime' (IACCWC) in 2014. IACCWC comprises representatives from all relevant enforcement, judicial and prosecution agencies, and was established as an inter-agency platform to facilitate communication and collaboration.

Other recent developments that are worth mentioning include the signing of the Trans Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) Agreements between Zambia and Malawi, the promotion of Private, Public Partnerships (PPPs) to help manage wildlife in Malawi, while the DNPW has embarked on the review of the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWA) with the aim of strengthening the Act to ensure that it is fully compliant with CITES, more protective of endangered species and ensures that penalty provisions are stiffened and enforceable. Moreover, the Government of Malawi introduced a moratorium on domestic ivory trade since September 2013 when it signed up to the Clinton Global Initiative, while it has been active in supporting other international interventions aimed to protect wildlife, including elephants. Additionally, Malawi joined the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) in March 2015 at the Kasane Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, and thereby committing to a) closing domestic ivory markets b) observe a moratorium on any consideration of future international trade for a minimum of 10 years and thereafter until African elephant populations are no longer threatened; and agree to put all stockpiles beyond economic use and c) to implement the African Elephant Action Plan.



Figure 1. Location of Malawi within South-central Africa





#### 1: Status Review



#### 1.1 Elephant Status

Historically, the elephant is considered to have occurred over a large part of present-day Malawi. Today, elephant populations are small and fragmented, being confined almost entirely to 9 or possibly 11 parks and reserves. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) is the State Agency responsible for wildlife management in and outside national parks and wildlife reserves while the Department of Forestry (DF) is responsible for managing the forest reserves. From north to south, protected areas containing elephants are as follows: Nyika National Park, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, Kasungu National Park, Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, Thuma Forest Reserve (between Lilongwe and Salima), Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve (south of Thuma), Phirilongwe Forest Reserve (West of Mangochi near Lake Malawi), Liwonde National Park, and Majete Wildlife Reserve (Fig. 1).

Mangochi Forest Reserve (DF) is located north of Liwonde National Park, and forms a corridor to Namizimu Forest Reserve (DF) which is located between Lake Malawi and the border with Mozambique. Elephants move from Liwonde NP through Mangochi FR to Namizimu FR, while others move in from Mozambique. However, it is not known whether these two forest reserves contain small resident populations, but at least they should be considered transient populations.

The actual size of Malawi's elephant population still needs to be determined. In 2013 a 'definite' total of 1,223 animals was obtained (African Elephant Database; AED); in addition to this, there were 'probable', 'possible' and 'speculative' totals of 218, 461 and 97 animals, respectively (AED). Population estimates entered into the AED greatly differ in quality and therefore reliability. To solve this problem without losing information, estimates are rated according to survey types and reliability (A to E) and then categorized into groups, each associated with a different level of uncertainty. Without going into technical details, we may



state that in 2013 there were a minimum of 1,441 elephants in Malawi (definite + probable), and possibly as many as 1,999 (+ possible + speculative). In 1995 there were a minimum of 1,651 elephants in Malawi, and possibly as many as 2,337 (AED). Because the number of input areas has remained more or less the same over the past 20 years, we may compare the AED totals for 1995 with those for 2013. Thus, over a period of 20 years, Malawi's elephant population may have declined by 12.7 to 14.5% or between 0.6 and 0.7% per year. The most recent population estimates are summarized in Table 1, and add up to a total population for Malawi of 1,798 elephants. Some populations have been increasing in recent times, such as those in Liwonde National Park and in Majete Wildlife Reserve (managed by African Parks), and most likely the population managed by the Wildlife Action Group (WAG) occupying the Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves, while others have remained stable or declined, but not always due to poaching. In 2009, DNPW made a decision to relocate one of the country's last free-ranging elephant populations from the forest reserve at Phirilongwe to Majete Wildlife Reserve in the south of the country. The human-elephant conflict situation had been deteriorating for years, with numerous human casualties and many wounded elephants. A total of 83 elephants were moved to Majete, leaving only few elephants in the Phirilongwe Forest Reserve.

A summary of the current status of the 9 or 11 populations is detailed below and was obtained from key partners, DNPW staff, or when recent information was not available, from the AED (Table 1), but does not incorporate the translocation of 520 elephants from Majete WR and Liwonde NP to Nkhotakota WR in 2017.

Table 1. Summary of protected areas and elephant population estimates.

Protected Area	Size km²	Population Size	Source	Year
Nyika National Park	3,134	102	DNPW	2014
Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve	986	310	D. Macpherson (p.c.)	2013
Kasungu National Park	2,316	67	DNPW	2014
Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve	1,802	92	AED	2013
Thuma Forest Reserve	158	145	WAG	2014
Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve	310	(145) <sup>1</sup>	WAG	2014
Phirilongwe Forest Reserve	264	5	DNPW	2015
Liwonde National Park	538	777	D. Macpherson (p.c.)	2014
Majete Wildlife Reserve	700	300	D. Macpherson (p.c.)	2015
Mangochi Forest Reserve	409	?	J. Vaughan (p.c.)	
Namizimu Forest Reserve	890	?	J. Vaughan (p.c)	
Total	11,507	1798		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Elephant population uses both Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves



Figure 2. Parks, reserves, main roads and towns in Malawi

## MALAŴI



#### 1.2 General Threats

In this section we will discuss the threats that pertain to the Malawi elephant population in general – that is developments that may seriously jeopardize the survival of elephants in Malawi in the short to medium term if these are not remedied. The next section will deal with each protected area separately, in terms of a brief site description, status and trends in elephant numbers, and area-specific threats.

#### 1.2.1 Ineffective law enforcement at the site level

DNPW operates on a lean budget, making it difficult to carry out most of its operations. This also implies that frontline staff is poorly equipped and poorly incentivized, except where donor funded projects exist. Consequently, law enforcement is not carried out to the level that would significantly reduce elephant poaching and the illegal wildlife trade.



Law enforcement in protected areas is carried out by rangers (Parks and Wildlife Assistants) and scouts through patrols and by other means. However, due to financial constraints, patrol staff density (# patrol staff/km²) in some of the protected areas is too low to curb elephant poaching, much less reverse the situation. Moreover, even with an adequate patrol staff density, the level of protection may be low, due to inadequate patrol frequencies, lack of resources due to low operational budgets, and a lack of quality and motivation of site-level leadership, or any combination of these. In parks and reserves where poaching is severe, a patrol staff density of 1staff/30km² is required (Jachmann, 1998). To raise patrol frequency to adequate levels, each staff should do a minimum of 15 effective patrol days per month, whereby an effective patrol day is defined as 6 – 8 hours of patrolling (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants; MIKE guidelines).

Moreover, there is need for DNPW to put in place clear staff policies and procedures so that the Department is seen to be actively preventing corruption among some of its field staff (Waterland *et al., 2015*). Furthermore, patrol staff should be trained, motivated and disciplined, and provided with sound equipment. The leadership qualities and motivation of site-level management should be impeccable.

The majority of protected areas in Malawi do not use patrol-based monitoring systems for adaptive management. Adaptive management should be applied to all protected areas using modern range based data collection such as SMART or if there are financial constraints, lack of electricity or any other reasons that would limit the use of computerized systems, a manual system such as MOMS (management oriented monitoring systems) be used (Jachmann, 1998). Patrol data should be analysed on a monthly basis and the results should be used as feedback for management to adjust management actions and operational procedures (negative feedback cycle).

Most of the parks and reserves do not have a local intelligence unit or an informer network, which are vital for effective law enforcement. For each site, several staff requires training in investigative techniques, followed by the establishment of an intelligence unit that is linked to a centralized unit. Existing informer systems need to be revived and improved.

- 1. Develop an Anti-Corruption Work Plan for DNPW
- 2. Establish an Integrity Committee to oversee implementation of the Work Plan and report on progress made to the autonomous Anti-Corruption Bureau
- 3. Review leadership qualities of managers and motivation of DNPW Rangers
- 4. Introduce adaptive management and start using ranger patrol-based monitoring systems in each site
- 5. Conduct an extensive staff review and where necessary take disciplinary action conducted promptly to prevent escalation
- 6. Increase the patrol staff density to 1 staff/30km² in those parks and reserves that experience heavy illegal off take of elephants
- 7. Enforce the minimum requirement of 15 effective patrol days per ranger per month
- 8. Training and capacity building of law-enforcement staff
- 9. Supply patrol staff with adequate equipment
- 10. Set up an intelligence network at each park and reserve containing elephants



#### 1.2.2 Poor stakeholder collaboration

Stakeholder collaboration is vital to sound conservation and management of elephants in Malawi. On bilateral level, on the 7<sup>th</sup>July 2015, a treaty was signed between Zambia and Malawi concerning cross-border management of elephants in the Northern Trans Frontier Conservation Area, which includes Kasungu and Nyika National Parks and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve in Malawi, and Mitenge and Lundazi Forest Reserves, and the small Zambian section of the Nyika plateau in Zambia.

However, on an international level, existing collaboration between wildlife authorities has not yet delivered effective trans-border management in terms of surveys and anti-poaching, while international cooperation between enforcement agencies is hindered by the absence of clear channels of communication. The establishment of a regional intelligence taskforce would boost the effective capacity to investigate and prosecute transnational crimes. On a national level, weak legislation, poor collaboration between enforcement agencies, such as DNPW, the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA), police, judiciary and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) continues to result in lenient sentences for ivory poachers, thereby facilitating the killing of elephants. Moreover, effective prosecution requires prosecutors specialized in and sensitized about wildlife crime, and operating from special offices within DPP.

For sound elephant conservation it is crucial for key stakeholders, especially in the enforcement community, to consult one another and build partnerships to combat wildlife offences. A great start was made with the establishment of the IACCWC. However, the next step should be the establishment of an overt reactive central investigations unit within DNPW, connected to all parks and reserves through a central data-base (DNPW database), supported by a joint covert reactive investigations taskforce comprised of DNPW, Police, DPP, MRA and immigration outside DNPW. The taskforce should have access to a central data-base (Taskforce data-base) that needs to be established, using information from the DNPW data-base and a covert intelligence database, both feeding into the taskforce database. The taskforce should consist of well-trained and disciplined officers of each of the enforcement agencies, with ample resources and quick to respond to incoming information.

- 1. Upgrade wildlife legislation, whereby among others, wildlife crime is considered a 'serious offence', and penalties are raised to levels that deter wildlife offenders, by taking forward recommendations made by the IWT Review into the revised Act
- 2. Establish an overt central investigations unit within DNPW
- 3. Set up a data-base at DNPW connecting all parks and reserves with HQ, if possible, using the one developed by the Uganda Wildlife Authority with financial assistance from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- 4. Establish a central joint covert reactive investigations taskforce comprised of officers from all relevant enforcement authorities
- 5. Set up a second investigations data-base for the central joint taskforce, connected to both the covert intelligence network and the DNPW data-base
- 6. Support a central intelligence network
- 7. Set up a prosecution office with staff specialized in wildlife crime in DPP
- 8. Provide training in investigative techniques for DNPW staff, police, DPP, MRA and immigration



- 9. Provide ample resources to set up data-bases, training and operations of the unit at DNPW, the central covert reactive taskforce and central intelligence
- 10. Improve communication with wildlife authorities in neighbouring countries
- 11. Improve communication with enforcement agencies in neighbouring countries
- 12. Establish a joint intelligence taskforce with neighbouring countries

#### 1.2.3 Ineffective law enforcement at the central level

Malawi is positioned in the centre of a regional wildlife poaching hotspot. Malawi borders on Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia, and the three large conservation areas closest to Malawi within these three respective countries are the Selous Game Reserve, Niassa Reserve and the Luangwa Valley ecosystem. These areas used to have high elephant densities, but over the past 6 years have been focal points for elephant poaching (Wasser et al., 2015). The Selous-Niassa reserves have been the confirmed origin for a number of recent major illicit ivory seizures: 4 tonnes in Taiwan in 2006, 2.6 tonnes in Hong Kong in 2006, 5 tonnes in the Philippines in 2009, 1.5 tonnes in Sri Lanka in 2012, 2.6 tonnes in Malawi in 2013, 1.9 tonnes in Uganda in 2013 and 1 tonne in Singapore in 2014. Some of Malawi's own elephant populations have also been heavily poached. The Selous ecosystem had 109,419 elephants in 1976 but in 2013 the population was down to 13,084. Almost 25,000 elephants, ca. 66% of the park's population was lost between 2009 and 2013. Zambia, like Malawi, has very low levels of human development and income in rural areas, and these populations are susceptible to ivory's rapidly increasing price. Zambian poaching gangs are now seen with increasing frequency within Malawi and poaching levels are again reaching a crisis point. Movements of ivory between Zambia and Malawi are on the increase (Waterland et al., 2015).

The geographical position of Malawi ensures it is a common transport route for freight that is in regional overland transit. Malawi's low export status means that there is also a high need for significant import volumes from international overland supply routes, all of which have to pass through surrounding countries. It is therefore not surprising that wildlife criminals use these existing Malawian transit routes to help conduit their contraband across the wider region and onto the Asian markets. For example, there are several high-profile cases in which Malawi has been used for the collection, storage, packing/sorting and further distribution (to the high risk sea ports of Dar-es-Salaam and Durban) of large quantities of illicit elephant ivory poached from both within Malawi and it's neighbouring countries (Waterland *et al.*, 2015).

The risk-reward ratio for ivory traffickers in Malawi is extremely low. Wildlife crime is very profitable in a country where there is generally very little wealth and very few formal employment opportunities. Furthermore, when caught, the penalties faced by wildlife offenders are meagre. Malawi is also listed as the 110th most corrupt nation out of 175 in the corruptions perceptions index, and corruption is worsening e.g. the recent cash gate scandal. This means it is easier for criminals to evade justice. The World Bank recently ranked Malawi as one of the world's 10 poorest countries. Overcoming poverty related issues such as health and education has taken political precedence, and it is, to some degree, understandable why wildlife crime has been a lesser concern. Government authorities and decision makers have development priorities that out rank wildlife matters and wildlife criminals have taken advantage of limited restrictions. The international wildlife



community has also not paid as much attention to wildlife crime in Malawi as perhaps they should, probably because Malawi's own wildlife populations are small in comparison to surrounding countries (Waterland *et al.*, 2015). Times are changing and the laws will be strengthened, but at present Malawi is unfortunately an ideal place in terms of geography, logistics, political climate, corruption and lack of international profile and legal deterrence for illicit ivory criminals to concentrate. This makes Malawi a safe hub for organized wildlife crime syndicates to source, collect, store then transit ivory to the eastern sea ports and international airports.

In addition to the actions required that were briefly discussed in section 1.2.2, under poor stakeholder participation, the IWT Review (Waterland *et al.*, 2015) proposed a number of actions to assist authorities in data collection, management and analysis, including:

- A series of measures to ensure proper identification of criminals,
- The development of performance indicators for recording wildlife crime statistics,
- Protocols for distribution of data both within and between relevant agencies,
- Implementation of a sensitization campaign to make the general public and lawenforcement officers fully aware of the seriousness of wildlife crime.

#### 1.2.4 Poor governance

Wildlife conservation takes place in a socio-political as well as in a cultural context. The main legislation for wildlife management, the NPWA (National Parks and Wildlife Act, 2004), makes provision for recruitment of officers to implement the Act. The Act also recognises the role of officers from other agencies, such as police, fisheries and forestry, among others, but these officers are generally poorly equipped and incentivized. As a result, a number of officers from other agencies are caught up in corruption. This poses a major threat to elephant conservation, because the most lucrative wildlife trade in Malawi involves ivory. The absence of clear internal controls, incentive systems and effective disciplinary measures contributes to perpetuation of ivory poaching and the illicit trade therein. The introduction of a joint taskforce, whether on intelligence or other levels of collaboration, would introduce interagency controls, thereby mitigating this problem.

Moreover, DNPW needs to ensure that their employees adhere to Codes of Conduct. It is unacceptable that DNPW employees are involved in the illegal killing or trade in wildlife in Malawi (IWT Review; Waterland *et al.*, 2015). In addition, 79.7% of community members stated that better law enforcement is required to stop poaching. At present the DNPW scouts are perceived as part of the problem by communities and not the solution (Waterland *et al.*, 2015). This perception needs to change. It can only change by doing their best with the resources they are provided with. As an absolute minimum this means adhering to the DNPW codes of conduct at all times, and therefore reducing the potential for conflicts with communities and minimizing, as best possible, the opportunities for poaching. The codes of conduct need to be finalized and then all DNPW park managers must provide copies to all field staff and ensure that all staff adheres to them. Any DNPW employee found in serious breach of these codes must be subject to effective disciplinary action and considered for dismissal. DNPW field staff must set an exemplary example with regards to conveying a commitment to conserving Malawi's wildlife. If they are not committed to conserving wildlife, why should anyone else (Waterland *et al.*, 2015).



Rapid human population growth did not only lead to expanding agriculture, but also to encroachment of protected areas. Encroachment is frequently triggered or facilitated by local politicians and traditional leaders who encourage or support such activities by citing land shortages. In some cases, they use past forceful evictions from protected areas without compensation as valid reasons for encroachment. Encroachment further reduces the availability of elephant habitat and increases regular access to parks and reserves by local communities. Lack of appreciation of wildlife in general by the wider political leaders such as Members of Parliament and by traditional leaders has aggravated this problem.

Land conflicts often result in encroachment of protected areas, such as the gazetted buffer zone of Kasungu National Park, where most of the land has been sold in small parcels, and the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve south eastern boundary.

The emergence of mining as a means to diversify sources of government revenue has created new problems, mainly due to potential conflict between two government policies and legislation, whereby the Wildlife Act explicitly does not allow mining in protected areas, whereas the Mines Act says otherwise. This area requires harmonisation of legislation. Mining, as an extractive undertaking, poses a threat to conservation if not properly executed. Fortunately, this conflict in legislation is currently under review.

Actions required are listed under 1.2.1 and 1.2.2. Additional actions required are provided below:

- 1. Finalize Code of Conduct and distribute among DNPW staff
- 2. Raise awareness amongst traditional leaders and politicians on the importance of elephant conservation and maintaining habitat integrity
- 3. Harmonize the Wildlife Act and Mining legislation

#### 1.2.5 Poor land-use management and community relations

High and increasing human densities that led to expanding agriculture around protected areas have turned these into ecological islands, compressing elephants into ever-smaller areas and cutting off their traditional migration routes. Humans and elephants therefore compete directly for land and other resources that are becoming scarce, with a rapidly deteriorating human-elephant conflict situation as a result. In addition to losing their habitat, elephants are wounded and killed by villagers defending their crops, with mortality further raised through crop control measures to mitigate the conflict. As an example, as a result of problem animal control, from 2010 to 2014, 15 elephants were killed legally around Liwonde National Park, while only 7 were killed illegally during this period.

Land-use management around protected areas has largely been left in the hands of the farmers and local leaders, whose traditional methods may have inadvertently created good feeding grounds for elephants, thus increasing the potential for more conflict. These conflicts range from crop damages, property loses and human fatalities. Crop-raiding by elephants is a severe problem, with farmers frequently losing an entire year's crop overnight risking their lives in defense of their crops. These conflicts vary in magnitude from one protected area to another, largely dependent on human density outside and elephant density inside the protected area, and the use and maintenance of fencing. Human death and injury are



common, especially around Liwonde National Park, with the highest elephant density in Malawi; where on average 7.3 people were killed by elephants annually between 2009 and 2014. During the same period, 6 people were injured, 135 houses were destroyed, and 6,584 crop raiding incidents were reported.

Human fatalities, injuries and losing one's livelihood in an overnight crop raid are simply not acceptable, but most unfortunately the only solid long-term solution is proper fencing and regular maintenance, which is way beyond the budget of DNPW. However, this budget should come forward from the international community. As a result of these conflicts of interest, coupled with low penalties for wildlife offenders and poverty in general, community members do not abide by the law and also frequently engage in poaching activities.

- 1. Sensitize fringe communities about the seriousness of wildlife crime and forthcoming changes in the penalty structure
- 2. Improve land management by limiting further buildup of human densities and agricultural practices in the immediate proximity of protected areas, while promoting non-target crops
- 3. Limit human fatalities and crop damage through fencing, cultivation of non-target crops, bee-hives, and other recent technology

#### 1.2.6 Inadequate community involvement in conservation

Due to the exclusion of communities situated in the vicinity of protected areas to participate in conservation and reap tangible benefits at the household level, poaching continues unabated, while it exacerbates conflict between communities and government. Inadequate collaboration between DNPW and communities facilitates the illegal killing of elephants, first because communities accommodate poachers, second, they refuse to provide information to the authorities on illegal hunting, and third, they frequently take part in these illicit activities.

Recently government is beginning to recognize that the ecological integrity of protected areas cannot be perpetuated without the active collaboration of the communities. As a result, various initiatives sprang to life, such as The Nyika TFCA GEF Project, Liwonde National Park Conservation Program, in close collaboration with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and a program developed by Mark Hiley (Operation Safe Haven), funded by UK private foundations. These initiatives were given full government support hoping for a drastic mitigation of the human-wildlife conflict and less stress on the natural resources of the park. With African Parks managing Majete WR since 2003 and Liwonde NP since 2015, community engagement has drastically improved, with zero elephants killed illegally in Majete.

Moreover, the Wildlife Policy of Malawi (2000) and the NPWA present significant opportunity for community involvement and participation in the management of Malawi's wildlife, especially on customary land and open areas like wetlands (Waterland *et al.*, 2015). This stronger orientation to the involvement of people, user groups, in the natural resources management policies sets the stage for the creation of Community Conservation Areas (CCAs) and Wildlife Management Authorities (WMAs). This is also in line with the Malawi National Environment Policy which calls for the involvement of the private sector, NGO and community based organizations in the protection, conservation, management and sustainable utilization of Malawi's natural resources and for the promotion of a community



based management and revenue sharing system. The WP, which is currently under review, outlines the extent to which DNPW aims to collaborate with relevant communities (Waterland et al., 2015). The WP states that communities shall manage wildlife resources on communal land. They will be encouraged to form Multiple Use Wildlife Areas (MUWAs). Local knowledge is expected to be essential in sustainably utilising wildlife resources and in improving problem animal control approaches. Furthermore, communities will support the management of national parks, wildlife and forest reserves in their areas. In this, communities shall be involved at all stages in the planning and implementation.

Thus, aspirations and policies are being met, but in practice communities are not adequately empowered. Similar problems occur with the community institutions set up to facilitate communication with DNPW and the sharing of benefits, primarily those from park entry fees and ecotourism. The institutional set up is too complex and too bureaucratic, while the benefits are meager and do not reach the household level, which may well lead to 'the tragedy of the commons'.

From the IWT Review (Waterland et al., 2015): Community Associations (CAs) have several governance layers in their attempt to provide community representation. The lowest level governance layer is that of the village resident. Above them each village is represented by a Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC). Each VNRC is formed from four persons elected from a village, including: a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and one other. As there are usually several hundred villages surrounding each protected area, the VNRCs then nominate a smaller number representatives to become members of the Group Village Natural Resource Committee (GVNRC), which represent several of the VNRCs, again with a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and one other. Each GVNRC has voting rights to elect nominated members from across several GVNRCs to become members of the overall CA Board, again with nominated Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and, in this case, several others. The most senior chiefs and the DNPW park manager also usually sit on this board. Each CA board is an umbrella body for the communities living around that specific protected area and, in theory, each CA represent all the villagers that live within the border zone of that protected area when they, local leaders and DNPW all meet to discuss pertinent wildlife conservation issues.

Although the CCAs, WMAs and the MUWAs are provided for in the extant legislation and policy which would have been a good start for community involvement in wildlife utilization and the establishment of alternative livelihood schemes such as community ecotourism sites with tangible benefits reaching the household level, these are currently not there. What remains are community structures around protected areas which have formed associations. The institutional set up of the CAs is top down with too many layers, rather complex and without regular audits, which facilitates fraud and results in revenues remaining stuck at the top layers. The CAs need to be overhauled, simplified and strengthened, or a new system needs to be set up with a single representative from a cluster of communities attending protected-area management board meetings twice a year. This requires establishing protected-area management boards, a simple multi-stakeholder forum for discussing conservation and management of wildlife on one hand, and conflicts that emerge from these on the other hand.



Concomitantly, the system of revenue distribution through the CA structure needs to be reviewed and overhauled, with an alternative system whereby benefits accrue to individual households.

- 1. Establish protected-area management boards, involving relevant stakeholders, including representatives of the fringe communities
- 2. Alternatively, overhaul and simplify the existing set up of community institutions and strengthen what remains
- 3. Raise awareness among the communities
- 4. Establish alternative livelihood programs in the vicinity of parks and reserves, such as community-based ecotourism sites, possibly using CCAs, WMAs and MUWAs, but with a focus on initiatives that result in tangible benefits at the household level
- 5. Support ecotourism initiatives that promote greater employment opportunities and value chain development for local communities (IWT Review)
- 6. Ensure that community conservation and income generation schemes directly address both the key humanitarian issues and the most significant wildlife threats (IWT Review)



#### 1.3 Protected Areas; Status, Trends and Area-Specific Threats

In this section we will deal with each protected area separately, in terms of status, trend and threats with regard to the resident elephant population. Parks and reserves that come under the jurisdiction of DNPW are shown in Fig. 3.

VWAZA MARSH GAME RESERVE MAJETE

Figure 3. Parks and reserves under the jurisdiction of DNPW.

#### 1.3.1 Nyika National Park

This is Malawi's largest and oldest national park, located in the northern region, 507km from Lilongwe, covering a total area of 3,134km². Most of the plateau is above 2,000m, with the Nganda Peak being the highest point at 2,607m. With part of the Nyika Plateau and several forest reserves on the Zambian side, it is one of the Trans Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) between Malawi and Zambia. Nyika consists of rolling hills with grassland and valleys with evergreen forest, with *Brachystegia* and *Julbernadia* woodland (miombo) in the low-lying areas. Up to some years back, the small population of elephants used to keep to the lower grounds on the northern edge of the park, but due to poaching pressure, they have



moved to the plateau and the low-lying areas in the south of the park (D. Macpherson, personal communication).

#### Population status:

Since 1992, only 4 elephant counts were done in Nyika, a dung count in 1992 that covered 375km² and returned an estimate of 172 ± 68 elephants (95% CL), an aerial sample survey in 1997 that covered 3,134km² and returned 339 ± 239 elephants (AED), an aerial total count of the plateau area in 2013 that covered 1,679km² and returned 47 elephants (AED), and a total ground count of the plateau and southern part of the park in 2014 that resulted in 103 elephants (DNPW). Due to the significant difference in the areas surveyed, it is not possible to compare these counts. Because the Nyika elephants move throughout the TFCA, passing through Mitenge and Lundazi Forest Reserves in Zambia to reach Vwaza Marsh in Malawi, while these two Zambian reserves are connected with the Musalango Game Management Area, it is not possible to evaluate any of these counts. We may only conclude that Nyika still contains at least 102 elephants. In future, to enable trend analysis, elephant counts need to cover the entire TFCA.

#### Management authority:

The DNPW is responsible for managing Nyika on the Malawian side, and the Zambian Wildlife Authority (now Department of National Parks and Wildlife) for the small Zambian part of the Nyika Plateau.

JALAWE VIEW POINT

DOMWE VIEW POINT

Chitinda

Falls

ZAMBIA

CHOSIA

CHOINT

Chitinda

Falls

JUNIPER

FINGIRA FOREST

ROCK

0 8 16km

Figure 4. Map of Nyika National Park.

#### Threats:

In Nyika, patrol staff density is 1 staff/69.6km², which is below the standard of 1 staff /50 km², which is sufficient for most of the plateau, but not for the low-lying parts on the northern and southern edges of the park, where elephants are concentrated. Patrol staff densities need to be increased. Number of patrols and thus effective patrol days should be drastically



increased for the fringe areas, while concomitantly treating elephants as a key species, which has so far not been the case in Nyika (DNPW). Moreover, to increase patrol frequency, each patrol staff should do a minimum of 15 effective patrol days per month, whereby an effective patrol day is defined as 6-8 hours of patrolling.

One fairly unique threat in Nyika as well as Vwaza Marsh is the tribal differences up north compared to south and central, i.e. the deep set resentment towards government for preventing them living and hunting in conservation areas (J. Vaughan, pers. comm.). For example, in some specific protected areas, a cultural tribal tradition of wildlife hunting presents a significant challenge to wildlife conservation e.g. the Phoka tribe, who are concentrated around Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, have historically always been a tribe of shifting cultivators and male hunters. Feedback from community surveys in Vwaza Marsh indicated anger to the government from these community members for trying to repress their traditions and prohibiting access and hunting in the two protected areas. This is something which many of the Phoka people will apparently never accept, and therefore a driver for poaching and conflicts in these specific areas (IWT Review; Waterland *et al.*, 2015). Thus, due to tribal issues and low protection levels, ivory poaching from within Malawi has continued unabated.

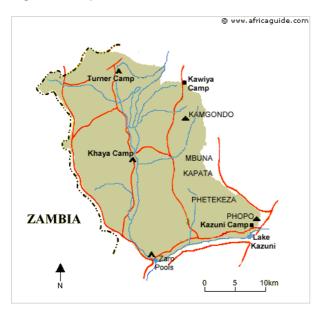


Figure 5. Map of Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve

#### 1.3.2 Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve

Vwaza Marsh is 986km² and is situated in a low-lying area immediately to the south-west of Nyika National Park in the Northern Region. It is part of the TFCA, being only 60km away from South Luangwa National Park. The reserve has ample open water, floodplains, 'mopane' woodland in the lower parts and 'miombo' woodland in the hills of the eastern part of the reserve.



#### Population status:

Since 1984, only 3 elephant counts have been done in Vwaza Marsh, each covering the size of the reserve. In 1984, a dung count returned an estimate of  $236 \pm 55$  elephants (95% CL), (McShane, 1985). In 1992, an aerial survey returned an estimate of  $371 \pm 296$  elephants (AED), while an aerial total count in 2013 returned 310 elephants (AED; D. Macpherson, pers. comm.). From these 3 estimates we could conclude that over the past 30 years the elephant population in Vwaza Marsh has been relatively stable, but as discussed above, due to regular movements between the various conservation areas that are part of the TFCA, none of the populations may be viewed in isolation. As discussed above, future elephant counts need to cover the entire area that comprises the TFCA.

#### Management authority:

The DNPW is responsible for managing the reserve.

#### Threats:

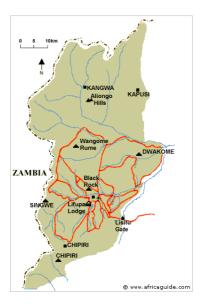
Due to tribal issues (see previous section), ivory poaching is mainly done by Malawian nationals. From 2013 to 2014, 11 elephants were killed illegally. The patrol staff density in the reserve is relatively high at 1 staff/41.1km², but evidently not high enough to curb elephant poaching, while leadership qualities of current site management should be reviewed. Human – elephant conflict is of low to moderate severity.

#### 1.3.3 Kasungu National Park

The Kasungu National Park comprises an area of 2,316km² and is situated in Western Central Malawi, adjacent to the border with Zambia in the west. The vegetation of the park is typical of the Central African Plateau with its basement geology and poor sandy soils, supporting closed canopy *Brachystegia/Julbernadia* ('miombo') woodland. The park has a gently undulating landscape with seasonally flooded grasslands that form the 'dambo' drainage system. The history of the park dates back to 1923, when it was declared a Forest Reserve on account of sleeping sickness. After people moved out of the area that now comprises the park, the first elephants arrived from the Luangwa Valley in Zambia (Jachmann, 1984a; Bell *et al.*, 1993). Although Lukusuzi National Park in Zambia is only roughly 30km away, in Zambia, close to the border, a busy road with many settlements forms a barrier between the two parks.



Figure 6. Map of Kasungu National Park.



#### Population status:

With the first elephants arriving from the Luangwa Valley in the early 1920s, the Kasungu population was established. The first aerial surveys carried out in 1970 returned an estimate of 769 elephants (Bell *et al.*, 1993). The elephant population increased to 1,296 in 1973 (Bell *et al.*, 1993), then declined to 1,189 in 1978 (Jachmann & Bell, 1984), and then due to the wave of commercialized illegal hunting that swept the continent from the late 1970s, the population declined to 738 in 1981 (Bell *et al.*, 1993). No confidence Limits were available for these estimates. From the early 1980s the population has been gradually declining to 672 in 1992 (AED), 391 in 1995 (AED), to 58 in 2005 (AED). Recently, 67 elephants were counted, which should be considered the minimum number of elephants in the park (DNPW; Alphius Lypia, Divisional Manager KNP).

#### Management authority:

DNPW is responsible for managing the park.

#### Threats:

Throughout the years, poaching has continued unabated, by illegal hunters coming from Zambia as well as by Malawians from communities situated in the proximity of the park on its eastern boundary. Patrol staff density is 1 staff/52.6km², which should have been sufficient under normal circumstances, but should be raised to 1/30km². Although the lack of effectiveness of the law-enforcement program at Kasungu may be partly due to financial constraints with DNPW, leading to low operational budgets and thus resources, leadership qualities of current site management should be reviewed. As detailed above, the land comprising the buffer zone of Kasungu National Park, which had the purpose to cushion wild animal activity between the park and human settlements, has since been sold by local chiefs after the Kasungu Flue Cured Tobacco Association became defunct. The result is that



people who bought buffer zone land have mostly been interested in cutting the trees for sale of firewood, making room for further agricultural expansion. Encroachment of the park is a serious problem. The human – elephant conflict situation has been mitigated through the gradual decline of population numbers, with on average only 9.5 crop raiding incidences reported annually between 2009 and 2014.

#### 1.3.4 Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve

Nkhotakota is Malawi's largest wildlife reserve with 1,802km², and is situated 115km from Lilongwe, in the Central Region, near Lake Malawi. It was established as a wildlife reserve in 1954. Situated along the escarpment of the Rift Valley, it covers a vast wilderness of steep valleys with riparian forest along the rivers and predominantly 'miombo' woodland in the hills.

#### **Population status:**

Since 1981, 4 elephant counts were done in the reserve. In 1981, a dung count on tracks returned an estimate of  $408 \pm 91$  elephants (Jachmann, 1984b), in 1992, an aerial survey gave an estimate of  $71 \pm 206$  elephants, in 1995, an aerial survey returned an estimate of  $1,037 \pm 1,511$  elephants, whereas a ground survey in 2013 resulted in an estimate of 92 elephants (AED). The estimate obtained from the ground survey did not have Confidence Limits, while the survey covered less than half of the reserve. Due to the difficult terrain of the reserve, with its steep valleys, it is next to impossible to use aerial techniques to count elephants, which is evident when we inspect the aerial estimates above (low precision and implicating that the population increased by 1360% over 3 years). From these counts we may only conclude that in 2013 there were elephants in the reserve, and possibly more than 92.

#### Management authority:

As from August 2015, African Parks has been given the mandate to manage the reserve for an initial duration of 20 years. African Parks has already fenced 164 km of the reserve, expecting to finalize fencing the entire reserve in 2019. African Parks and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) agreed to translocate 500 elephants from source populations in Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve, two parks also under the management of African Parks. In 2017, a total of 520 elephants were relocated.

#### Threats:

When African Parks assumed management of the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in 2015, the reserve had lost most of its wildlife to poaching as law enforcement was totally ineffective in its implementation due to lack of funds and resources. Other concerns included human-wildlife conflicts, a growing population, encroachment for cultivation and settlement and hence habitat destruction and fires. Since 2015, African Parks has stabilised the park, invested in infrastructure and ranger teams, and established a growing engagement with the surrounding communities,



Figure 7. Map of Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.



#### 1.3.5 Liwonde National Park

Liwonde National Park is 538km² and is located in the Southern Region, on the left bank of the Shire River between Lake Malombe and Liwonde town. The park supports a range of habitats, with roughly three-quarters of the park covered by 'mopane' woodland, with reed swamp and marshland along the Shire River and southeast shore of Lake Malombe, floodplain grassland in the south, mixed woodland on the hills, tall grass tree savannah along the narrow floodplains of seasonal streams, small pockets of dry deciduous thicket, and semi-deciduous riverine forest.

A brief history of the area shows that in order to protect the rapidly disappearing wildlife, a controlled hunting area was proclaimed in 1962, upgraded in 1969 to game reserve and finally gazetted as a national park in 1973.

#### **Population status:**

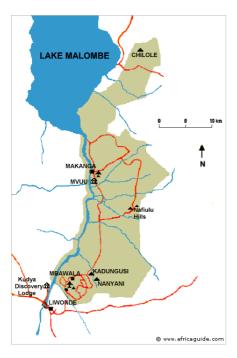
When the park was gazetted in 1973, elephant numbers were estimated at roughly 200 (DNPW). A series of aerial total counts returned 365 elephants in 1992 (AED), 414 in 1995 (AED), 678 in 2012 (AED), and 777 in 2014 (D. Macpherson, pers. comm.), implying that the population has been increasing at about 6.1% per year.

#### Management authority:

As from August 2015, African Parks has been given the mandate to manage the reserve for a period of 20 years.



Figure 8. Map of Liwonde National Park



#### Threats:

Liwonde National Park has one of the highest patrol staff densities in Malawi, with 1 staff/13.0km². For many years the park has been a hotspot for human-wildlife conflicts, with considerable loss of human life, crops and livelihood on one hand, and unsustainable exploitation of the resources of the park on the other hand. For example, on average, more than 1,000 crop raiding incidents have been reported annually, with 44 human deaths, 6 injuries and 135 houses destroyed between 2009 and 2014. Due to the exclusion of nearby communities to participate in conservation and reap some of its benefits, conflict between communities and government ensued. Because government recognized the fact that the ecological integrity of protected areas cannot be perpetuated without the active collaboration of the communities, DNPW mobilised communities to form an association to administer a revenue sharing scheme. Central Wilderness Safaris Trust runs a Project called "Children in the Wilderness" which has supported communities in various Projects. The Liwonde National Conservation Program and other NGOs ran a project in the fringes of the park, all with full support of Government. Since 2015, when African Parks took over management of the park, much has improved in terms of management, fencing and community engagement, especially with the translocation of elephants to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, which drastically lowered elephant density in the park.

#### 1.3.6 Majete Wildlife Reserve

Majete Wildlife Reserve, proclaimed in 1955, is situated in the Lower Shire Valley, a section of Africa's Great Rift Valley, covering an area of about 700km². Vegetation is diverse, ranging from moist 'miombo' woodland in the western hills, to dry savannah in the east with prominent thickets along the riverbanks.



#### **Population status:**

When African Parks assumed responsibility of Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2003, it was almost completely devoid of any animal life. As part of the undertaking to rehabilitate the reserve to create a functioning ecosystem, an extensive restocking programme was initiated. The reintroduction of all species was based on historic records of their occurrence in the area. Up to date, more than 2,550 animals of 12 different species have been reintroduced to Majete. These include most notably elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). The last elephants in Majete were killed in 1992, and it was not until the reintroduction by African Parks that elephants returned to Majete. In 2006, the reserve had a population of 70 elephants (AED), increasing to about 163 in 2012 (AED). In 2017, a large number of elephants was translocated to Nkhotakota WR.

#### Management authority:

Since 2003, Majete Wildlife Reserve is managed by African Parks - a partnership between African Parks and DNPW.

#### Threats:

Being managed by African Parks, Majete has no financial constraints to optimize law enforcement and management in general, but with high wildlife densities and approximately 140,000 people living around the reserve, human-wildlife conflict may seriously undermine good relations between park management and its neighbouring communities. African Parks has been tackling this potential problem as follows (<a href="http://www.african-parks.org/Park">http://www.african-parks.org/Park</a> 1 15 Community+Involvement.html).

It is vital that the local community derives real and tangible benefits from the park in order to ensure its long term survival. Sustainable resource harvesting is permitted within the park, whilst micro-enterprises such as bee-keeping, egg production, mushroom farming, pottery and furniture making, have been initiated in conjunction with community members. Majete works with 19 community-based organisations (CBOs) in 85 villages which were established to act as conduits for information exchange, education and economic empowerment activities. Majete has a well-established Extension and Education Unit which provides wildlife extension and education services to the surrounding communities, schools and the general public. Majete has a scholarship program which is currently supporting 80 students in secondary schools and two in university with school fees. Over 4000 students from over 50 schools are reached with conservation messaging in their schools every year. On average 40 school groups undertake Environmental Education visits to Majete supported by the park every year. Learning support materials such as newsletters, student workbooks and posters are also produced to accompany education programs. Sustainable resource harvesting of thatch grass, bamboo and reeds is permitted within the reserve. In the months of June and July communities are given an opportunity to harvest these resources in the reserve. Every year 17,000 people collect thatch grass with an estimated value of \$7500. A community-managed campsite near the entrance gate provides a direct source of income for the community from camping fees and tuck-shop sales. The revenue generated which is in excess of \$8000 is channeled towards community micro projects such as purchasing school uniforms and writing materials for needy children, food for the elderly and nursery schools.



Protected Areas of Malawi Forest Reserve 3 Wilindi Forest Reserve 937.120 4 Mafinga Hills 5 Musisi Forest Reserve 83 Nyika National Park Forest Reserve 1956.988 98214.344 754.429 7 Vwaza Marsh 3447.220 8 Bunganya Forest Reserve 9 Kaning'ina Forest Reserve 14006.764 10 Lunyangwa 11 South Viphya 12 Kalwe Forest Reserve 158.735 Forest Reserve 1607.988 Forest Reserve 4781.435 16 Chisasira Forest Reserve 2484.469 17 Perekezi 18 Kuwilwi 19 Chimaliro Forest Reserve 14481.515 07 Forest Reserve 134.398
Forest Reserve 15204.852 20 Kasungu 21 Nkhotako 22 Ntchisi National Park 228146.981 23 Ngara Forest Reserve 2272.020 24 Mchinji 25 Kongwe 26 Dowa Hills 27 Namizimu Forest Reserve 20885.129 Forest Reserve Forest Reserve 88966.097 Forest Reserve 1207.143
Forest Reserve 532.022 Forest Reserve 15767.331 31 Nalikule 85 Dedza-Salima Escarpment 32 Lake Malawi Forest Reserve 56.582 Forest Reserve 30965.255 National Park 391.004 33 Lake Malawi National Park 12.450 National Park 6218.943 35 Lake Malawi 36 Dzalanyama National Park 72.077
Forest Reserve 98827.138 37 Dzenza Forest Reserve 778.844 Forest Reserve 426.248 86 Msitolengwe Forest Reserve 98.197 Lake Malawi National Park 148.897 Forest Reserve 12353.465 National Park 82.103 3 Lake Malawi National Park 39.368 44 Mua-Livulezi Forest Reserve 12672.958 933.318 2916.974 Nkopola Forest Reserve 86.439 Forest Reserve 40852.787 49 Phirilongwe District Boundary Forest Reserve 16385.187 16385.187 / International Boundary Forest Reserve 1314.052 Wildlife Reserve 51 Myai 4139.897 National Park Lake 100 Km 50

Figure 9. Forest reserves under the jurisdiction of the Department of Forestry (DF).

The forest reserves in Malawi fall under the jurisdiction of the DF. Protected areas in Malawi, including the forest reserves and their respective sizes are shown in Fig. 9.

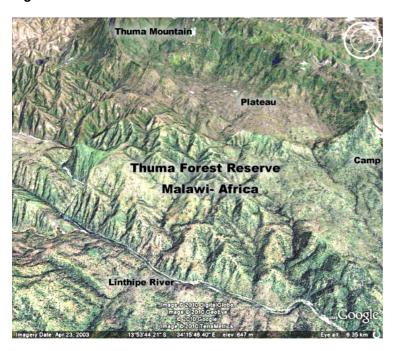
#### 1.3.7 Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves

Thuma Forest Reserve was gazetted in 1926 and covers an area of 158km² in the Great Rift Valley Escarpment near Lake Malawi, in the Central Region, approximately 80km from Lilongwe (Figs. 9 (# 30) and 10). The reserve is adjacent to the Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve, which together with the Thuma Reserve cover an area of 468km² of escarpment



wilderness running parallel to Lake Malawi. Vegetation is dominated by riparian forest along the rivers in the steep valleys and predominantly 'miombo' woodland in the hills. Thuma and Dedza-Salima are two of the few forest reserves in Malawi that are still home to elephants, mainly as a result of the work done by the Wildlife Action Group (WAG) through its Thuma Project (<a href="www.wag-malawi.org">www.wag-malawi.org</a>). The objective of the Thuma Project is to protect its flora and fauna and to restore its ecological balance in co-operation with the communities living around the reserve. Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves are now, without doubt, two of the best protected forest reserves in Malawi.

Figure 10. Location of Thuma Forest Reserve



#### **Population status:**

The WAG became active in Thuma Forest Reserve in 1996, when elephants were no longer resident. Around the year 2000 the first small herds of elephants started to return to the reserve for short periods of time from the adjacent Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve, and possibly even from the Phirilongwe Forest Reserve, situated further south along Lake Malawi.

However, due to the nature of the terrain, counting elephants in areas along the Great Rift Valley Escarpment is extremely difficult. Aerial surveys are too dangerous, while the terrain is too steep for most ground survey techniques. As a result there exists no history of sound estimates of the elephants occupying the Thuma, Dedza-Salima and Phirilongwe Forest Reserves, but merely educated guesses. In 1995, the population for the 3 reserves was estimated at 250 (AED), which was probably relatively accurate, given that in 2009, 83 elephants were moved from Phirilongwe to Majete, with 5 elephants remaining in Phirilongwe (WAG), while in 2013 the population in Thuma and Dedza-Salima was estimated at 145 (Fixed-width strip survey; DNPW).



#### Management authority:

Although the authority for managing the forest reserves lies with the DF, all of the day-to-day management is done by the WAG.

In 2005, WAG only employed 4 scouts. Nowadays there are 40. This brings the density to 11.4km²/scout, which is the highest patrol-staff density in Malawi. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in poaching and an increase of wildlife numbers, with signs of elephants throughout the reserve (www.wag-malawi.org).

#### Threats:

The main threats, in order of severity or seriousness, are charcoal burning causing deforestation of extensive areas, further deforestation through logging, and elephant poaching. The main concern expressed by communities is the problem of crop-raiding elephants. Despite the fact that other animals like bush pigs, birds and insects, cause more damage to crops than elephants, the actual damage to crops plus the emotional impact of crop-raiding elephants to individual farmers can be huge. WAG tried several elephant deterrent measures in the past and are still keen to try and implement any other possible solution but reality learns that it is very difficult to stop elephants from going into farm fields.

WAG has set up an elephant fence along part of its border where they experienced major human-elephant conflicts, but otherwise believes that the only other effective long-term measure is to stimulate people living near reserves with elephants, to grow crops that are unpalatable to elephants (tobacco, chilli, and cotton). The profits then can be used to buy their food instead of trying to grow it themselves.

#### 1.3.8 Phirilongwe Forest Reserve

Phirilongwe Forest Reserve is also situated in the Great Rift Valley Escarpment near Lake Malawi, approximately 20km from Mangochi, and covers 164km² of escarpment wilderness (Fig. 9, # 49). Vegetation is dominated by riparian forest along the rivers in the steep valleys and predominantly 'miombo' woodland in the hills. Due to the human-elephant conflict situation, with numerous human casualties, in 2009, 83 elephants were moved from Phirilongwe to Majete Game Reserve in the Lower Shire Valley, with 5 elephants remaining in Phirilongwe (WAG). Because the reserve is degraded, with high human densities in its surroundings, maintaining high elephant densities would require costly long-term developments.

#### 1.3.9 Mangochi and Namizimu Forest Reserves

Mangochi Forest Reserve is located just north of Liwonde National Park and covers 409km² of similar habitat as the park (Fig. 9, # 51). Elephants use the reserve to move from the park to Namizimu, but it is not known whether it contains a small resident population. Namizimu Forest Reserve is located between Lake Malawi and the border with Mozambique (Fig. 9, # 27), and covers 890km² of escarpment wilderness, with riparian forest along the rivers in the steep valleys, and 'miombo' woodland in the higher parts. Elephants are known to cross the border into the reserve, but it is not known whether there is a small resident population (DNPW).



#### 1.3.10 Summary of site-based threats to Malawi's elephant populations

The overall scope and severity of threats to Malawi's elephant populations are provided in Table 2, where threats were rated from 1 (low) to 5 (severe) by a team of 5 DNPW managers. Poaching for ivory is currently the most immediate threat for at least 6 out of 8 populations, while charcoal burning and agricultural expansion have not only gradually eroded part of some of the protected areas, thereby reducing the available elephant habitat, but poses a threat to nearly all of Malawi's populations, while it has removed much of the internal connectivity. Although law enforcement needs improvement in the majority of protected areas, deforestation due to charcoal burning, agricultural expansion, encroachment and the resulting human – elephant conflict situations need to be resolved through lobbying, raising awareness, community participation and benefit sharing, but most of all through land-use planning.

Some of the actions required are provided below:

- 1. Improve site-based law enforcement
- 2. Introduce adaptive management using patrol-based monitoring systems
- 3. Finalize Code of Conduct and distribute among DNPW staff
- 4. Train site-level staff in investigative techniques
- 5. Set up investigative units at each site
- 6. Establish or strengthen existing informer networks
- 7. Involve communities in wildlife conservation through protected-area management community organisations, involving all stakeholders
- 8. Stop encroachment
- 9. Lobby for sound land-use planning
- 10. Establish alternative livelihood programs, such as community-based ecotourism sites near parks and reserves
- 11. Raise awareness
- 12. Lobby local leaders and politicians

Table 2. Threats and their severity for the elephant populations of Malawi, rated from 1(low) to 5(severe).

Protected Area	Illegal Killing	Legal Killing	Agricultural Expansion	Encroachment HEC	Other
Nyika	3	1	1	1	
Vwaza Marsh	4	2	2	2	
Kasungu	5	1	5	5	Land Conflicts
Nkhotakota	5	1	4	5	Land Conflicts
Thuma	3	1	1	5	Deforestation due to
					charcoal burning
Phirilongwe	1	1	5	5	Deforestation due to
					charcoal burning
Liwonde	3	2	4	3	
Majete	1	1	4	1	
Namizimu	?	?	?	?	



#### 1.4 Human-Elephant Conflict

Although human – elephant conflict has been briefly discussed in previous sections on general threats (2) and area-specific threats (3), this short section summarizes the human-elephant conflict situation in Malawi.

Communities surrounding the parks and reserves of Malawi engage in small-scale subsistence and cash-crop farming. Farms closest to the boundaries are vulnerable to elephant crop damage, which is most intense during the food-crop harvesting season. Elephants jeopardize the food security and livelihoods of the communities, whose attitudes towards elephants are consequently negative. Resolving the conflict is critical to improvement of livelihoods as well as elephant conservation.

Human - elephant conflict can be categorised into direct or indirect conflicts. Direct conflicts include crop damage, human death/injuries, damage to food stores and other property such as fences. Indirect conflicts include fear of running into elephants that will restrict people in their movements, guarding of crops may lead to loss of sleep and energy, and increased exposure to malaria and psychological stress. In Malawi, the most widespread form of direct conflict however is crop damage, whereby the amount of damage or the intensity of the conflict is determined by the proximity and density of farms outside, and the food availability for and the density of elephants inside the protected area.

Throughout the elephant range in Malawi – that is in communities situated near parks and reserves that contain elephants, human – elephant conflict is common, but at different levels of intensity. Mitigation of conflict situations has been through fencing (Majete, Nkhotakota, Kasungu, Thuma, Vwaza Marsh and Liwonde), community involvement in wildlife conservation (among others Liwonde), alternative livelihoods programs (Liwonde and Majete), creating awareness, and various low-tech community-based problem animal control methods, usually traditional techniques that have been in use for a long time.

Challenges faced with reducing conflict through fencing include vandalism of fences and lack of maintenance of fences due to financial constraints, which all resulted in elephants leaving the protected areas and causing havoc. Inadequate awareness on elephant conservation and management across all levels of society, lack of interest by local communities due to the inadequate direct benefits derived from the existence of elephants and lack of involvement of communities as stakeholders in wildlife conservation are all contributing to human - elephant conflict. However, most of these approaches do not tackle the fundamental causes of conflict. In addition to providing local communities with tangible benefits at the household level from bottom-up wildlife conservation schemes and participatory management set ups through multi-stakeholder platforms, only two solutions exist to mitigating human – elephant conflict; using a hard or soft boundary. Soft boundary: conflicts must be solved through land management, whereby land-use planning is the single most important tool to mitigate conflict. Hard-boundary solutions require ample financial support to erect elephant-proof fences and to maintain them regularly for extended periods.

Actions required have been briefly discussed in section 1.2.1 on poor land-use planning and community relations, and section 1.2.4 on inadequate community involvement in conservation.



#### 1.5 Legislation and Policies in Relation to Elephant Conservation

The section on legislation and policies in relation to elephant conservation was produced by the LWT, and relies heavily on the IWT Review (Waterland et al., 2015).

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Malawi has been a Party to CITES since 1982. CITES is the principal international instrument to control and regulate international trade in protected species. It is the single most important international instrument dealing with illegal trade in wild fauna and flora because it is the only treaty that requires Parties to penalize some aspects of illegal trade in protected species. It also enables countries to confiscate illegally sourced wild fauna and flora. CITES is, in fact, the only international treaty that sets out specific violations relating to illegal activities in the wildlife sectors. The populations of African Elephant <u>Loxodonta africana</u> in Malawi are listed on Appendix I of CITES (although in 1989 Malawi took out a Reservation on the listing which is still in place).

According to Article VIII (1) of the Convention, national legislation must include provisions to penalize trade in, or possession of, specimens that violates CITES. Like many Parties to CITES, although Malawi has ratified the treaty it has not enacted specific legislation to implement the Convention. Instead, Malawi relies on the National Parks and Wildlife Act as amended in 2004 (NPWA) to control trade in CITES-listed species in Malawi. Having adequate domestic legislation that meets the basic requirements of the Convention is crucial to the effectiveness of CITES. Resolution 8.4 (Rev. CoP15), National Laws for Implementation of the Convention, provides that domestic legislation must, at a minimum: designate at least one Management Authority and one Scientific Authority; prohibit trade in specimens in violation of the Convention; penalize such trade; and, provide authority to confiscate specimens illegally traded or possessed. If national legislation does not comply with the basic CITES system, it becomes difficult to prevent criminal groups from engaging in illegal wildlife trade and to punish the perpetrators. CITES can be effective only to the extent that Parties enact (and enforce) CITES provisions. In Malawi, and with regards to African Elephants, this has been achieved through the NPWA.

#### Other International Treaties and Agreements

There are several other International Conventions, Protocols and Agreements which have been ratified by Malawi and are of relevance to the protection of African elephants in Malawi. These include:

- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC);
- United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC);
- African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources;
- The Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) Legal Protocol on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters:



- SADC Legal Protocol on Corruption;
- SADC Legal Protocol on Extradition;
- SADC Legal Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement.

Malawi has also signed the London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade, the Arusha Declaration on Wildlife Crime and is part of the Clinton Global Initiative. In January 2015, Malawi also joined the Elephant Protection Initiative and agreed to implement the NEAP amongst other commitments, including: enforcing a moratorium on domestic ivory sales; stiffening penalties for wildlife crimes; and, putting ivory stockpiles out of economic use. Malawi is also an observer on the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, a member of the Wildlife Enforcement Network for Southern Africa and is part of the SADC Trans-Frontier Conservation Area initiative.

Domestic Legislation: National Park and Wildlife Act of Malawi

The principal legislation dealing with the protection of wildlife resources in Malawi, including African elephants is the National Parks and Wildlife Act, as amended (NPWA). The NPWA provides for wildlife species that require full protection. It also has provisions in section 28 to declare any area of land or water within Malawi as a national park or wildlife reserve. The African elephant is listed as a "protected species" within the Act and, as such, is therefore provided protection from certain offences related to its illegal killing, possession, import/export, trade and manufacture. In many ways, the NPWA is a thorough statute offering potentially extensive protection to a number of species, including African elephant, and broad authority to the Director of National Parks and Wildlife. That said, an overhaul of the legislation is necessary in order to fully comply with the mandates of CITES, and fully protect Malawi's elephant populations.

Currently, the CITES Secretariat categorizes Malawi's domestic legislation as Category 2, which means that the Secretariat considers it "generally not to meet all of the requirements." A recent review of NPWA suggests that for the dual purposes of effectively combating wildlife crime, such as illicit ivory trade, and adequately implementing CITES, a number of revisions to the Act are necessary. The most important revisions being:

- (1) Definitional issues related to the scope of the NPWA must be clarified to ensure that the Act is protective of species.
- (2) The penalties provisions of the Act must be amended to ensure that wildlife crime may be treated as a "serious crime" and to clarify contradictions that make the provisions unenforceable, such as the conflict between the maximum penalty and the value of the seized item(s) requirement penalty. The penalty provisions need be revised to act more sufficiently as deterrents. As it stands currently, even when the provisions are enforceable, they may not be high enough because the value of certain specimens of wildlife on the black market is so high.



#### Other Domestic Legislation

There are several other Malawian Laws that are of relevance to the protection of elephants. These include:

- The Malawi Penal Code with particular reference to matters of compensation, theft, with particular reference to the theft of animal parts, killing animals with intent to steal or killing and injuring animals, receiving stolen property, corruption, neglect of office, assembling for the purpose of smuggling and conspiracy.
- *Malawi Firearms Act of 1967* (as amended) with particular reference to matters of unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition.
- Malawi Customs and Excise Act of 1969 with particular reference to imports and exports, the liability of agents and the various offences associated with illicit: goods, documentation, contraband concealment and unlawful behaviour of customs officials in addition to the powers of forfeiture, seizure, embargo and abandonment afforded to the Malawi Revenue Authority.
- Malawi Immigration Act of 1964 with particular reference to prohibited immigrants and their removal, deportation, forgery of documents, aiding and abetting unlawful entry and the prescribed offences under Schedule 3, including those related to firearms, bribery, stealing, embezzlement and fraud.
- Corrupt Practices Act of 1995 with particular reference to corrupt practices, corrupt use of power and the Anti-Corruption's powers of seizures etc. (Amended in 2004).
- Money Laundering and Proceeds of Serious Crime and Terrorist Financing Act of 2006 – with particular reference to money laundering offences, the making of false or misleading statements and the powers of currency seizure and additional sanction and confiscation upon conviction of a serious crime.
- Extradition Act of 1974 although wildlife offences are not expressly included in the Act, the theft of a dead body of a wild animal or its constituent parts (e.g. ivory) could qualify as an extraditable offence as could the killing or maining an animal if it equates to 'malicious or willful damage to [State] property'.
- Malawi Forestry Act of 1997 with particular reference to the prohibition of possession or use of weapons, traps, explosives, poisons or hunting animals and other forest related offences, particulary those related to: wildlife, trafficking of forest produce, obstruction of officers, false documentation and the import and export of forest produce.
- Environmental Management Act 1996 with particular reference to environmental impact assessments, environmental protection areas and conservation of biological diversity.
- Protection of Animal Act of 1970 with particular reference to the prohibition of animal cruelty, including the unnecessary suffering of wild animals once captured e.g. in snares or traps or during transport.



Policy Framework: The National Wildlife Policy (2000)

The policy was adopted in 2000 is currently under review but is still in use until the reviewed one has gone through the necessary prescribed processes. The 2000 Policy had a goal of ensuring proper conservation and management of wildlife resources, including elephants. It aimed to provide for sustainable utilization and equitable access to the resources and fair sharing of the benefits from the resources for both present and future generations of Malawi. To achieve this goal the policy aimed to:

- Adequately protect representative ecosystems and their biological diversity through adopting sustainable land management practices;
- Raise public awareness and appreciation of the importance of wildlife conservation and management;
- Provide enabling legal framework to control poaching;
- Encourage wildlife-based enterprises; and
- Develop a cost-effective legal, administrative and institutional framework for managing wildlife resources.

The policy is currently under review and a new revision is expected in 2015.

Other National Polices, Plans and Strategies

There are several other National Policies that are of relevance to the protection of elephants in Malawi. These include:

- National Environmental Action Plan (1994) which was adopted to set out management activities and projects aimed to protect the natural environment.
- National Forestry Policy (1997) which was adopted to all citizens to have regulated and monitored access to some forest products and establish incentives that will promote community-based conservation and sustainable use of forest resources as a means of poverty reduction.
- National Land Resources Management Policy and Strategy (2000) adopted to
  promote the efficient, diversified and sustainable use of land-based resources both
  for agriculture and other uses. In addition, the policy tries preventing sectoral land
  use conflicts and enhancing sustainable socio-economic growth for the conservation
  of biodiversity and the management, conservation and utilization of natural resources
  in order to ensure sustainable land and ecosystem productivity.
- National Environmental Policy (2004) which was adopted to promote sustainable social and economic development through sound management of the environment. It promotes the conservation of biological diversity and seeks to manage, conserve and utilize biological diversity for the preservation of national heritage. It also deals



specifically with wildlife and contains several strategies on the conservation of wildlife inside and outside of Protected Areas.

 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2006) – was adopted in response to the NEAP which identified biodiversity loss as a major environmental concern and outlined Malawi's commitment to protecting conserve, maintain and restore biodiversity, including habitats and species.



# 2: The National Elephant Action Plan for Malawi: Vision, Goal, Objectives, Targets and Actions

## 2.1 Vision

The elephant population and its habitats are secure throughout its current range and co-existing with local communities, thereby remaining a keystone species contributing to the economy by attracting tourists, while being conserved for future generations.

#### 2.2 Goal

Elephant poaching and the illegal trade in ivory products will be reduced to acceptable levels and key populations increased to carrying capacity within 10 years.

## 2.3 Strategic Objectives

These goals will be achieved through the realisation of 8 strategic objectives:

Objective 1a will address elephant poaching in Malawi's parks and reserves that are most vulnerable to illegal off take.

Objective 1b will address the illegal trade and trafficking in ivory, mainly coordinated by DNPW HQ in Lilongwe.

Objective 2 will address habitat loss through encroachment and agricultural expansion and the severance of corridors connecting different elephant populations, including those populations occupying areas along the international borders.

Objective 3 will address the problem of human – elephant conflict, by land-use planning, fencing, non-target crops, sharing of benefits with local communities and participatory approaches to elephant conservation to mitigate conflict.

Objective 4 will address improved cooperation and collaboration on elephant conservation between the wildlife authorities and the communities, by involving communities in the process of wildlife management through the establishment of multi-stakeholder management boards.

Objective 5 will address the lack of awareness on elephant conservation and management among key stakeholders, including policy makers, traditional leaders, communities, and other enforcement agencies such as the police and judiciary.

Objective 6 will address adaptive management of elephants through improved knowledge of population numbers, trends and habitat use, as well as monitoring law enforcement in compliance with internationally accepted systems, such as SMART.



Objective 7 will address strengthened collaboration between national and international stakeholders active for and relevant to elephant conservation, such as wildlife authorities of neighbouring countries, and local and international enforcement agencies.

Finally, *objective* 8 will address the implementation of the NEAP for Malawi by appointing a coordinator and by setting up a steering committee.

## Objective 1a: To reduce illegal killing of elephants to acceptable levels by 2020

Target 1a: By 2020 elephant numbers killed illegally to be reduced to less than 1% of the population annually (Baseline 2015: 31 elephants known to have been killed illegally or 1.72% of the population)

Law enforcement is at the basis of efforts to reduce illegal killing of elephants, primarily through ranger-based patrols, but also through intelligence and investigations, roadblocks and other means. In some Malawian conservation areas field staff has been effective in curbing elephant poaching, but in others operations have neither been effective or efficient, not least because key ingredients such as equipment, sufficient numbers of well-trained and motivated personnel and investigations and informer networks were not place. Thus, a comprehensive suite of actions is required to build capacity at the site level.

## **Actions required**

1a.1 Build capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of field staff

In Ghana, leadership qualities and motivation had a highly significant impact on the outcome of site-level law-enforcement programs (Jachmann, 2008). Without strong and motivated leadership, law enforcement will be ineffective, while patrol staff need to be in sufficient numbers, well trained, disciplined and eager to do the job. Actions required are provided below:

- 1.1 Carry out a staff evaluation at each protected area, and from the available effective patrol/ field staff, select high caliber leadership, well-motivated, to be placed in key positions in parks and reserves where elephant poaching poses a problem for the short to medium term survival of the population. Prior to placement, these candidates require leadership training.
- 1.2 Regularly appraise and reshuffle patrol staff and place suspected and less motivated staff in positions where they have no effect on elephant survival.
- 1.3 Develop an Anti-Corruption Work Plan and establish an Integrity Committee to oversee implementation of the Work Plan and report on progress made to the Anti-Corruption Bureau.
- 1.4 Finalize the Code of Conduct and distribute among DNPW staff.
- 1.5 Develop and implement recruitment procedures for patrol staff, selecting key performance attributes, but recruiting staff from rural settings with adequate schooling.
- 1.6 Carry out a capacity gap analysis and provide capacity training for patrol staff.



- 1.7 Increase patrol staff density in problem areas, those parks and reserves where elephant poaching is high. Initially aim for a patrol staff density of 1 staff/30km². When the dust has settled, with elephant numbers increasing, patrol staff densities may be lowered to 1 staff/60km² (Jachmann, 1998).
- 1.8 Increase the number of effective patrol days per staff per month (evidently the number of patrols per unit time will also have to increase). Aim for a minimum of 15 effective patrol days per staff per month, whereby an effective patrol day is 6 8 hours of patrolling.
- 1.9 Provide all law-enforcement staff with proper equipment to carry out their duties (Transportation, uniforms, boots, arms, etc.).

## Objective 1b: To reduce ivory trafficking and the illegal trade of ivory within Malawi to zero by 2025

## Target 1b: Malawi experiences zero ivory seizures through trafficking at entry or exit points by 2025

Because of Malawi's geographical position, being surrounded by three countries that have been elephant poaching hotspots over the past 6 years, it has been a key trade hub for ivory, which will be difficult to stop. Moreover, the same geographical position makes it a common transport route for freight that is in regional overland transit. Malawi's low export status means that there is also a high need for significant import volumes from international overland supply routes, all of which have to pass through surrounding countries. It is therefore not surprising that criminals use these existing Malawian transit routes to help conduit their contraband across the wider region. Malawi is unfortunately an ideal place in terms of geography, logistics, political climate, corruption and lack of legal deterrence for the illicit ivory trade. Therefore, several strategies must be adopted to intercept ivory being trafficked, while drastically increasing the deterrent measures for involvement with the trade.

A good start was made with the Defra/DFID program 2015-2017 – a program jointly executed by DNPW and RSPCA (Developing law-enforcement capability in Malawi to combat wildlife crime). The program aims to develop a legislation handbook, provide training courses to enforcement agencies, secondment of Malawian law-enforcement officials to UK agencies, develop a community awareness program, and the establishment of a central database for DNPW, capturing information from seizure to sentence.

Moreover, there is an urgent need to revise the NPWA, among others to upgrade the penalty structure to increase deterrence. As part of the IWT Review (Waterland et al., 2015), the first stage of this upgrade has been done and further recommendations made as how to best continue.

## Actions required

- 1.10a Establish site-level investigations and informer systems, or strengthen where present.
- 1.10b Strengthen the existing investigations and informer system.
- 1.10c Establish a centrally located rapid reaction security force to respond to security situations that cannot be handled by site-level enforcement alone, or take place outside the protected-area system.



- 1.11 Upgrade wildlife legislation, whereby among others, wildlife crime is considered a 'serious offence', and penalties are raised to levels that deter wildlife offenders, by taking forward recommendations made by the IWT Review into the revised Act.
- 1.12 Establish an overt central investigations unit within DNPW and Support a central intelligence network, and a central joint covert reactive investigations taskforce comprising officers from all relevant enforcement authorities
- 1.13 Train selected DNPW, police, DPP, MRA, ACB and immigration staff in investigative techniques.
- 1.14 Set up a second investigations data-base for the central joint taskforce, connected to both the covert intelligence network and the DNPW data-base.
- 1.15 Set up a data-base at DNPW connecting all parks and reserves with HQ, if possible, using the one developed by the Uganda Wildlife Authority with financial assistance from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).
- 1.16 Set up a prosecution office with staff specialized in wildlife crime in DPP.
- 1.17 Raise awareness on elephant conservation, poaching and the trade in ivory with police, DPP, judiciary, Anti-corruption Bureau, Financial Investigators Unit, MRA and the general public
- 1.18 Main entry and exit points of Malawi (border crossings and airports) should have one DNPW staff specialized in detecting ivory, identification skills, experience with and knowledge about trafficking methods and prosecution methods
- 1.19 Train MRA and MPS security staff at entry and exit points in wildlife product identification, detection of ivory, and chain of custody for evidence and case file compilation, and if feasible, provide main border crossings with X-ray equipment, repair current broken ones.
- 1.20 Harmonize the Wildlife Act, Mining legislation and the Environmental Management Act
- 1.21 Improve communication with enforcement agencies in neighbouring countries, bilaterally, and through membership of networks; e.g. Southern Africa Enforcement Network.
- 1.22 Develop a series of measures to ensure proper identification of criminals
- 1.23 Develop performance indicators for recording wildlife crime statistics.
- 1.24 Develop protocols for distribution of data both within and between relevant agencies
- 1.25 Improve ivory stockpile management through Stop Ivory's on-going support.

## Objective 2: To maintain current elephant habitat range and improve connectivity by 2025.

Target 2a: No measurable loss in the size of the elephant range by 2025

Target 2b: Connectivity improved for at least 2 populations by 2025

Habitat loss, fragmentation and the severance of corridors connecting different elephant populations, whether internal or cross-border, have all contributed to the decline of elephants in Malawi. Although Malawi's elephant populations are all confined to protected areas with strict boundaries, encroachment due to deforestation as a result of charcoal burning, expanding agriculture and settlements, land conflicts and unlawful decisions by traditional



leaders and local politicians have nibbled away the available habitat for elephants. Examples are the buffer zone of Kasungu National Park and the land conflicts pertaining to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Because expansion of agriculture and settlements is much more pronounced in open areas, connectivity between local populations is almost entirely lost. Recently, a treaty was signed between Zambia and Malawi on cross-border management of the northern part of the Malawian elephant range, i.e. Kasungu, Vwaza, and Nyika with their respective conservation areas in Zambia, namely Lukusuzi National Park, several forest reserves and other areas within the Luangwa ecosystem. This provides hope that cross-border management of elephants and connectivity will improve. Within Malawi, however, there are also several options for restoring connectivity. The series of forest reserves running from North to South along the escarpment and parallel to Lake Malawi (Thuma, Dedza-Salima Escarpment, Mua-Livulezi, and Bangwe) form a more or less continuous tract of escarpment wilderness of 640km² that is unsuitable for agriculture or most other land uses.

The involvement of the private sector /NGOs in wildlife conservation and management is bearing positive results, for example the elephant population in Majete Wildlife Reserve being managed by African Parks Network is increasing. The Wildlife Action Group (WAG) is also managing the elephant population occupying the Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves. It is important to ensure that WAG continues to manage this elephant population, and source funding to secure the area and to mitigate human-elephant conflict and deforestation through charcoal burning. To safeguard the future of the Thuma elephants and to improve connectivity, there is an urgent need for a management agreement between DNPW and DF, while leaving WAG in control of local management.

The second option to internally improve connectivity is to create a corridor between Liwonde National Park, where elephant densities may become unmanageable in future, and the forest reserve that borders on the park (Mangochi Forest Reserve) and runs almost all the way to Namizimu Forest Reserve between Lake Malawi and the border with Mozambique, creating an elephant migration zone of 2,000km² and 100km long. However, to improve connectivity within Malawi, there will be a need for full DNPW and DF partnership.

## **Actions required**

- 2.1 Start regular communication and collaboration between local law-enforcement units in the Luangwa ecosystem and those in Kasungu, Vwaza and Nyika in Malawi.
- 2.2 Carry out joint border patrols.
- 2.3 Initiate collaboration with Mozambique on Transboundary elephant management of the Liwonde, Mangochi/Namizimu ecosystem
- 2.4 Establish and sign an inter-departmental agreement between DNPW and DF on improving connectivity within Malawi, i.e. the escarpment series of FRs (Thuma and Dedza-Salima) and the Liwonde, Mangochi, Namizimu corridor.
- 2.5 Carry out a feasibility study to restore connectivity between Liwonde National Park and Namizimu Forest Reserve.
- 2.6 Promote/involve the private sector /NGOs in elephant management and conservation
- 2.7 Use participatory approaches for land-use planning to create corridors by providing incentives to communities (on customary land) to give up some areas for dispersal.
- 2.8 Assess and monitor elephant habitat change and fragmentation
- 2.9 Raise awareness amongst the fringe communities, traditional leaders and local politicians on elephant conservation and management and maintaining habitat integrity



## Objective 3: To reduce Human- Elephant conflicts to acceptable levels by 2025

#### Target 3: 75% reduction in human – elephant conflicts incidents by 2025

Poor land-use management around protected areas has facilitated human-elephant conflict. These conflicts range from crop damages, property losses and human fatalities or injuries. Crop-raiding by elephants is a severe problem, with farmers frequently losing an entire year's crop overnight, while not only risking their lives in defense of their crops, but their entire livelihood as well. Human fatalities are simply not acceptable. Because this action plan, its objectives and targets primarily relate to DNPW, key populations in Target 3 refer to those parks and reserves that fall under the jurisdiction of DNPW.

## **Actions required**

- 3.1 Facilitate land-use plan for all PAs and surrounding communal land using participatory approaches.
- 3.2 Intensify awareness on elephant conservation, natural heritage, economic advantage and integrity of elephant habitat among fringe communities.
- 3.3 Strengthen the concept of community wildlife utilisation (CCAs, WMAs) and apply around PAs, to create alternative buffer zones when combined with establishment of ecotourism sites or other alternative livelihood schemes.
- 3.4 Construct elephant barriers especially electric fences
- 3.5 Engage environmental and wildlife oriented organisations to work and improve collaboration in elephant problem areas.
- 3.6 Sensitise communities on Elephants behaviour and train them on local methods on how to scare and avoid them.
- 3.7 Limit human fatalities and crop damage through fencing, cultivating non-target crops e.g Chilli around PAs boundaries, beehives, and other recent technologies.

## Objective 4: To promote co-existence between local communities and elephants by 2025.

## Target 4a: The incidence of snaring and poaching of elephants by surrounding communities reduced by 50% by 2025.

Due to the exclusion of fringe communities to actively participate in conservation and reap some of its benefits at the household level, subsistence and commercial poaching continue unabated. Although snaring is a highly destructive practice, because it kills many non-target species, the incidence of snaring is a good indicator of community cooperation.

As discussed under general threats, the Wildlife Policy (WP) of Malawi (2000) and the NPWA present significant opportunity for community involvement and participation in the management of Malawi's wildlife (Waterland *et al.*, 2015). The WP, which is currently under review, caters for the establishment of CCAs, WMAs, and MUWAs, concepts that may be used to create alternative buffer zones around PAs, especially when they are combined with



alternative livelihood schemes that provide tangible benefits at the household level, such as ecotourism sites.

Because the institutional set up of the CAs is too complex while it facilitates fraud, they need to be completely overhauled, simplified and strengthened, or a new system needs to be set up with a single representative from a cluster of communities attending protected-area management board meetings twice a year. This requires establishing protected-area management boards, a simple multi-stakeholder forum for discussing conservation and management of wildlife on one hand, and conflicts that emerge from these on the other hand.

Concomitantly, the system of revenue distribution through the CA structure needs to be reviewed and overhauled, with an alternative system whereby benefits accrue to individual households.

## **Actions required**

- 4.1 Sensitize fringe communities about seriousness of wildlife crime, penalty structure and elephant conservation and management
- 4.2 Establish monitoring system and a rapid response protocol for problem elephants and drive them back to PAs promptly through a rapid response team.
- 4.3 Promote alternative livelihood programs in the vicinity of parks and reserves that directly address both the key humanitarian issues and the most significant wildlife threats (IWT review).
- 4.4 Ensure that community conservation and income generation schemes directly address both key humanitarian issues and the most significant wildlife threats (IWT review)
- 4.5 Invite NGOs and regulate them on Elephant problems in Malawi' {check 2.10}
- 4.6 Raise awareness on elephant conservation and management among the fringe communities

Objective 5: To raise awareness to policy makers, communities, police, judiciary on elephant conservation and management by 2020.

Target 5a: Deterrence of wildlife offences through (1) increased imposition of custodial sentences on convicted offenders (2) increased number of community groups that are aware about the serious nature of wildlife crime (3) increased collaboration with communities in providing intelligence on perpetrators of wildlife crime by 2020.

Target 5b: The number of wildlife offenders apprehended, prosecuted and sentenced and receiving maximum penalty is doubled by 2020.

Community members, traditional leaders, politicians, and officers of the Malawian enforcement agencies are usually not aware of the seriousness of the situation – on one hand the declining elephant numbers, the economic importance of elephants for the country, the loss of integrity of the habitat, and the increase in trafficking and trade in illicit ivory, but on the other hand the upcoming changes in the penalty structure, raising the deterrence level for wildlife crimes. A country-wide sensitization program is required, targeting each of these main stakeholders, but not excluding the general public. The Defra/DFID program 2015-2017, carried out by DNPW and RSPCA, addresses some of these issues for the enforcement community and fringe communities around 4 parks and reserves.



#### **Actions required**

- 5.1 Sensitise members of the Judiciary, Police, Customs and other law enforcement agencies on the seriousness of wildlife crime
- 5.2 Produce handbook on wildlife legislation for use by law enforcement officials including Judiciary
- 5.3 Organise visits to Protected Areas for law enforcement officials from all affected agencies
- 5.4 Conduct country-wide sensitisation campaign to make the general public throughout the country aware of the seriousness of wildlife crime.

#### Objective 6: To enhance adaptive elephant management and monitoring by 2020

Target 6a: Six out of 8 elephant populations surveyed every 3 years by 2020

Target 6b: All parks and reserves that contain elephants use SMART (or its equivalent) by 2020

Sound management of elephant populations requires monitoring and evaluation, which includes performance management. Monitoring of elephant population numbers, trends, distribution and mortality is required as feedback for management to inform them whether they are on the right track, but also monitoring and evaluation of staff performance and patrol coverage serves as feedback for management to steer the proper course towards goals set a priori. This is known as adaptive management. The majority of protected areas in Malawi do not use patrol-based monitoring systems for adaptive management. Adaptive management should be applied to all protected areas, using SMART, or if there are financial constraints, lack of electricity or any other reasons that would limit the use of computerized systems, a manual system should be used (Jachmann, 1998). Patrol data should be analysed on a monthly basis and the results should be used as feedback for management to adjust management actions and operational procedures (negative feedback cycle). Moreover, Research and Management Plans should be finalized for all PAs, while DNPW needs to secure the services of a fully resourced wildlife vet unit to help protect elephants once injured.

## **Actions required**

- 6.1 Source for funding to carry out aerial counts every 3 years of the elephant populations in protected areas using the CITES MIKE Programme Aerial Survey Standards to ensure repeatability and comparability.
- 6.2 Train staff in the use of SMART and other ecological monitoring tools
- 6.3 Train site management in the use of patrol-based information as feedback for the adaptive management system
- 6.4 Source funding for computers, GPSs and other equipment for monitoring of elephant populations and distributions
- 6.5 Develop and maintain elephant database for adaptive management purposes
- 6.6 Ensure completion of Research and Management Plans for all PAs.



6.7 Secure the services of a fully resourced wildlife veterinary unit to help protect elephants once injured

## Objective 7: To promote and strengthen communication and collaboration between national and international agencies.

Target 7a: Enforcement Task Force established for national – level agencies by 2017

Target 7b: Enforcement Task Force established for regional and International agencies by 2020.

Both national and international cooperation between enforcement agencies is hindered by the absence of clear channels of communication. The establishment of a regional intelligence taskforce will boost the effective capacity to investigate and prosecute transnational crimes. On a national level, poor communication and collaboration between enforcement agencies, such as DNPW, MRA, police, judiciary and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions continues to result in lenient sentences for ivory poachers, thereby facilitating the killing of elephants. Although the establishment of the IACCWC is a huge step in the right direction, the next step should be the establishment of an overt central investigations unit within DNPW, followed by a joint covert and reactive investigations taskforce comprised of DNPW, police, DPP, MRA and immigration, exchanging information and communicating on a regular basis, and carrying out joint operations. Part of this was discussed and actions listed under objective 1b, because of their urgency, some of these are repeated under this objective. Some of the activities listed below will be addressed by the joint operations of DNPW and RSPCA through the Defra/DFID program.

## **Actions required**

- 7.1 Establish and operationalise a national level covert and reactive investigations task force involving officers from other law enforcement agencies.
- 7.2 Establish an inclusive crime data base on wildlife crime together with performance indicators for recording wildlife crime statistics.
- 7.3 Establish a joint intelligence taskforce and network with neighbouring countries
- 7.4 Train DNPW, Police and other law enforcement agencies (Task Force officials) in investigative techniques;
- 7.5 Improve communication and collaboration with wildlife authorities in neighbouring countries and the region
- 7.6 Participate in bilateral, regional and international wildlife law enforcement networks
- 7.7 Improve communication and collaboration with wildlife authorities, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders globally,
- 7.8 Upgrade wildlife legislation, whereby among others, wildlife crime is considered a 'serious offence', and penalties are raised to levels that deter wildlife offenders.
- 7.9 Develop protocols for dissemination/ sharing of data both within and between relevant agencies

## Objective 8: To effectively implement the National Elephant Action Plan

## Target 8a: Coordinator and Steering committee members appointed by early 2016



## Target 8b: NEAP implementation starts by early 2016

## **Actions required**

- 8.1 Appoint Coordinator.
- 8.2 Appoint members of Steering Committee.



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## **Acknowledgements**

The consultant worked with a team of DNPW and several resource persons to develop the NEAP for Malawi. The team included the following DNPW staff: Mr. Chiza Manda, Deputy Director (Wildlife Management & Utilization), Mr. Alphius Lipiya, Divisional Manager (Centre), Mr. John Funny Mwale, Economist, and Mr. Edison Renford Sichali, Parks and Wildlife Officer – Research (Kasungu National Park). DNPW is extremely grateful to the following persons for providing comments on the first draft of the NEAP for Malawi and/or providing additional information: Jonathan Vaughan, Director of LWT, DonnamarieO 'Connell, Senior Policy and Program Advisor RSPCA, Lynn Clifford, Manager WAG, and Derek Macpherson.



#### **Annexes:**

## Annex 1: Funding Proposal MA1

Country: Malawi

Lead Institution: Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Duration of project: One month (spread out over Q3&4 in 2018)

NEAP Objective and Action: Objective 5; Action 5.3

**1. Project Title**: Sensitization Workshop on processing wildlife offenders by police, judiciary and director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) officials in Lilongwe

#### 2. Rationale:

- The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) depends on the police and Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for the prosecution of wildlife cases. Offenders arrested for contravening the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWA) are taken to police to be formally charged by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), handed over to police prosecution who take the offenders to a court of competent jurisdiction. Most of the police officers who handle wildlife cases do not appreciate the seriousness of the offences committed.
- Most magistrates who hear wildlife cases in the courts do not appreciate the seriousness of wildlife crime due to a lack of awareness on the precarious situation of elephants in Malawi and its neighbouring countries as well as the content of the NPWA.
- Recently, an Inter Agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime (IACCWC) was
  formed. It meets only four times a year and its influence does not cover the entire
  country. Although the committee is very effective in dealing with wildlife cases and a
  lot of success stories have been registered, it comprises only a few officials, so that
  some cases are still handled by police and/or magistrates who are outside the
  influence of this committee. Such cases end up with undesirable results.
- Due to staff turnover in both the Police Service and Judiciary it is imperative that in future new officers joining these agencies should also be sensitized.

### 3. Objective:

The main objective of the sensitisation workshop is to increase awareness on the seriousness of wildlife offences with police and judiciary officials in order to ensure stiffer penalties to increase the level of deterrence for wildlife offenders, eventually resulting in a steep reduction in the illegal off take of elephants. Moreover, because Lilongwe is the hub of the illicit ivory trade, the results of the workshop should also increase the deterrence level for ivory traders and traffickers in Malawi.



## 4. Expected outcome:

Due to improved prosecution of wildlife cases, with steeper penalties and increased deterrence, both the illegal off take of elephants and the illicit trade of ivory in Malawi will be considerably reduced.

#### 5. Relationship to the AEAP, any NIAP, and the EPI:

The recently developed NEAP for Malawi follows the format of the AEAP and is compatible with and where appropriate references the NIAP which was first written and submitted to CITES in 2017. Therefore, this proposal is fully in line with the AEAP and both the NEAP and NIAP for Malawi.

#### 6. Actions/ activities with regard to the sensitisation workshop:

- Inform workshop participants of the precarious situation of elephants in Malawi and surrounding countries where more than 80% of this key wildlife species has been lost in the past 10 years.
- Provide workshop participants with knowledge on the importance of elephants in Malawi, in terms of its economy through tourism, as a natural heritage and its ecological importance among many others.
- Share knowledge and experience in a workshop environment for police prosecutors, police investigators, police station officers and magistrates to enable all officers concerned with wildlife offences to appreciate the goal of wildlife conservation.
- Equip police officers and magistrates with relevant provisions of the NPWA to ensure a clear understanding in terms of the wildlife law and its subsidiary legislations by going through relevant sections of the Act and the Regulations.
- Discuss problems encountered in the process of handling wildlife law offenders, from arrest through interrogation, cautioning, charging, prosecution and sentencing, and ensure any loopholes that result in lenient sentences are removed.
- The workshop will use interactive methods where each agency will share information on how to build a strong case that would result in achieving increased deterrence for wildlife offences.
- DNPW will facilitate the workshop and provide secretarial services, handle all logistical issues and produce the workshop report, stipulating results.
- The workshop will take 4 days and will be conducted at Kasungu National Park. A
  total of 30 officers from different agencies will attend the workshop. They will be
  selected from relevant offices and stations in Lilongwe, especially those that handle
  wildlife cases in one way or another (i.e. from each of the following police stations,



the Officer in Charge, the Station Officer, one prosecutor and one CID officer will attend (Kawale, Lumbadzi, Area 18, KIA, Kanengo and Lilongwe); four magistrates from Nkukula and Lilongwe courts will attend, as well as seven representative DNPW officers (including three middle management, two senior management and three field rangers). In addition there will be six support staff including four drivers, a secretary and a messenger.

#### 7. Timelines (Operational Plan)

Activity	Sub activity		20	18		Responsible
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Preparations for workshop	Make necessary			х		Director
	bookings					DNPW
	Send invitation			х		Director
	letters					DNPW
	Procure stationery			х		DD (WMU)
	& other materials					DNPW
Travelling to KNP with participants					х	DD (WMU)
						DNPW
Conducting workshop					х	Director
						DNPW
Compiling workshop report	Produce draft				х	Planning
						Officer
	Produce final				х	Planning
	report					Officer
	Submit report				х	Planning
						Officer

## 8. Targets:

- 8.1 Preparations for Police and Judiciary sensitizations workshop completed by mid-October 2018.
- 8.2 Sensitisation workshop for 30 police and judiciary officials effectively conducted by late October 2018
- 8.3 Workshop report submitted to Directorate by early January 2019
- 8.4 Wildlife law offenders appearing in one of the 4 courts in Lilongwe given stiffer penalties from January 2019 onwards
- 8.5 Police officers handling wildlife offences in six police stations build strong cases against wildlife law offenders from late 2018 onwards.
- 8.6 In Lilongwe courts, the average penalty for elephant and ivory related offences increased by at least 100% by January 2019, as compared to the average penalty for similar offences for the 2015 2018 period.



## 9. Budget:

Category/Budget Item	Cost Calculation	Total (US\$)	Required (MK)*
Accommodation - Lifupa Lodge (4 days)	37 people @ \$40/day x 4 days	5,920	4,296,085
Meals and refreshments	37 people @ \$25 for lunch, supper & 2 refreshments/ day x 4 days	3,700	2,685,053
Conference Hall	Hall Hire for 4 days @\$25/ day	100	72,569
Mileage: preparations in Lilongwe	500km @ \$0.3/km x 7 vehicles	150	108,854
Mileage: LL - KNP	400km @ \$0.3/km x 7 vehicles	844	612,428
Mileage: placements in KNP	250km @ \$0.3/km x 7 vehicles	528	383,164
Daily Expense Rate (DER)	37people @ \$10/ day x 4 days	1,480	1,074,021
Office supplies and contingencies		1,000	725,690
GRAND TOTAL		13,722	9,957,864

<sup>\*12</sup> March 2018; 1US\$ = 725,69 MK

## **10.** Monitoring and Evaluation:

Court cases related to elephant and ivory offences will be monitored on a case to case basis, and results compared with those from previous years (<2018).



## **Annex 2: Funding Proposal MA2**

Country: Malawi

Lead institution: Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Duration of project: One year, from December 2018 to December 2019

NEAP Objective and Actions: Objective 1a; Actions 1.1 - 1.9

1. **Project Title**: Build capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of field staff to combat poaching and the illegal trade in ivory

#### 2. Rationale:

An exponential increase in the scale and nature of the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) globally has left governments, policy makers and conservationists lagging far behind the perpetrators of the crime. This situation is especially true in Malawi, which for a long time has remained largely under the radar of those trying to combat IWT, due to its small size and relatively small numbers of wildlife. The reality, however, is that IWT is a thriving industry in Malawi. The country is being used as a major transit hub for illegal wildlife products, which are being easily imported, processed, packaged, sold and exported through its porous borders. In addition to being a transit hub, Malawi's own wildlife is also under grave threat. The stark reality is clear for Malawi such that unless immediate action is taken to combat the trade, Malawi will have very few elephants left in just a few short years. Malawi's fragmented elephant populations are not large enough to withstand the pressure - each and every elephant lost must be considered a significant loss to the country. While efforts are underway to contain this situation, the measures are not enough at the moment. Corruption, poor leadership and inadequate incentives further compound this problem. There is need to first upgrade the law-enforcement effort and effectiveness at the site level, through a proper evaluation of protected-area management and personnel specifically patrol staff. Moreover, next to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement by training, reshuffling and outer placement of staff, patrol staff density, effective patrol days per staff per month and evidently the number of patrols per month need to increase to levels sufficient to combat elephant poaching. Prior to the staff evaluation, the Code of Conduct needs to be finalized and distributed, while work should start on the Anti-Corruption Work plan for DNPW. Furthermore, DNPW should start negotiations with the Department of Forestry to come to a binding agreement on the management of resident and transient elephant populations in the Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves as well as the Mangochi and Namizimu Forest Reserves.

## 3. Scope:



Because African Parks has taken over management of Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, key protected areas with elephant populations managed by DNPW or DF are the sites located in the northern TFCA, i.e. Kasungu National Park, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and Nyika National Park, and the Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves, where day-to-day management is done by the Wildlife Action Group.

#### 4. Division of Work:

Some of the initial activities will be carried out by DNPW, however, staff evaluation, gap analysis, staff performance systems and their training components will require the assistance of a consultant.

#### 5. Objective:

The illegal killing of elephants in key protected areas of Malawi is reduced to acceptable levels by late 2019.

#### 6. Expected outcomes:

- Extensive staff evaluation, appraisal, reshuffling and outer placement results in improved work performance of patrol staff in all key protected areas with elephant populations;
- ii) Training of site-level staff, improved patrol density and better equipment further increases the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement in key protected areas.;
- iii) As a result, numbers of elephants killed illegally in each of these key sites is reduced to acceptable levels as compared to previous years.

#### 7. Relationship to the AEAP, any NIAP, and the EPI:

The recently developed NEAP for Malawi follows the format of the AEAP and is compatible with and where appropriate references the NIAP which was first written and submitted to CITES in 2017. Therefore, this proposal is fully in line with the AEAP and both the NEAP and NIAP for Malawi.

#### 8. Actions/activities and methods:

- Develop an Anti-Corruption Work Plan for DNPW;
- ii) Finalize the Code of Conduct and distribute to all staff of DNPW;
- iii) Start collaborating closely with the Department of Forestry (DF) through a binding management agreement with regard to forest reserves with resident and transient elephant populations;
- iv) Select from the available site-level management, high calibre leadership, well-motivated, to be placed in key positions in priority sites;
- v) Develop and implement a customized appraisal system to streamline staff into performance categories;
- vi) Carry out a staff evaluation at each key protected area, particularly looking at duties of frequently high numbers of support staff in relation to effective patrol staff;



- vii) Reshuffle patrol staff and place suspected and less motivated staff in positions where they have no effect on elephant survival (out placement);
- viii) Carry out a capacity gap analysis and provide capacity training for site level leaders and patrol staff;
- ix) Set up a patrol data analysis system to monthly evaluate patrol staff performance and for use in adaptive management;
- x) Train leadership and other relevant staff in data analysis and adaptive management, inclusive of patrol staff performance;
- xi) Provide patrol staff with proper equipment, such as uniforms, boots, arms and transportation.

#### 9. Timelines (Operational Plan):

Activity	2018	2019			Responsible
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
Develop Anti-Corruption Work Plan for DNPW	Х				Director DNPW
Finalize Code of Conduct and distribute	Х				Director DNPW
Establish management agreement with DF	Х				Director DNPW
Site management evaluation and placement		Х			Director DNPW
Develop customized staff appraisal system		Х			Consultant
Carry out staff evaluation in key sites		Х			Consultant
Reshuffle patrol staff		Х			Director DNPW
Carry out capacity gap analysis			Х		Consultant
Leadership training			Х		Consultant
Train field staff			Х		Consultant
Increase patrol performance				Х	Consultant
Set up staff performance monitoring system				Х	Consultant
Provide equipment				Х	Consultant

#### 10. Targets:

- A functional Integrity Committee is in place to oversee implementation of the Work Plan and report regularly on progress made to the Anti-Corruption Bureau by 2019.
- The Code of Conduct has been distributed to all DNPW staff by late 2018.
- A binding management agreement is in place between DNPW and DF.
- Effective law enforcement is in place in all key protected areas with elephant populations, including staff performance analysis systems, while adaptive management is applied by late 2019.
- Patrol staff density of 1 staff/30 km² is achieved and maintained for all priority sites by late 2019.
- The number of effective patrol days per staff per month (evidently the number of patrols per unit time) will be increased to a minimum of 15, whereby an effective patrol day is 6 8 hours of patrolling by late 2019.
- In all key protected areas with elephant populations, numbers of elephants killed illegally annually are less than 1% of the local population by 2020.



## 11. Budget:

Budget Item	Cost	Cost
	US\$	MK*
Develop Anti-Corruption Work Plan	4.000	
Establish Integrity Committee	1.000	
Regular reporting to Anti-Corruption Bureau	-	
Finalize and circulate Code of Conduct	10.000	
Carry out staff evaluation at each site		1.451.324
Select high calibre leadership		3.620.310
Regularly appraise and reshuffle staff		4.000.000
Train leadership	120.000	
Conduct capacity gap analysis	10.000	
Conduct training patrol staff	50.000	
Provide all field staff with new equipment	200.000	
Total budget required (external source)	\$395.000	MK9.071.634

<sup>\*</sup>Contribution Malawi Government is **9.071.634** MK (12.501 US\$ at MK 725,69/\$; 12/03/18)

## 12. Monitoring and Evaluation:

Regular staff appraisals will provide updated information on staff motivation and performance, whereas regular patrol performance reports will provide statistics on patrol frequency and effective man-days patrolled.

**Annex 3: Funding Proposal MA3** 



Country: Malawi

Lead Institution Name Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Duration of the project Two years, from January 2019 to January 2021

NEAP Objective & Action: Objective 7, Actions 7.1 – 7.6

**1. Project Title**: Strengthen wildlife crime investigations and prosecutions by facilitating national and international multi-agency collaboration.

#### 2. Rationale:

An exponential increase in the scale and nature of the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) globally has left governments, policy makers and conservationists lagging far behind the perpetrators of the crime. This situation is especially evident in Malawi, which has remained largely under the radar of those trying to combat IWT, due to its small size and relatively small number of elephants. The reality, however, is that IWT is a thriving industry in Malawi. The country is being used as a major transit hub for illegal wildlife products, particularly ivory, rhino horn and timber, which are being imported, processed, packaged, sold and exported through its porous borders. In addition to being a transit hub, Malawi's own wildlife is also under grave threat. The stark reality is clear for Malawi such that unless immediate action is taken to combat the trade, Malawi will have very few viable elephant populations left in the near future. Many of Malawi's fragmented elephant populations are not sufficiently large to withstand the pressure - each and every elephant lost must be considered a significant loss to the country. While efforts are underway to contain this situation, the measures are far from being adequate to reverse the process. A lack of technical and financial institutional capacity, low awareness and prioritisation of the issue and corruption all play a part and further compound this problem.

The establishment of the Inter Agency Committee for Combatting Wildlife Crime (IACCWC) has been a major step towards improving coordination of enforcement agencies at both the national and international levels (see 3 below for ToR). In addition to raising awareness among stakeholders and making significant progress with prosecution of wildlife cases, cooperation and coordination between the various national-level agencies, the IACCWC was also influential in facilitating the establishment of the Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit (WCIU) within the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. However, the IACCWC is currently too centralized, thereby limiting its impact on addressing issues of wildlife crime throughout Malawi. To remedy this situation, the IACCWC needs to expand to include regional Committees, reporting into the current national Committee, while at the same time communication and coordination with international enforcement networks and enforcement agencies in neighbouring countries must be strengthened.

#### 3. Objectives of the IACCWC:



- a. Facilitate investigations of wildlife crime cases.
- b. Facilitate and collaborate on timely prosecutions of wildlife crime cases.
- c. Advocate for use of multiple laws in the prosecution of wildlife crime cases.
- d. Advocate or lobby for enactment or review of legislation related to wildlife crime. Strengthen collaboration and co-ordination amongst participating agencies and, where appropriate, other relevant agencies or stakeholders outside the IACCWC.
- e. Facilitate gathering, collating, analysis of information and dissemination to appropriate agencies within and outside the IACCWC.
- f. Facilitate awareness campaigns to the public and other stakeholders and enlist their support and help in combating wildlife crimes.
- g. Facilitate development and delivery of training for enforcement agencies within the IACCWC and other relevant agencies and stakeholders outside the committee.
- h. Act as a point of liaison for similar regional and international committees and law enforcement networks.
- i. Lobby for resources to support activities of the committee as outlined in the work plan as well as to support efforts to combat wildlife crime in general.

#### **4. Scope:** To address wildlife crime in Malawi, both at the national and international levels:

- Inter-Agency Subcommittees (IASs) need to be formed for the Northern and Southern Regions and for the eastern part of the Central Region, or the area just west of Lake Malawi
- To strengthen linkages between national enforcement agencies and those from neighbouring countries as well as international enforcement networks (for example Interpol and the Lusaka Agreement on Law Enforcement Taskforce (LATF)).

#### 5. Division of Work:

Decentralisation of the IACCWC will be facilitated by the formation of three additional subcommittees (IASs); participants will be proposed through the IACCWC and the ToRs will be adapted from the current IACCWC as necessary. Each subcommittee, and the national IACCWC, will include a standing agenda item at each meeting of updates from all the other Committees. The DNPW remains the Secretariat for all Committees. Strengthening international communication and collaboration will be under the guidance of the IACCWC.

## 6. Project Objectives:

To strengthen investigations and prosecutions of wildlife crimes, and to strengthen communication and collaboration with international enforcement agencies and networks.

## 7. Expected outcomes:

 Three IASs established in Northern and Southern Regions and in the east (area west of the Lake);



• Communication and collaboration with international enforcement networks and agencies in neighbouring countries established.

## 8. Relationship to the AEAP, any NIAP, and the EPI:

The recently developed NEAP for Malawi follows the format of the AEAP and is compatible with and where appropriate references the NIAP which was first written and submitted to CITES in 2017. Therefore, this proposal is fully in line with the AEAP and both the NEAP and NIAP for Malawi.

#### 9. Actions/activities:

- 9.1 To facilitate decentralisation of the operations of the IACCWC, establish three subcommittees (IASs) in the Northern and Southern Regions as well as in the east of the Central Region, covering the area west of Lake Malawi.
- 9.2 To facilitate joint investigations of enforcement agencies in Malawi and those of neighbouring countries.
- 9.3 To facilitate periodic IACCWC meetings for investigators and prosecutors from relevant agencies within and outside Malawi, to plan and discuss investigation of emerging cases involving wildlife crime as they occur.

#### 10. Timelines (Operational Plan):

Activity	2019	)			2020				Responsible
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Formation of 3 IASs	х	х	х	х					Director DNPW
Appointment of	х	х	х	х					IACCWC
representatives									
Set up communication	х	х	х	х					Director DNPW
channels with neighbouring									(under the
countries									guidance of
									IACCWC)
Set up information sharing	х	х	х	х					Director DNPW
protocols with neighbouring									(under the
countries									guidance of
									IACCWC)
Set up communication	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	Director DNPW
channels and information									(under the
sharing protocols with									guidance of
international networks									IACCWC)
Call IACCWC meetings as	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	IACCWC
required									

## 11. Targets:



- 11.1 Three IAS offices established and operationalized one each in the north, south and east.
- 11.2 IASs: 24 quarterly meetings for 2 years.
- 11.3 Joint investigations for enforcement agencies within and outside Malawi held twice a year on average.
- 11.4 One meeting hosted for investigators and prosecutors from relevant agencies within and outside Malawi.

## 12. Budget:

Activity	Items	Unit cost	Q	МК	US\$*
Twenty-four quarterly meetings IASs	Venue Hire Costs (North, South, East) for 20 people per meeting in each region	1,080,000	24	25,920,000	35,713
	Fuel reimbursements (Within town)	300,000	24	7,200,000	9,920
	Fuel reimbursements (Outside town)	240,000	24	5,760,000	7,936
Subtotal				38,880,000	53,569
One meeting hosted to discuss investigations and prosecutions for emerging cases with counterparts in neighbouring countries	Venue costs for 30 law enforcement officers @ MK25,000/person	750,000	1	750,000	1,033
	Travel allowances (@ US\$180/day @ MK730=1 US Dollar) for visiting officers	532,900	10	5,329,000	7,342
	Air Tickets for 10 visiting officers Accommodation for Malawi law enforcement officers from outside Lilongwe	500,000	10 10	5,000,000	6,889
	Fuel costs for Malawi officers from outside Lilongwe	120,000	10	1,200,000	1,653
Subtotal				13,279,000	18,296
Total				52,159,000	71,865

<sup>\*1</sup> US\$ = 725,78 MK (19 March 2018)



## **Annex 4: Funding Proposal MA4**

Country:

Malawi

**Lead Institution Name** 

Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

Duration of the project Two years, from December 2018 to December 2020

NEAP Objective & Action: Objective 3, Action 3.4 (3.7)

**1. Project Title**: Rehabilitation and building of elephant-proof fences for Kasungu National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve.

#### 2. Rationale:

High and increasing human densities led to expanding agriculture around protected areas and have turned these into ecological islands, compressing elephants into ever-smaller areas and cutting off their traditional migration routes. Humans and elephants therefore compete directly for land and other resources that are becoming scarce, with a rapidly deteriorating human-elephant conflict (HEC) situation as a result. In addition to losing their habitat, elephants are wounded and killed by villagers defending their crops, with mortality further raised through crop control measures to mitigate the conflict. Land-use management around protected areas has largely been left in the hands of farmers and local leaders, whose traditional methods may have inadvertently created good feeding grounds for elephants, thus increasing the potential for more conflict. These conflicts range from crop damage and property loss to human fatalities. Crop-raiding by elephants is a severe problem, with farmers frequently losing an entire year's crop overnight risking their lives in defence of their crops. These conflicts vary in magnitude from one protected area to another, largely dependent on human density outside and elephant density inside the protected area, and the use and state of maintenance of fencing. Human fatalities and injuries are simply not acceptable, with the only solid long-term solution being proper fencing and regular maintenance, which is way beyond the budget of DNPW. Both Kasungu National Park (KNP) and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve (VMWR) deal with expanding agriculture and high human densities, particularly along their eastern and south-eastern boundaries.

## 3. Scope:

Key protected areas with elephant populations managed by DNPW: i.e. Kasungu National Park (Central Region) and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve (Northern Region). VMWR is part of the Trans Frontier Conservation Area between Malawi and Zambia, with elephants moving from the lower areas of the Nyika National Park in Malawi and Zambia, passing through Mitenge and Lundazi Forest Reserves in Zambia to reach Vwaza Marsh in Malawi. Mitenge and Lundazi FRs are connected with the Luangwa Valley in Zambia via the



Musalango Game Management Area. For both KNP and VMWR, fencing is mostly required along the eastern and south-eastern boundaries of the park and the reserve respectively.

#### 4. Division of Work:

Contractors will be hired to rehabilitate and build new fences as well as fence attendant houses, while maintenance of the fence lines will be carried out by DNPW.

#### 5. Objective:

Human-elephant conflict in agricultural areas and communities mainly to the east and southeast of Kasungu and Vwaza Marsh is reduced to acceptable levels by 2021.

#### 6. Expected outcomes:

- i) In Kasungu National Park, 32 km of fence line is rehabilitated and 56 km of fence line is built, and 4 fence attendant houses built, leading to significantly lower levels of HEC and zero human fatalities;
- ii) In Kasungu National Park, a total of 108 km of fence line is maintained for a period of at least 3 years, starting December 2020;
- iii) In Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, 40 km of fence line is rehabilitated and 25 km of fence line is built, and 3 fence attendant houses built, leading to lower levels of HEC and zero human fatalities;
- iv) In Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, a total of 75 km of fence line is maintained for a period of at least 3 years, starting December 2020;
- v) As a result, numbers of elephants killed legally through crop control measures along the periphery of these two sites is reduced to zero by 2021.

#### 7. Relationship to the AEAP, any NIAP, and the EPI:

The recently developed NEAP for Malawi follows the format of the AEAP and is compatible with and where appropriate references the NIAP which was first written and submitted to CITES in 2017. Therefore, this proposal is fully in line with the AEAP and both the NEAP and NIAP for Malawi.

#### 8. Actions/activities and methods:

- Survey and determine exact trajectories of fence-line extensions for both KNP and VMWR;
- ii) Hire contractor(s) to rehabilitate and build fences;
- iii) Hire contractor to build 4 fence attendant houses along the fence line in KNP;
- iv) Hire contractor to build 3 fence attendant houses along the fence line in VMWR;
- v) Hire and train fence attendants;
- vi) Develop fence maintenance schemes for both sites;



#### 9. Timelines (Operational Plan):

Activity	2018	2019	2020	Responsible
	Q4			
Survey fence lines	Х			Director DNPW
Determine exact trajectories of extensions	Х			Director DNPW
Hire contractor to rehabilitate and build fence		Х	Х	Director DNPW
Hire contractor to build fence attendant houses		Х	Х	Director DNPW
Hire and train fence attendants			Х	Director DNPW
Develop maintenance schemes			Х	Director DNPW

#### 10. Targets:

- All fences rehabilitated by August 2019.
- All new fences built by April 2020.
- Fence attendant houses finished by September 2020.
- Fence attendants hired and trained by November 2020.
- Maintenance scheme developed and communicated by November 2020.
- Fence lines in both Kasungu and Vwaza Marsh fully operational by December 2020.
- Human-elephant conflict reduced to acceptable levels by early 2021.
- Legal killing of elephants through crop control measures reduced to zero by 2021.
- Illegal killing of elephants by community members reduced to acceptable levels by 2021.

#### 11. Budget:

(Note: Frequently old fence lines need to be completely cleared, making fence rehabilitation almost as expensive as building a new fence. When the terrain is rugged, the average price per km may be somewhat higher than \$10,000, but lower in flat to slightly undulating terrain)

Budget Item	Cost
	US\$
Surveys, mapping and additional fence line not foreseen	422,000
Kasungu rehabilitation of old fence line: 32 km @ \$9,000/km	288,000
Kasungu building new fence line: 56 km @ \$10,000/km	560,000
Vwaza Marsh rehabilitation of old fence line: 40 km @ \$9,000/km	360,000
Vwaza Marsh building of new fence line: 25 km @ \$10,000/km	250,000
Fence attendant houses Kasungu: 4 @ \$3,000/house	12,000
Fence attendant houses Vwaza Marsh: 3 @ \$3,000/house	9,000
Maintenance Kasungu: 108 km @ \$180/km/year x 3 years	58,320
Maintenance Vwaza Marsh: 75 km @ \$180/km/year x 3 years	40,500
Total budget required (external source)	1,999,820



## **Annex 5: Funding Proposal MA5**

Country: Malawi

Lead Institutions: DNPW and Wildlife Action Group (WAG)

Duration of Project: 3 years from Dec 2018 to Dec 2021

NEAP Objective & Action: Objective 3, Action 3.4 (3.7)

#### **Background:**

The Wildlife Action Group (WAG) is an NGO active in conservation in Malawi. Its main objectives are "to protect Malawi's wildlife and environment, and to assist and support the Malawi Government in protecting areas like national parks, game and forest reserves".

Thuma Forest Reserve (TFR) and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve (DSFR) have been gazetted as forest reserves in 1926 and 1974 respectively, primarily to preserve their important water catchment function and because the many steep slopes and poor soils (lithosols) make the area unsuitable for sustainable agriculture.

Both reserves are located in the Central Region on the escarpment of the Great Rift Valley. TFR lies for roughly two-thirds within Lilongwe District and the remainder in Salima District. Dowa District borders on the Northern edge of Thuma across and along the Lilongwe River. The South East boundary of TFR is the Linthipe River; across the Linthipe Rivers starts DSFR which extends south-south-east into Dedza District roughly up to Ntakataka.

TFR and DSFR cover an area of respectively 197 km<sup>2</sup> and 320 km<sup>2</sup>, together 517 km<sup>2</sup> of wilderness (for comparison: Liwonde National Park, Malawi's number one protected area and another stronghold of Malawi's elephant population covers an area of app 540 km<sup>2</sup>).

The topography of TFR and DSFR is generally rugged. Slopes are steep although there are some flatter parts at the foot of the escarpment and on the upper plateaus. The highest point in TFR is Thuma Mountain with an altitude of 1,564 metres above sea level while Dedza Mountain with an altitude of 2,198 meters marks the highest point in DSFR.

WAG is a very collaborative institution working closely with national and international stakeholders on a range of issues relating to the management of Thuma FR and Dedza FR and issues relating to wildlife law enforcement.

The most important partner in the project is the government of Malawi, in particular DNPW and Department of Forestry, with an MoU in place to collaboratively manage the wildlife in FRs.

WAG is responsible for the day to day management of two reserves (Thuma and Dedza Salima Escarpment Reserve). This includes daily anti-poaching patrols on foot, management of bamboo area where local population have access to harvest the bamboo growing there, forest management



in the form of early burning etc, opening and maintaining the few roads inside the reserve, maintenance of 79km of electric fence, habitat management, recording and tracking animal sighting, Human-elephant conflict issues outside the reserve and extension work with local communities.

The overall goal is to continue and increase the security and protection of an area of 517 km<sup>2</sup> (Thuma FR & Dedza-Salima FR together), which is large enough to maintain viable and sustainable wildlife populations, including populations of the larger mammal species. Although no survey has ever been done in either reserve we estimate our total elephant population at approximately 150. Total carrying capacity for both reserves is roughly 250 elephants.

- 11. Project Title: Mitigation of HEC for the Dedza Salima Forest Reserve
- 12. Rationale: Malawi's elephant population has halved in the past 20 years from over 4,000 to approximately 1,800 by 2017, mainly due to poaching. All protected areas in Malawi are still seeing a decline in elephant numbers, except for 4 protected areas, Thuma and Dedza Salima Forest Reserves being two of them. It is not only poaching which is a major threat to the decline of wildlife, Malawi's protected areas are now small islands surrounded by agriculture, with need for land and natural resources increasing. In most cases people living close to protected areas are living in extreme poverty, and are most marginalized with zero chance of work, incomes or any development. This cycle of poverty is directly linked to the depletion of the forests and hunting and killing of wildlife. WAG has been operating in TFR/ DSFR for over ten years and is seeing increasing wildlife populations, including elephants. In 2013 we conducted the first animal census, which gave us for the first time figures of the actual (minimum) number of elephants: Nov 2013 (98), November 2015 (116), and Nov 2017 (140).

Since 2012 we have been successful in finding funding to build and extend the solar powered electric fence, to ensure communities and their crops are safeguarded from elephants leaving the reserve. In areas where the introduction of a fence line has taken place, HEC has decreased 98% and community attitudes have positivity changed. Crops are safe and harvested which support their families. A win - win situation. WAG intends to continue to extend the solar powered fence line along the boundaries of the Dedza-Salima Escarpment to stop elephants leaving the reserves, stop crop raiding, increase food security and increase personal security for humans and elephants.

- 13. Scope: Dedza Salima Escarpment Forest Reserve is one of the key protected areas with ≥10% of Malawi's elephant population, and is being managed by the Wildlife Action Group in co-operation and collaboration with the DNPW and DoF: i.e. Dedza Salima Escarpment is part of a continuous forest starting at Thuma Forest Reserve where elephants and other wildlife roam at will. Thuma Forest Reserve has been fully fenced and maintained since 2018 and has an excellent track record of stopping elephants leaving the reserve and it is only DSFR that requires fencing now.
- **14. Division of Work:** The attitude of local people plays a vital role in the long term existences of elephants along with other wildlife and their habitats. It is sure that poverty is one of the major drivers of illegal activity. Contractors along with WAG scouts will be the ones to



build the new fence as well as fence attendant houses. However one of the main components is the communities themselves. WAG always employs people from the local communities to assist to clear and help build the fence line. One community member is then hired full time to work on a part of the fence full time and he/she has back up for WAG scouts for maintenance purposes.

15. Objective: This project will meet all the critical that will increase the protection of elephants plus address to some extent community needs. Protect the habitat, mitigate HEC, include communities in the implementation of this project through temporary employment. The extension of the solar powered electric elephant fence will reduce the frequency of HEC and in turn protect the local population, their crops and also the elephant population who will not come directly into contact with humans. Our current fence has an excellent track record. This next part of the fence will ensure Dedza Salima is surrounded by a fence. Although the elephant population has increased from approx 30/40 in 1998 to over 140 in 2017 due to anti poaching efforts by WAG, our elephant population is still under serious threat from poaching and habitat loss. Community relations have improved due to various efforts, but over the last two years the killing/poaching of elephants has moved from the eastern side (where there is a fence) to the western side where there is no fence, showing a direct link between HEC and killing of elephants. If funded, this project will assist reclaim land and give more protection to approx 320km<sup>2</sup> of forest, increasing the elephant habitat area, reduce HEC and provide communities with training and income generating activities.

#### 16. Expected outcomes:

- Dedza Salima Escarpment Forest Reserve will be completely fenced by 2022 and 4 fence attendant houses built, leading to significantly lower levels of HEC, reduction of killings of elephants, maintaining of elephant habitats and improved relationships with local communities and zero human fatalities; and ongoing fence maintenance for a further two years,
- ii) Reduce the frequency of crop raiding in areas surrounding DSEFR, resulting in reduced human elephant conflict,
- iii) Aid to reduce poaching, habitat destruction and encroachment within DSEFR,
- iv) Increase positive attitude towards both reserves, esp. elephants,
- v) Increase in personal and food security for local populations,
- vi) School attendance rates improving,
- vii) Generate addition local income through hiring locals to help construct the fence plus additional full time employment to maintain the fence,
- viii) Zero impact on migratory routes used by elephants,

#### 17. Relationship to the AEAP, any NIAP, and the EPI:

The recently developed NEAP for Malawi follows the format of the AEAP and is compatible with and where appropriate references the NIAP which was first written and submitted to CITES in 2017. Therefore, this proposal is fully in line with the AEAP and both the NEAP and NIAP for Malawi.



#### 18. Actions/activities and methods:

- i. Replicating the simple fence design that has been used on our existing fence allows for easy and low cost maintenance of the fence and to allow a larger section of the perimeter to be covered within the budget constraints.
- ii. WAG field manager will be responsible for all aspects of this project, with WAG scouts and a external expert consultant will be the main driving force of this construction. They have extensive experience having constructed the previous fence and been involved in routine maintenance of current fence over the last four years.
- iii. A local work force will be selected from each village closest to the fence and who are frequently being affected by the conflicts. This will provide additional income to the local area, and further garner support for the reserve within the local communities.
- iv. WAG has sourced three quotations for materials required and have selected a supplier based on several factors, cost, quality of materials and service/customer care during the process. Material specifications have been specific to meet our requirements and are to a high standard and spare parts also included. WAG will source as much of the materials as possible from local businesses also.

#### 19. Implementation:

Once funding has been secured the selected fence line trees will be marked by WAG scouts.

Local labor will start by clearing a track of 6 meters wide along the fence line location. This will be done by slashing down to the ground all vegetation, removing all trees and branches. The area needs to be hoed also to reduce the re-growth of vegetation. Old dry trees will be removed within close proximity to where the fence line will be and along the fence line. This reduces the chances of them falling on the fence, for branches growing onto the fence. Any trees cut on the actual fence line need the stump to be burnt to ensure the tree is dead.

An energizer, 18a regulator along with 1 x 140 watt solar panels will be set up and placed in a secure enclosure beside the new accommodation for the fence attendants. Solar batteries 105 watt will be wired up and placed in shock boxes (panels will be mounted on the shock box) along with key controlled switches to turn on and off of power. The wiring for the solar system will be carried out by our expert rangers, experienced powered fence consultant The fence will have a voltage of over 6000V, and the electricity will be generated by solar power.

The fence is a simple construction, with 4 wires (two positive and two negative) and existing and new trees used as posts will be used. The tree posts will be approx 75 to 100 meters apart. Using Donald, jumbo and combi tensioners the wire will be put up, all trees will be insulated against the electric current using bobbins hence ensuring the current is kept high. We place bridges (wire) around trees to protect from them from the electric current and these will be kept in place using wire clamps to make sure there is free movement of the current. It will take approximately 2 months to source materials and take delivery.



At completion of each 200mtr section, the fence power will be turned on test to ensure it is working and before we move on to the next 200 meters. This means our new fence will become live and moving daily.

This type of fence is a replicate of our current fence which has proven track record that it works and is a deterrent to the elephants breaking through and reduces the HE conflict. Local labor along with experienced trained WAG scouts can easily construct the fence and the construction is basic but durable and easily maintained. The construction is cost effective in line with a tight budget but without cutting corners.

#### 20. Evaluation and Monitoring:

Careful planning and communication with communities involved is necessary.

WAG and PREFORM have already started collecting data on the social economic situation in this area, what are the drivers of deforestation and what are the community needs. We have conducted awareness programs with all traditional authorities, chiefs and communities.

All data is being mapped using GSP's which will be part of the monitoring and evaluation plan.

The field manager along with WAG scouts and extension workers will oversee all activities and will be on site daily during the fence build to lead all aspects of the build, co-ordinate and be part the process from the clearing of the fence line, delivery of goods (materials will be checked, counted and signed upon arrival) and construction of the fence and also continue to monitor and check the fence after construction is complete to ensure no faults occur after completion. All expenditure will be documents with receipts kept and logged for transparency and reporting. Accounts will be kept and forwarded to donor and photographs of the progress from beginning to end will be taken and used for reporting purposes. As this project will take place over a few months reporting will be prepared by field manager who will be on site and reporting will be as specified and available as required by the donor until the project is completed.

WAG acknowledges the importance of monitoring of the project outputs. Adaptive management is key and it is therefore important to formulate appropriate indicators and their MOVs (Means Of Verification) for each objective in monitoring. The records will be measurable, precise and consistent and will enable evaluation of the activities untaken.

#### 21. Timelines (Operational Plan):

Note: Due to the terrain the building will be carried out over a three year period.

Activity	2019	2020	2021	Responsible
	Q4			
Survey fence lines	Х			Director WAG
Determine exact trajectories of extensions	х			Director WAG

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Hire contractor to rehabilitate and build fence	Х	Х	Х	Director WAG
Hire contractor to build fence attendant	х	Х	х	Director WAG
houses				
Hire and train fence attendants	х	Х	х	Director WAG
Develop maintenance schemes		Х	х	Director WAG

## 22. Targets

- All new fences built by 2021.
- Fence attendant houses finished by September 2021.
- Fence attendants hired and trained by November 2021.
- Maintenance scheme developed and communicated by November 2021.
- Human-elephant conflict reduced to acceptable levels by early 2021.
- Legal killing of elephants through crop control measures reduced to zero by 2021.
- Illegal killing of elephants by community members reduced to acceptable levels by 2021.

## 23. Budget

Budget Item	Cost US\$
Build new fence along boundaries of Dedza-Salima Reserve	572,000
@ US\$2,500/km (228.8 km)	
Fence attendant houses along eastern and western DSFR: 4	12,000
@ \$3,000/house	
Total budget required (external source)	584,000

70



## Annex 6: Funding Proposal MA6

Country: Malawi

Lead Institution Name: Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) - Wildlife Action Group

Duration of the project: 2 years - Jan 2019 to Jan 2020

**NEAP Objective 1, Action 1.6** 

#### **Background:**

The Wildlife Action Group (WAG) is an NGO active in conservation in Malawi. Its main objectives are "to protect Malawi's wildlife and environment, and to assist and support the Malawi Government in protecting areas like national parks, game and forest reserves". The Thuma Forest Reserve (TFR) and the Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve (DSFR) were gazetted in 1926 and 1974 respectively, primarily to preserve their important water catchment function and because the many steep slopes and poor soils (lithosols) make the area unsuitable for sustainable agriculture. Both reserves are located in the Central Region on the escarpment of the Great Rift Valley. TFR lies for roughly two-thirds within Lilongwe District and the remainder in Salima District. Dowa District borders on the Northern edge of Thuma across and along the Lilongwe River. The South East boundary of TFR is the Linthipe River; across the Linthipe Rivers starts DSFR which extends south-south-east into Dedza District roughly up to Ntakataka. TFR and DSFR cover an area of respectively 197 km<sup>2</sup> and 320 km<sup>2</sup>, together 517 km<sup>2</sup> of wilderness (for comparison: Liwonde National Park, Malawi's number one protected area and another stronghold of Malawi's elephant population covers an area of app 540 km<sup>2</sup>). The topography of TFR and DSFR is generally rugged. Slopes are steep although there are some flatter parts at the foot of the escarpment and on the upper plateaus. The highest point in TFR is Thuma Mountain with an altitude of 1,564 metres above sea level while Dedza Mountain with an altitude of 2,198 meters marks the highest point in DSFR.

WAG is a very collaborative institution working closely with national and international stakeholders on a range of issues relating to the management of Thuma FR and Dedza FR and issues relating to wildlife law enforcement. The most important partner in the project is the government of Malawi, in particular DNPW and the Department of Forestry.

WAG is responsible for the day to day management of two reserves (Thuma and Dedza Salima Escarpment Reserve). This includes daily anti-poaching patrols on foot, management of bamboo area where local population have access to harvest the bamboo growing there, forest management in the form of early burning etc, opening and maintaining the few roads inside the reserve, maintenance of 79km of electric fence, habitat management, recording and tracking animal sighting, Human-elephant conflicts issues outside the reserve and extension work with local communities. The overall goal is to continue and increase the security and protection of an area of 517 km² (Thuma FR & Dedza-Salima FR together), which is large enough to maintain viable and sustainable wildlife populations, including populations of the larger mammal species. We estimate our total elephant population at about 150 (based on 3 previous surveys). Total carrying capacity for both reserves is roughly 250 elephants.



- 1. Project Title: Build Ranger capacity and provide equipment to improve law enforcement
- **2. Rationale**: WAG employs over 40 anti-poaching rangers to patrol an area of 517 km<sup>2</sup>. WAG intends to conduct specialist training and refresher training for these rangers over a two year period. WAG also intends to supply new uniforms, equipment and rations to ensure they are adequately kitted and motivated to perform their duties.
- **3. Scope:** The Wildlife Acton Group employs over 40 rangers to patrol the two reserves, and to protect some of the last remaining escarpment elephants in Africa. These dedicated rangers require refresher and capacity gap training over a two year period to further enhance and fine tune their skill set and performance in the field. They also require new uniforms, equipment and rations.
- **4. Objective:** Through our on-going monitoring and appraisal processes we have identified several capacity gaps in the skill sets of the rangers. WAG intends to conduct refresher training for all rangers in Jan April 2019 and again in the same period in 2020. Along with the refresher training, it is vital that senior and lead rangers are further trained in leadership skills, coms, ambush techniques and weaponry. WAG wishes its rangers to be more efficient, effective and highly motivated on the ground so they can continue to protect the area and its wildlife, especially elephants.

#### 5. Expected outcomes

- iv) Highly trained, disciplined anti-poaching units,
- v) well-equipped rangers who are able to patrol,
- vi) motivated rangers
- vii) improved communications in the field',
- viii) increased leadership skills,
- ix) Improved protection of the elephants and their habitats,
- x) field rations for all rangers.

### 6. Relationship to the AEAP, any NIAP, and the EPI:

The recently developed NEAP for Malawi follows the format of the AEAP and is compatible with and where appropriate references the NIAP which was first written and submitted to CITES in 2017. Therefore, this proposal is fully in line with the AEAP and both the NEAP and NIAP for Malawi.

### 7. Actions/activities and methods:

WAG has identified capacity gaps through our internal twice a year appraisal procedure. So our next step is to identify trainers who will conduct training in early 2019 and again in early 2020, providing two years of training for all rangers. All training will be in-house, and training and assessment of rangers will be recorded, assessed and monitored as an on-going concern.



## 8. Timelines (Operational Plan):

**Note:** Due to the terrain, building of the fence will be carried out over a three-year period.

Activity	2018	2019	2020	Responsible
		Q1	Q2	
Continue to assess capacity gaps	х			Director WAG
Identify trainer	х			Director WAG
6 weeks in house training		Х	Х	Director WAG
Digital communication system	х	х	х	Director WAG
Uniforms and rations	х	х	х	Director WAG

## 9. Targets:

- Install new digital two-way radio communication system,
- Equip all rangers with new uniforms, boots, trousers, shirts, hats, water bottles, sleeping bags, back packs, and tents,
- Conduct refreshers, leadership training twice (2019 and 2020),
- Provide field rations for rangers while on patrols.

## 10. Budget:

Budget Item	Cost US\$
Training x 2	14,000
Rations for 2 years for 40 rangers	38,400
Digital radio system	35,000
Total budget required (external source)	87,400



## **Annex 7: Funding Proposal MA7**

Country: Malawi

Lead Institutions: DNPW and African Parks (APN)

Duration of Project: 2 years from July 2018 to May 2020

NEAP Objective & Action: Objective 3, Action 3.4 (3.7)

# Background

African Parks assumed management of the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in 2015. On taking assuming management in 2015 the reserve had lost most of its wildlife to poaching enforcement was totally ineffective in its implementation due to lack of funds and resources. Other concerns included human-wildlife conflicts, a growing population, encroachment for cultivation and settlement and hence habitat destruction, fires, presence of tsetse fly and rampant illegal fishing in its rivers. The relationship with the communities bordering the reserve was quite hostile as several NGOs and stakeholders had failed in the past to deliver on stated objectives, and human wildlife conflict was a regular occurrence. Furthermore, the reserve was undeveloped except for a single management road, five scout camps and two tourist establishments, Tongole wilderness lodge and the tented Bua River lodge, that were both suffering low guest numbers and were unsustainable in the long run.

Over the last two years, African Parks has established a rolling five-year business plan that focused on stabilising the park, investing in infrastructure and the ranger teams. With

the area of integrity established and growing engagement with the surrounding communities, African Parks and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) agreed to translocate 500 elephants from source populations in Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve, two parks also under the management of African Parks. A total of 520 elephants were relocated and the need for a longer term elephant management plan is more acute and urgent.





#### Description of Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve

Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve is in Central Malawi and is Malawi's largest Wildlife Reserve, covering 1.800 km² (180,000 ha). The Reserve originally dates from 1938 and was enlarged to its current size in 1954. It is about 65 km from north to south and about 40 km from east to west at its widest point. It is situated 115 km from Lilongwe, near Lake Malawi.

Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve is set into the side of the great rift valley and covers a vast wilderness of steep valleys with forest along the rivers and predominantly 'miombo'



woodland in the hills. Its vegetation is the finest example of tall miombo woodland in Malawi and among the best on the continent. The Reserve ranges in altitude from 500m above sea level at the lake to over 1600m on the top of Chipata Mountain which stands out in the landscape. The high top of the mountain results in it generating its own weather and temperatures and it preserves a small pocket of *Afromontane* evergreen forest.

#### The human/elephant conflict

Most of the communites living next to Nkotakota Wildlife Reserve engage in small-scale subsistence and cash-crop farming. Crop lands which are close to the boundaries are the most vulnerable to elephant damage. Crop damage intensifies during the wet season from December through April. Crop damage by elephants impacts negatively on food security and livelihoods of the communities and in turn their attitudes towards the Reserve. Nkhotakota has also recorded a few injuries and deaths caused by elephants. Indirect conflicts with elephants have included communities living in fear of being injured by elephants resulting in restrictions in movements and this in turn has negatively impacted on their productivity as farming communities.

# National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP)

The Malawi National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP) has identified crop-raiding and property damage by elephants as a severe problem not only in Nkhotakota but other protected areas in Malawi where this species occurs. The Malawi NEAP recommends fencing as one of the key solutions to human wildlife conflicts. Fencing the entire perimeter of the Reserve will mitigate the problem of human wildlife conflicts, promote co-existence between local communities and elephants.



#### Why is the fence needed at Nkhotakota?

On assuming management of the Wildlife Reserve, African Parks made a commitment to the



Malawi Government to control Human Wildlife Conflict, which was mainly resulting from elephants straying out of the reserve into community farm lands. Fencing was set up as a key objective and strategy to stop elephants leaving the reserve. This need was further underscored with the translocation of the additional 520 elephants.

In addition to the elephant management, Nkhotakota needs a perimeter fence to clearly demarcate the legal boundary of the reserve and to reduce poaching. Although the latter is not a significant benefit of the fence, it does

serve as some deterrent to less determined poachers and can assist greatly with convictions especially in terms of proving trespassing.

Fencing also helps to reduce incidence of minor offences such as firewood collection, resource harvesting without permission as well as allowing for controlled and quantifiable resource use programs (i.e. harvesters enter through a defined controlled access point).

Further we need a perimeter fence to stop encroachment by neighbouring farmers as well as stop deforestation. This is critical, as the fence does make it very difficult for someone to remove large quantities of firewood, charcoal or timber. Although this has been low-key up until now we believe that without control, deforestation would have already increased rapidly in Nkhotakota particularly in the peripheral areas of the reserve. Rapid uncontrolled deforestation (such as that seen in Dwambazi area located to the North of the Reserve would have a major impact on the reserve's ability to support a good-sized elephant population.

The perimeter fence is also needed to reduce the risk of disease. Many protected areas in Africa have lost entire populations of predators such as wild dog, jackals etc to diseases like rabies and canine distemper which have been introduced into protected areas by domestic dogs which had uncontrolled access. Although this may not directly impact elephants, it has an effect on the system as a whole and can have negative effects on tourism.

### Fence progress

To date, we have built 164 kilometres of





perimeter fencing. We are now remaining with approximately 100 kilometres of fencing which we intent to complete in phase 3 and 4 in 2018, 2019 and part of 2020. See time line below:

# Timeline

July - December 2018 (Phase 3)	•	40 km to complete the eastern boundary then make a start heading west along the northern boundary.
April – December 2019 (Phase 4)	•	82 km to complete the western and northern boundaries.
December 2019 - May 2020	•	Complete removal of all internal sanctuary fencing from previous phases.

# **Estimated Budget**

122 kms of fence at USD10,000/km	1,220,000
Estimated cost of fabrication workshop for poles, tools	
and labour	50,000
Nkhotakota park management overheads @10%	127,000
Total cost	1,397,000 (USD)



# Annex 8: Malawi NEAP Implementation Plan

# **MALAWI NEAP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Objective	Target	Action (#)	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementers	Time Frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 1a: Illegal killing of elephants reduced to	Target 1a:By 2020, elephant numbers killed illegally to be reduced to less than	1.1a	Carry out a staff evaluation at each protected area	Staff appraisal Report	DNPW / APN / WAG	By end of 2018	MWK 1.451.324 (GoM)
acceptable levels by 2020	1% of the population annually  (Aim1a: Build	1.1b	Select high caliber leadership, well- motivated and placed in key positions	Staff Return/Place ment reports	DNPW	By end of 2018	MWK 3.628.310 (GoM)
	capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of field staff)	1.1c	Train high caliber leadership and well-motivated staff	Training Reports	DNPW/Consulta nt	By end of 2018	\$120,0000*
		1.2	Regularly appraise and reshuffle patrol staff	Staff Appraisal report/Staff return	DNPW / APN / WAG	Annually (Every January)	MWK 4,000,000 (DNPW)
		1.3a	Develop an Anti-Corruption Work Plan	Work plan	DNPW ACB	By December 2019	\$4,000*
		1.3b	Establish an Integrity Committee to oversee implementation of the Work Plan	Integrity Committee	DNPW ACB	By December 2018	\$1,000*
		1.3c	Regular Report on progress made to the Anti-Corruption Bureau	Reports Available	DNPW ACB	JULY 2019 & then biannually	



	1.4	Finalize the Code of Conduct and standard operating procedure	Code of Conduct and operating procedure (documents)	DNPW Consultant	October 2018	\$10,000*
	1.5	Develop and implement recruitment procedures for patrol staff	Training procedure document	DNPW / APN / WAG	By end of July 2018	Finalized
	1.6a	Conduct capacity gap analysis	Needs assessment report	DNPW / APN / WAG	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	\$10,000*
	1.6b	Conduct training for patrol staff	Training report	DNPW	On-going (especially refreshers)	\$50,000*
	1.6c	Staff training and equipment (WAG)	Reports/Rec eipts	WAG/DNPW	End June 2020	\$87,400**
	1.7	Increase patrol staff density to 1 staff/30km² in problem areas	Staff Density Reports/retur n/positioning instruction	DNPW / APN / WAG	By Dec 2020	NA
	1.8	Increase the number of effective patrol days per month to 15 effective patrol days per staff per month	Patrol analysis reports	DNPW / APN / WAG	By end of April 2019	NA
	1.9	Provide all law-enforcement staff with proper equipment to carry out their duties (Transportation, uniforms, boots, arms, etc.).	Delivery/stor es ledgers and reports	DNPW / APN / WAG	Annually (November)	\$200,000*

<sup>\*</sup>Project Funding Proposal MA2 (DNPW) \*\*Project Funding Proposal MA6 (WAG/DNPW)

Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementers	Time Frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 1b: Ivory trafficking and the illegal trade of ivory	Target 1b: Malawi experiences zero ivory	1.10a	Establish site-level investigation and informer system (joint training of site managers)	Confidential reports	DNPW / APN / WAG / LWT	By end of December 2018	\$20,000
within Malawi reduced to zero by 2025	seizures at entry or exit points by 2025	1.10b 1.10c	Strengthen the existing investigation and informer system	Confidential reports	DNPW / APN / WAG / LWT	December 2018	\$30,000
	(Aim 1b: Strengthen investigations, prosecutions,		Establish a centrally located rapid reaction security force to respond to security situations that cannot be handled by sitelevel enforcement alone, or take place outside the protected-area system	Confidential rapid reaction security reports	DNPW / LWT	By end of June 2019	TBD
	judicial system en wildlife legislation)	1.11	Upgrade wildlife legislation, whereby among others, wildlife crime is considered a 'serious offence', and penalties are raised to levels that deter wildlife offenders	Wildlife legislation document	DNPW / LWT	By end July 2018 (Act reviewed)	Finalized
		1.12	Establish an overt central investigations unit within DNPW and support a central intelligence network, and a central joint covert reactive investigations taskforce comprising officers from all relevant enforcement authorities	Confidential reports	DNPW / LWT	By end of May 2018	Finalized
		1.13	Train selected DNPW, police, DPP, MRA, ACB and immigration staff in investigative techniques	Confidential training report	DNPW / RSPCA / LWT / APN / WAG/GIZ?	Annually	\$10,000
		1.14a	Set up WCIU data-base connected to the DNPW data-base	Data base	DNPW/RSPCA	By end April 2017	Finalized
		1.14b	Conduct refresher course on WCIU data- base management	Training reports	DNPW/RSPCA	By end May 2018	Finalized

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1.15	Set up a data-base at DNPW connecting all parks and reserves with HQ, if possible, using the one developed by the Uganda Wildlife Authority with financial assistance from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).	Data base report	DNPW / RSPCA	By end April 2017	Finalized
1.16	Set up a prosecution office with staff specialized in wildlife crime in DPP	Wildlife prosecutors in place	DNPW / LWT	By end December 2020	TBD
1.17	Raise awareness on elephant conservation, poaching and the trade in ivory with police, DPP, judiciary, Anti-corruption Bureau, Financial Investigators Unit, MRA and GP	Awareness reports and manuals	DNPW / LWT / RSPCA /WAG	Annually	\$30,000
1.18	Main entry/exit points of Malawi (borders + airports) have one DNPW staff specialized in detecting ivory, identification skills, experience with and knowledge on trafficking methods and prosecution methods	Postings Reports	DNPW	By December 2017	Finalized
1.19a	Train MRA and MPS security staff at entry and exit points in wildlife product identification, detection of ivory.	Training Reports	DNPW / RSPCA / LWT	By June 2018	\$6,000
1.19b	Develop chain of custody protocol	Chain of custody doc.	DNPW	By December 2019	WTCF Support
1.20	Harmonize the Wildlife Act, Mining legislation and the Environmental Management Act	Report / minutes	DNPW,MNREM	By end of Dec 2020	TBD
1.21	Improve communication with enforcement agencies in neighbouring countries, bilaterally, and through membership of networks: i.e. SAEN	Confidential engagement Reports	DNPW / RSPCA / LWT / APN / WAG/GIZ	By end of Dec 2018	\$30,000
1.22	Develop a series of measures to ensure proper identification of criminals	Law enforcement Reports and document.	DNPW,POLICE, FIA	By end December 2019	TBD
1.23	Develop performance indicators for recording wildlife crime statistics.	Law enforcement	DNPW	By December	WTCF Support



				Reports		2019	
		1.24	Develop protocols for distribution of data both within and between relevant agencies	MoUs, Agreement	DNPW, FIA, MDF, MPS, MRA	By end of Dec 2019	WTCF Support
		1.25	Improve ivory stockpile management	Reports	DNPW / Stop Ivory	By end of December 2019	WTCF Support
AEAP Objective 1	MEAP Objectives 1a&1b					Total:US\$	608,400
Project Proposals*						Total: US\$	482,400
Remaining Budget						Total: US\$	126,000

<sup>\*</sup>Project Proposal MA2 (DNPW) \*\*Project Proposal MA6 (WAG/DNPW)

Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementer	Time Frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 2: To maintain current elephant habitat range and improve connectivity by	Target 2a: No measurable loss in the size of the elephant	2.1	Establish communication and collaboration between local law-enforcement units in the Luangwa ecosystem and those in Kasungu, Vwaza and Nyika in Malawi. Establish radio network.	Communicati on documents	DNPW/ IFAW/LWT/ APN	By end of Dec 2017	\$ 150,000
2025.	range by 2025 Target 2b: Connectivity improved for at least 2	2.2	Strengthen communication between local law-enforcement units in the Luangwa ecosystem and those in Kasungu, Vwaza and Nyika in Malawi.	Communicati on documents	DNPW/ IFAW/LWT/ APN	By end of June 2019	\$9,000
	elephant populations by 2025	2.3	Carry out joint border patrols	Joint Patrol reports	DNPW	Annually	\$50,000
		2.4	Initiate collaboration with Mozambique on Trans-boundary elephant management of the Liwonde, Mangochi/ Namizimu ecosystem	Report/minut es	DNPW/APN/For estry	By end of Dec 2020	TBD
		2.5	Establish and sign an inter-departmental agreement between DNPW and WAG on improving connectivity within Malawi, i.e. the escarpment series of FRs (Thuma and Dedza-Salima -Mua) and the Liwonde, Mangochi, Namizimu corridor.	MoU/Agreem ent documents	DNPW/WAG/ Forestry	By December 2019	\$1,000
		2.6	Promote/involve the private sector /NGOs in elephant management and conservation	Minutes/ agreements	DNPW	By end of Dec 2019	TBD
		2.7	Use participatory approaches for land-use planning to create corridors by providing incentives to communities (on customary land) to give up some areas for dispersal.	Reports and minutes	DNPW	By end of 2020	TBD
		2.8	Assess and monitor elephant habitat change and fragmentation.	Assessment reports	DNPW,APN,WA G	Annually	TBD

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		2.9	Raise awareness amongst the fringe communities, traditional leaders and local politicians on elephant conservation and maintaining habitat.	Awareness reports	DNPW,APN,WA G	Annually	\$30,000
AEAP Objective 2	MEAP Objective 2					Total:US\$	240,000
Project Proposals*						Total: US\$	0
Remaining Budget						Total: US\$	240,000

Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementer	Time frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 3: To reduce Human- Elephant conflicts to acceptable levels by 2025	Target 3: 75% reduction in human – elephant conflicts incidents by 2025	3.1	Facilitate land-use plan for all PAs and surrounding communal land using participatory approaches	Reports and meeting minutes	DNPW,APN, Councils	By end of 2020	TBD
		3.2	Create awareness on elephant conservation, natural heritage, economic advantage and integrity of elephant habitat among fringe communities	Reports	DNPW, Councils	On-going & annually	See 2.9
		3.3	Strengthen the concept of community wildlife utilisation (CCAs, WMAs) and apply around PAs, to create alternative buffer zones when combined with establishment of ecotourism sites or other alternative livelihood schemes	Reports	DNPW/APN.WA G	By end of Dec 2019	TBD



		3.4a	Construct elephant barriers especially electric fences (DNPW)	Electric fence construction reports	DNPW / APN / IFAW	By December 2020	\$1,999,820*
		3.4b	Construct elephant barriers especially electric fences (WAG)	Contractor's report	WAG/DNPW	By December 2021	\$584,000**
		3.4c	Fencing of Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve	Contractor's report	APN/DNPW	By May 2020	\$ 1,397,000 ***
		3.5	Engage environmental and wildlife oriented organisations to work and improve collaboration in elephant problem areas	Reports	DNPW /NGOs/ Other government departments.	By end June 2019	US\$5,000
		3.6	Sensitise communities on Elephants behaviour and train them on local methods on how to scare and avoid them. By Limiting human fatalities and crop damage through fencing, cultivating non-target crops e.g. Chilli around PAs boundaries, beehives, and other recent sustainable technologies (4 sites).	Sensitisation meetings and Reports	DNPW/APN/ WAG	By June 2019	US\$20,000
AEAP Objective 3	MEAP Objective 3					Total: US\$	4,005,820
Project Proposals*	•					Total: US\$	3,980,820
Remaining Budget						Total: US\$	25,000

<sup>\*</sup>See RMP&B \*Project Funding Proposal MA4 (DNPW) \*\*Project funding Proposal MA5 (WAG/DNPW) \*\*\*Project funding Proposal MA7 (APN/DNPW)

Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementer	Time frame	Budget (\$) / funding status	
Objective 4: To Facilitate co- existence between local communities and elephants by 2025.	Target 4: The incidence of snaring and poaching of elephants by surrounding communities reduced by 50% by 2025	4.1	Sensitize fringe communities about seriousness of wildlife crime and penalty structure	Sensitisation meeting	DNPW / RSPCA / LWT APN	On going	Covered	
		4.2	Establish monitoring and reporting system and rapid response protocol for problem elephants - rapid response team to drive them back to PAs promptly	Monitoring system	DNPW,APN, WAG	By mid- 2019	\$5,000	
		4.3	Promote alternative livelihood programs in the vicinity of parks and reserves that directly address both the key humanitarian issues and the most significant wildlife threats (IWT review).	Reports	DNPW / IFAW / APN/GIZ/KFW	On-going	EU/KFW funding	
AEAP Objective 7	MEAP Objective 4					Total: US\$	5,000	
Project Proposals*	2.5,0003					Total: US\$	0	
Remaining Budget						Total: US\$	5,000	

Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description

Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementer	Time Frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 5: To raise awareness to policy makers, communities, police, judiciary on elephant conservation and management by 2020	Target 5: Deterrence of wildlife offences through (1) increased imposition of custodial sentences on convicted offenders (2) increased awareness on serious nature of wildlife crime (3) Corroboration with communities in	5.1	Sensitise members of the Judiciary, Police, Customs, media and other law enforcement agencies on the seriousness of wildlife crime	Minutes/reports	DNPW / LWT / RSPCA / APN / IFAW / WAG	Annually	\$30,000
	providing intelligence on perpetrators of wildlife crime by 2020.  Outcome Metric 5: The number of wildlife offenders apprehended, prosecuted and sentenced and receiving maximum penalty is doubled by 2020.	5.2	Produce handbook on legislation and sentencing guidelines for use by law enforcement officials including Judiciary	Handbook/ sentencing guidelines	DNPW / RSPCA IWTCF project	By end of 2017	Finalized
		5.3	Organise visits to Protected Areas for law enforcement officials from all relevant agencies	Park visits and reports	DNPW	By end of December 2018	\$13,722*
AEAP Objective 4	MEAP Objective 5					Total: US\$	43,722
Project Proposals*						Total: US\$	13,722
Remaining Budget						Total: US\$	30,000

<sup>\*</sup>See RMP&B \*Project Funding Proposal MA1

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Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementer	Time Frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 6: To enhance adaptive elephant management and monitoring by 2020	Target 6a: Six out of 8 elephant populations surveyed every 3 years by 2020  Target 6b: All parks and reserves that contain elephants use SMART (or its equivalent) by 2020	6.1	Source for funding to carry out aerial counts every 3 years of the elephant populations in protected areas using the CITES MIKE Programme Aerial Survey Standards to ensure repeatability and comparability.	Survey reports	DNPW,WAG,AP N	Every 3 years up to 2022	\$100,000
		6.2	Train staff in the use of SMART and other ecological monitoring tools and train site management in the use of patrol-based information as feedback for the adaptive management system	Training report	DNPW / APN WAG to be taken on board	By Dec 2019	\$50,000
		6.3	Procure computers, GPSs and other equipment for monitoring of elephant populations and distributions	Procurement Plan	APN,DNPW, WAG,LWT	By end of October 2018	\$28,000
		6.5	Develop and maintain elephant database for adaptive management purposes( elephant ledger)	Elephant Ledger	APN,DNPW, WAG	By end June 2019	\$10,000
		6.6	Ensure completion of Management Plans for 4 PAs (Nyika, Vwaza, Kasungu & Thuma).	Management Plans	DNPW,WAG,AP N	By end of Dec 2019	\$40,000
		6.7	Secure the services of a fully resourced wildlife veterinary unit to help protect elephants once injured	Reports	DNPW /LWT	On-going Supported by LWT	TBD
AEAP Objective 5	MEAP Objective 6					Total: US\$	228,000
Project Proposals*						Total: US\$	0
Remaining Budget						Total: US\$	228,000

Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementer	Time Frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 7: To promote and strengthen communication and	Target 7a: Enforcement Task Force established for national-level agencies by 2017	7.1	Establish and operationalize a national level covert and reactive investigations taskforce involving officers from other law enforcement agencies	Taskforce	DNWP	On-going (Will be decentraliz ed)	US\$53,569*
collaboration between national and international	Target 7b: Enforcement Task Force established for	7.2	Establish an inclusive crime data base on wildlife crime together with performance indicators for recording wildlife crime statistics	Data base	DNPW	2017	Finalized
agencies	regional and International agencies by 2020	7.3	Establish a joint intelligence taskforce and network with neighbouring countries	Taskforce and network	DNPW / LWT / MPS	By end of 2018	US\$18,296*
		7.4	Train DNPW, Police and other law enforcement agencies (Taskforce) in investigative techniques	Training manuals	DNPW	On-going covered	NA
		7.5	Improve communication and collaboration with wildlife authorities in neighbouring countries and the region	Agreements	DNPW	By end of Nov 2018	See 7.3
		7.6	Participate in bilateral, regional and international wildlife law enforcement networks	Reports	DNPW	On-going	US\$10,000
		7.7	Improve communication and collaboration with wildlife authorities, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders globally	Reports	DNPW	Annually	Covered
AEAP Objective 6	MEAP Objective 7					Total: US\$	81,865
Proposals*						Total: US\$	71,865
Remaining Budget						Total: US\$	10,000

<sup>\*</sup>See RMP&B \*Project Funding Proposal MA3

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Objective	Target	Action #	Action (Description)	Means of Verification (Metrics)	Implementer	Time Frame	Budget (\$) / funding status
Objective 8: To effectively implement the National Elephant Action Plan	Target 8a: Coordinator and IACCWC members appointed by early 2016	8.1	Appoint Coordinator.	Already in place	DNPW	By end of 2016	NA
	Target 8b: NEAP implementation starts by early 2016	8.2	Appoint members of Technical Committee from agencies managing elephants(with Partners co-opted)	Reports	DNPW,WAG APN	By end of 2017	NA
						_	
AEAP Obj. 1						Total: US\$	608,400
AEAP Obj. 2						Total: US\$	240,000
AEAP Obj. 3						Total: US\$	4,005,820
AEAP Obj. 4						Total: US\$	43,722
AEAP Obj. 5						Total: US\$	228,000
AEAP Obj. 6						Total: US\$	81,865
AEAP Obj. 7						Total: US\$	5,000
AEAP Obj. 8						Total: US\$	0
Malawi NEAP Budget						Total: US\$	5,212,807
Funding Proposals*						Total:	4,548,807
Remaining NEAP Budget						Total:	664,000

\*See RMP&B



# Annex 9: Malawi NEAP Resource Mobilization Plan & Budget (Medium-Term)

		Malawi – R	Resource Mobilizat	ion Plan aı	nd Budget	(Project Prop	osals)			
Activity	Project #/Name	Target(s)	Main Tasks	Lead	Source of	Budge	et (Yr.)	Total	Shortfal	
				Partner	Financing*	1	2 3		1	
Objective 1	Objective 1a: Illegal killing of elephants reduced to acceptable levels by 2020									
Activity										
1.1	Annex 2 (MA2)	Improved	Carry out staff	DNPW	MG	5,071,634		5,071,634		
	D 111 1/	patrol	evaluation at each site,	Consultant	(MKW)					
	Build capacity, efficiency and effectiveness of field staff	effectiveness	select high-caliber leadership and provide training		External	\$120,000		\$120,000	\$120,000	
1.2		Improved patrol effectiveness	Regularly appraise and reshuffle staff	DNPW	MG (MKW)	4,000,000		4,000,000		
1.3		Less corruption among field staff	Develop anti- corruption work plan and establish Integrity Committee	DNPW	External	\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000	
1.4		See 1.3	Finalize code of conduct and circulate	DNPW	External	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$10,000	
1.6a		Improved performance of patrol staff	Carry out capacity gap analysis	DNPW Consultant	External	\$10,000		\$10,000	\$10,000	
1.6b		Improved performance of patrol staff	Training patrol staff DNPW	DNPW Consultant	External	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$50,000	



1.6c		Improved performance of patrol staff	Training patrol staff DNPW	WAG Consultant	External	\$43,700	\$43,700		\$87,400	\$87,400
1.9		Improved patrol staff performance	Provide all patrol staff with proper equipment	DNPW	External	\$200,000			\$200,000	\$200,000
			Objective 1a; Proje	ect Proposals (3	years): Total	438.700 9,071,634	43,700	00.00	482.400 9,071,634	482.400
Objective 1	b: Ivory trafficking	g and the illegal	trade of ivory within Ma	alawi reduced	to zero by 2	025				
Activity										
1.17	Annex 1 (MA1) Sensitization	Increasing penalties for wildlife	Prepare workshop for police and judiciary	DNPW	External	\$13.722			\$13.722	\$13.722
	workshop	offenders								
			Objective 1b; Proje	ect Proposals (3	years): Total	13.722	00.00	00.00	13.722	13.722
v	: Human-elephant	conflict reduced	to acceptable levels by	2025						
Activity		1		1						
3.4a	Annex 4 (MA4)  Rehabilitation and building of elephant proof fences (Kasungu and Vwaza Marsh)	Reduction of HEC to acceptable levels, with zero human and elephant fatalities by 2021	<ul> <li>Surveys, mapping and unforeseen fence line</li> <li>Kasungu:         Rehabilitate 32         km of fence</li> <li>Kasungu: Build 56 km of new fence</li> <li>Vwaza:         Rehabilitate 40         km of fence</li> <li>Vwaza: build 25         km of new fence</li> <li>Build 7 fence attendant houses</li> <li>Maintain fence</li> </ul>	DNPW	External	\$999.910	\$999.910	0	\$1.999.820	\$1.999.820



				lines in both sites							
3.4b	Annex 5 (MA5)  Building of elephant-proof fence (Dedza-Salima forest Reserve)	Reduction of HEC to acceptable levels, with zero human and elephant fatalities by 2021	•	Dedza-Salima: Build 228.8 km of new fence	WAG/DNP W	External	\$194,667	\$194,667	\$194,666	\$584,000	\$584,000
3.4c	Annex 7 (MA7)  Fencing Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve	Reduction of HEC to acceptable levels by 2020, with zero human fatalities	•	Complete 40 km of fence on the eastern boundary Complete 82 km on western and northern boundaries Removal of all old fences	APN/DNP W	External	\$1,397,000			\$1,397,000	\$1,397,000
				Objective 3; Project	t Proposals (3 y	years): Total	2,591,577	1,194,577	194,666	3,980,820	3,980,820
Objective	4: Insert										
Activity											
#		=	-				00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
					Object	tive 4: Total	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
<b>Objective</b>	5: Insert				Objec	tive 4. Iotai	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
Activity											
#			•				00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
					Objec	tive 5: Total	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00



Objective 6: Insert										
Activity										
#			•			00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
			-							

<u> </u>	•	8	unication and collaboratio			8		
Activity								
7.1	Annex 3 (MA3) Strengthen wildlife crime investigations and prosecutions by facilitating national and international multi-agency collaboration	Multi-agency taskforce decentralized and communicatio n channels and protocols with international networks and agencies established	Decentralize IASs and facilitate regular meetings		\$26,785	\$26,784	\$53,569	\$53,569
3 – 7.6		International collaboration on investigations and prosecutions facilitated	Facilitation of multi- agency meetings		\$9,148	\$9,148	\$18,296	\$18,29
		•	•					
			Objective 7; Project Pro	onosals (3 years): Total	35.933	35,932	71,865	71,865
bjective 8	3: Insert		Objective // Froject Fr	oposais (e years)t rour	00,000	00,702	71,000	71,000
ctivity								



	Objective 8: Total	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
Total Funding Proposal Budget:		3,079,932	1,274,209	194,666	4,548,807	4,548,807

- Figures in blue: Contribution Malawi Government (MKW)
- Figures in red: External funding sourced (US\$)