



LILONGWE
WILDLIFE TRUST

IMPACT REPORT 2017

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2008, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust is a non-profit conservation organisation that works to protect Malawi's wildlife and wild places. Our remit has grown in response to the emerging conservation challenges of the past decade and we focus on where we can deliver the greatest impact. We believe in the power of partnerships - be it with government or likeminded local and international organisations - and our 2017 and 10th anniversary highlights in this report are very much a reflection of those collaborations. Thanks to everyone for the hard work and support.

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OUR MISSION

To protect Malawi's wildlife by helping wild animals in need, combatting wildlife crime & empowering guardians of the wild.



POVERTY

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world with one of Africa's fastest growing populations. Day-to-day survival takes precedence over 'luxuries' like wildlife conservation, even though biodiversity loss ultimately impacts humanitarian issues like health and food security.



HABITAT LOSS

87% of Malawi's population doesn't have access to electricity and rely on charcoal and firewood for their energy needs. This, coupled with demand for land for agriculture, has driven extreme rates of deforestation, the highest in the SADC region, which means the loss of wild places for wildlife to live.



WILDLIFE CRIME

Malawi is a principal transit hub for illicit wildlife trafficking in Southern Africa, historically influenced by factors like weak deterrent legislation and poor law enforcement. Illegal trades in bushmeat, charcoal, wildlife artefacts and pets are also locally prevalent and are becoming increasingly commercialised.



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Habitat loss and rapid population growth mean human-wildlife conflict is on the rise, impacting both the welfare of individual animals as well as the survival of species.

VISION

That every wild animal in Malawi is free from human inflicted suffering.

That Malawi is free from wildlife crime.

That everyone in Malawi respects and protects wildlife.

That evidence based management is integral to wildlife conservation in Malawi.

PROJECTS

RESCUE & WELFARE

Wildlife Centre
Wildlife Emergency Response Unit (WERU)
Wildlife Welfare Unit

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Wildlife Policy & Law
Wildlife Crime Investigations
Wildlife Justice Programme
Wildlife Detection Dogs

EDUCATION & ADVOCACY

Protected Area & City School Outreach
Stop Wildlife Crime Campaigns
Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus

RESEARCH

Conservation Medicine
Primate & Elephant Conservation
Wildlife Re-introductions

IMPACT

Sanctuary for rescued wildlife.
Endangered species' lives saved.
Nationwide vet support for wildlife management.
Improved welfare standards.

Strengthened legal frameworks.
Increased seizures & arrests.
Deterrent court outcomes.
Disrupted IWT networks.

High-level political backing for conservation.
Society-wide support.
Reduced demand for wildlife products.

Increased body of applied conservation research.
Improved wildlife management plans.
Informed conservation status assessments.

HELPING MALAWI'S WILD ANIMALS IN NEED

- Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, LWT's first project, today stands as Malawi's only wildlife sanctuary. It is world-renowned for its high welfare standards, reflected by its international accreditations. Over 800 animals have been rehabilitated with over half released back into the wild.
- The Wildlife Emergency Response Unit was set up in 2015 in partnership with the Malawi government and provides nationwide wildlife veterinary support. It has since saved the lives of almost 100 animals injured in the field, the majority being elephants or rhinos caught in snares.

COMBATting WILDLIFE CRIME

Since co-authoring the country's Illegal Wildlife Trade Review in 2015, LWT has:

- Supported the Malawi government to set up the first specialised wildlife crime investigations and intelligence units, which have since been responsible for 223 arrests and the seizure of 1,414kg of ivory.
- Stood as the lead local NGO on the Wildlife Act Amendment - the fastest passing of any bill in the history of Parliament - that critically increased custodial sentences to 30 years.
- Established a wildlife justice programme, which includes the mandate to privately prosecute on behalf of government, and which has resulted in record sentences of up to 18 years.

EMPOWERING THE GUARDIANS OF THE WILD

- LWT's environmental education programme was expanded nationwide in 2012. Over 140,000 school children have since been engaged directly, with tens of thousands more reached through teacher training programmes.
- Critical support for Malawi's efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade included Presidential backing through LWT's advocacy and Stop Wildlife Crime campaign.
- In 2017, LWT became the lead local NGO for the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus in 2017.

- LWT continues to run the government's nationwide wildlife emergency response unit and the country's only wildlife sanctuary.
- Veterinary support was provided for the world's largest elephant translocation (an African Parks project including 500 elephants) for the second year running.
- Captive care regulations were completed supporting the new Wildlife Act. It is now a crime to mistreat wild animals or hold wild animals in captivity without a license.
- Malawi's first Wildlife Research Institute was set up in Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve in partnership with Malawi government and Conservation Research Africa.
- The first Blue Monkey density estimates were conducted in Nyika National Park, the 'Clinical Projects in One Health' research project was launched, and a rarely reported pathogen was identified.



2017 IMPACT | Wildlife Law Enforcement

- Record trafficking arrests and seizures were made through the LWT-supported investigations and intelligence units. In 2017 114 arrests were made - an average of 9.5 per month versus 0.7 before the establishment of the units.
- Regulations were passed in Parliament which has placed an additional 216 species considered threatened in Malawi under protection, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, invertebrates, plants and fungi. They also protect thousands of other endangered species thanks to the inclusion of IUCN red lists and CITES Appendix listings within the auspices of the new subsidiary law.
- LWT's new justice programme is having a significant impact in the courts. Average sentences have risen to 3.6 years (vs 1.5 in 2016, 0 in 2008-2015). 91% of all wildlife crime cases undergoing court monitoring or public-private prosecution resulted in a custodial conviction, with 125 traffickers put behind bars.
- Record sentences of up to 18 years were passed for wildlife trafficking. Malawi's first convictions for pangolin trafficking were secured, as well as a record appeal ruling for Malawi's largest illegal logging syndicate case and the first forfeiture of equipment.



114

traffickers arrested



459

kg seized ivory



125

traffickers jailed



18

Max. prison sentence/yrs

- Tailored conservation education programmes were expanded in 170 communities around the protected areas of Nyika, Vwaza, Kasungu and Salima.
- LWT trustee and DNPW Director, Brighton Kumchedwa, won the Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa. The nomination was part of LWT's 'Mission Possible Malawi' campaign to highlight Malawi's achievements tackling IWT.
- LWT was appointed to run programmes for the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus Foundation.
- New films 'Elephant I Miss You' and '30 Years' reached over 20,000 people through a community roadshow targeting communities on trafficking routes and around protected areas.
- A new snare wire jewellery line was launched to raise awareness about wildlife crime and generate income for local communities.



43,335

School children engaged in CE programmes from **423** schools



1,008

Trained teachers, community scouts & local leaders



14,210

Trees planted through city schools programme

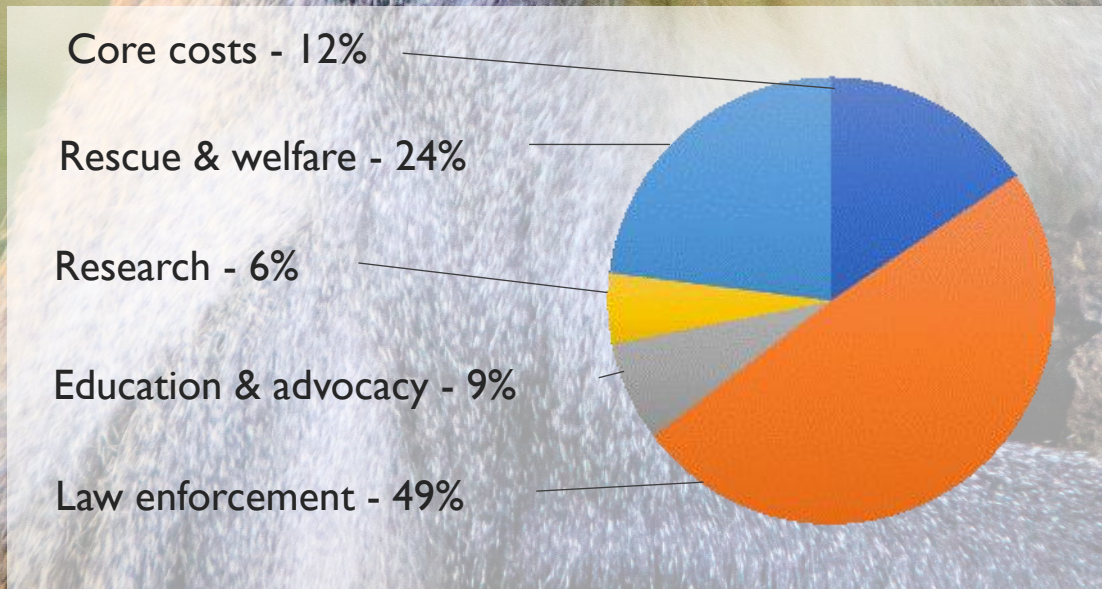


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TV/radio/press features

In 2017, LWT raised \$1,574,640 into Malawi-based conservation initiatives thanks to the support and generosity of donors and partners. 88% of our expenditure was for direct project costs and 12% was spent on administration and core costs.

For full audited accounts please contact trust@lilongwewildlife.org.



| DONORS

USAID, INL, USFWS, GIZ Polifund, DEFRA, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Wildcat Foundation, Paul G. Allen Foundation, Olsen Animal Trust, Save the Elephants, Elephant Crisis Fund, Tusk, Born Free Foundation, IFAW, Animal & Advocacy Protection, Stop Ivory, Perivoli Trust, Nyika-Vwaza Trust, Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, IPPL, IPS, Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust, ICCF.

| PARTNERS

African Parks, WCP, PAMS Foundation, Tikki Hywood Foundation, ESPA, Maisha, Conservation Research Africa, Wildlife Action Group, North Luangwa Conservation Programme, Conservation South Luangwa, CEPA, International Environmental Law Project.



| Government Agency Partners

Dep't of National Parks & Wildlife, Dep't of Forestry, Dep't of Education, Malawi Police Service, Dep't of Public Prosecutions, Office of President & Cabinet.



AWARDS & ACCREDITATIONS



Lilongwe Wildlife Trust is a member of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), the Malawi representative for the Species Survival Network and a founding member of ICCF Malawi's Conservation Council supporting the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus. Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is the only sanctuary to hold accreditations from the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) and Born Free Foundation's PAW initiative.

PATRONS

HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester
Virginia McKenna, OBE

TRUSTEES

Mark Sprong (Chairman)
Arthur Nyirenda (Secretary)
Brighton Kumchedwa
Bev Trataris
Ton de Rooy
Julie Saunders
Rod Hagger
Laurie Webb

TEAM

Jonny Vaughan - CEO
Kate Moore - Programmes Director
Simon Pitt - Operations Director
Tommy Mhango - Head of Enforcement
Clement Manjaalera - Head of Education
Dr Amanda Salb - Head Veterinarian
Dr Emma Stone - Head of Research
Jasper Iepema - Sanctuary Manager

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust is a Malawian not-for-profit trust, registered under the Trustee Incorporation Act of Malawi since 2008 (No.TR/INC4209) and has been a Council of Non-Governmental Organizations of Malawi member since 2009 (No.C466).

Malawi Wildlife Trust is registered with the UK Charity Commission (No. 1176185).



Please get in touch if you're interested in volunteering, becoming a member or making a donation. Thanks for your support.

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