

# Nyika-Vwaza News



The newsletter of the Nyika-Vwaza Trust and Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust  
*"working for the environment and wildlife conservation in northern Malawi"*

*What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected - Chief Seattle, 1854*

Welcome to the latest issue of Nyika-Vwaza News.

I am sure that the quotation from Chief Seattle resonates as deeply with you as it does with me. Simply knowing that wildernesses like Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve are there helps us maintain connections that can seem remote from our busy modern lives. We are enormously thankful that you demonstrate the value these connections have by continuing to support us in our conservation efforts in these parks.

In this newsletter, we establish some new connections. A major new biodiversity conservation initiative, the creation of the Nyika Transfrontier Conservation Area, is now underway on the Nyika. We are delighted that Humphrey Nzima, the project coordinator, has contributed an article that explains what this means. Meanwhile, a report on recent leopard encounters on the Nyika by another important partner, Wilderness Safaris, highlights the significance of tourism in the sustainable development of wilderness areas.

Here in the UK, as autumn approaches, we are gearing up for our annual party on 6 November at the RGS in London (more details below). This is always a special occasion for us, and we really hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join in the celebration of the year's work.

With best wishes,

Jane Gallacher (Editor)

## The 2012 Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust lecture and social evening

This year's annual lecture and social event, hosted by The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust, will again be at the Royal Geographical Society, Exhibition Road entrance, London SW7 2AR on Tuesday 6 November 2012. Doors open at 6pm. The lecture starts at 6.45 pm.

We are very pleased that this year's lecture will be given by Lisa Holyhead and Jerry Kent, who did a superb job as volunteer Trust Managers based at Chilinda during their travels in Africa. Now back in the UK, the title of their lecture is "One Land Rover, Two Lawyers, Three Years – Our 70,000 Mile Journey Through Africa".

Many "do" the Cape to Cairo in eight weeks but Lisa and Jerry, both lawyers taking a year out, embraced "Africa time" and took three years! They visited some of the continent's most wild and remote places, all the time in the company of their trusty Land Rover. Their travelogue will be an extraordinary photographic journey. This is an illustrated lecture not to be missed!

As well as Lisa and Jerry's lecture, our chairman, Tom Lupton, will report on recent developments on the Nyika and in Vwaza. He and Julie are visiting Malawi at the end of September, so Tom's news will be hot off the press!



Jerry and Lisa with the Land Rover

During the evening a cash bar will operate. Original paintings of birds of the Nyika and Vwaza by David Kelly will be on sale with matching notelet cards. Malawi Calendars 2013 by the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi will also be available.

There is an application form for tickets (£18 per person or £9 per student) at the back of this newsletter on pages 13 and 14 and can be printed as required. Or you can contact our honorary secretary and treasurer, Peter Lawrance, at The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4NA. Email [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com). Tel : 01483 714130.

This event is a major date in our diary. The evening allows us to let you know what has been happening with the projects that you support and also enables us to thank you personally for your commitment to this extraordinary corner of Malawi. Please do join us if you can.

### VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

If you have some free time on the afternoon/evening of 6 November and would like to help us organise the evening, please contact Peter Lawrance (details above). Thank you!

## Game without frontiers: collaborative conservation in the Nyika Transfrontier Conservation Area

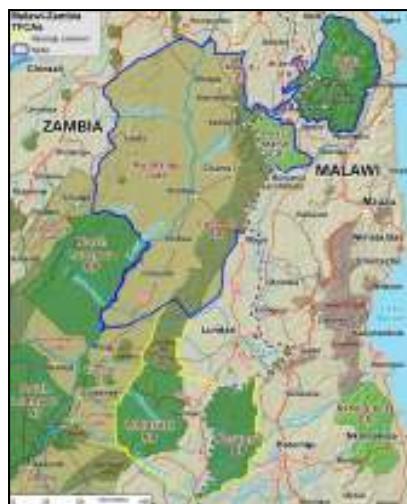
***Animals and plants do not recognise international boundaries, so why should their conservation and management depend upon which side of a border they sit? This is the thinking that underpins the concept of the transfrontier conservation area.***

***In this newsletter we are most fortunate to have an article on Nyika Transfrontier Conservation Area by Humphrey Nzima. Humphrey is the project co-ordinator and a trustee of NVT in Malawi. The article describes this major new biodiversity conservation initiative. NVT is involved in implementing, managing and co-financing components of the project.***

**Biography:** Mr. Humphrey Nzima has worked in conservation for nearly thirty years, holding various senior positions in the Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the last being that of deputy director. From 2004 to 2008, he was international coordinator for the Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Areas. From 2008 to 2011, he was programme coordinator for the World Bank funded project, Sustainable Management of Nyika Transfrontier Conservation Area. In 2012, Mr. Nzima reverted to the position of International Coordinator for the Malawi-Zambia TFCAs. He holds a Masters degree in Rural Resources and Environmental Policy, a BSc in Wildlife Management, and a BSc in Biology and Psychology. He also holds a certificate in natural resources management.



Mr Humphrey Nzima



Nyika TFCA

A Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) involves two or more countries managing "frontier" conservation areas across borders cooperatively and collaboratively. The concept is set out in the Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to which both Malawi and Zambia are signatories.

The Peace Parks Foundation is a non-governmental organisation operating within the SADC Region that has taken on the role of facilitating the development of TFCAs. The PPF believes that TFCAs can be justified for biodiversity conservation reasons, as socio-economic drivers of development, as promoters of regional co-operation and peace building, and as a legitimate and sometimes optimal form of land use in usually remote areas. A further important role of the PPF is to assist, where possible, in attracting donor funding for TFCA development and with implementation support.

Following a study in 2003 funded and facilitated by Peace Parks Foundation which identified over 22 potential and existing TFCAs in the SADC region, the Foundation supported a process of consultations between the Zambia Wildlife Authority and Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife. This process led to the signing on 13 August 2004 of a Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Malawi and Zambia to establish the Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Areas.

The MoU identified for development into TFCAs an area of more than 35,000km<sup>2</sup>, incorporating Malawi's Nyika National Park, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, Kasungu National Park and Zambia's Nyika National Park, Lundazi-, Mitenge- and Mikuti Forest Reserves, the Musalangu Game Management Area and Lukusuzi National Park. The map above shows the areas that are to form the TFCAs. The vision is for the TFCAs to be managed collaboratively in a sustainable way, with full stakeholder participation, so as to foster regional cooperation, encourage cross-border biodiversity conservation, and contribute to the socio-economic development of local communities.

The signing of the MoU was just the start of the process, marking the beginning of formal negotiations between the Malawian and Zambian governments for the establishment of the TFCAs. There is an institutional framework through which negotiations are conducted. This includes the Bilateral Ministerial Committee, consisting of Ministers responsible for tourism and wildlife, which provides political, policy and strategic direction for the TFCA process; the Bilateral Technical Committee, consisting of senior government officials from relevant ministries, which basically translates Ministerial decisions into operational guidelines and National TFCA Committees consisting of line ministries dealing with wildlife, tourism, immigration, customs, veterinary and security issues. This institutional framework is the main tool for promoting stakeholder involvement in the TFCA establishment and development process.

Since 2004, this process has stalled for various reasons. Consequently the establishment of the Malawi-Zambia TFCAs has not yet been formalised through an international treaty. However, this has not prevented some progress, with several partners offering to support the development of the Nyika TFCA, a component of the Malawi-Zambia TFCAs. It is on the Nyika TFCA that the rest of this article now focuses.

A first step was the Joint Law Enforcement Support Programme. This was initiated in 2005, with funding from PPF, to stem the tide of poaching and to enhance the tourism and conservation value of the Nyika TFCA. A joint command structure was developed under the programme that enabled the Zambia Wildlife Authority and Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife law enforcement staff to conduct joint anti-poaching operations across the Malawi-Zambia border within the Nyika TFCA. Coupled with the provision of logistical support and training, this programme produced unprecedented results. From 2005 to 2008, for example, the number of poachers convicted by the courts increased by over 350%; jail sentences increased in terms of number and length by over 660% and fines increased in terms of number and severity by over 1450%. These improvements were also reflected in improved animal sightings.

(Continued on page 3)



Caught poachers

Encouraged by the success of this programme, PPF secured further funding for a restocking project designed to reintroduce into the Nyika TFCA some of the depleted animal species including zebra, impala, sable antelope and waterbuck. The project started with the construction in 2007 of a Wildlife Sanctuary that straddles the Malawi-Zambia border. Several animal species originating from North Luangwa National Park in Zambia and Liwonde National Park in Malawi were later introduced into the Sanctuary, called Bambanda-Zaro. Surveillance of the animals is provided by a joint Malawi-Zambia anti-poaching team housed at adjacent camps along the Malawi-Zambia border. Not a single incident of poaching has been reported in the Sanctuary. More introductions are planned in the life of the Nyika TFCA project.

The joint law enforcement support programme and the joint restocking project represent unique examples of transfrontier cooperation in the entire SADC region. These are currently success stories from which other TFCAs in the region are learning lessons.

It has been difficult to sustain the gains made between 2005 and 2008 following the scaling down of the law enforcement support project from 2009. Signs of poaching have resurfaced. The good news, though, is that through the Nyika TFCA project efforts to contain poaching within the TFCA will be resuscitated.

In 2007, the Malawian and Zambian governments requested the World Bank to assist with the development of the Nyika TFCA through a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project. This project, to run for five years from the beginning of 2012, supports transboundary biodiversity conservation through planning, institution building, fundraising and capacity building for protected areas within the Nyika TFCA. The project is co-financed by the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the Peace Parks Foundation. It is being implemented through the following three components:

- Institutional and Planning Framework, whose objective is to establish and put into operation planning functions for the Nyika TFCA by financing the design of TFCA-wide instruments and assisting with the establishment and capacity building of the implementation agencies.
- Sustainable Financing, whose objective is to develop mechanisms for the financial sustainability of the TFCA management through the institutions responsible for long-term management of the Nyika TFCA.
- Protected Areas Management, whose objective is to improve management effectiveness of protected areas within the TFCA.

The Nyika TFCA project is now effective, with the signing recently of World Bank/ GEF and Royal Norwegian Financing Agreements. Implementation of this project will bring several general benefits:

- Improved resource protection and management should enhance tourism. This, in turn, will contribute to foreign exchange earnings, employment and local small enterprise.
- The Nyika TFCA accounts for 33% of all the water supply in Malawi. Effective management and protection of the Nyika catchment will enhance and sustain water supplies critical for agriculture, fisheries, potable drinking water and power generation. The Nyika catchment fulfils the same function on the Zambian side through the Luangwa system.
- The project will also improve management and tourism infrastructure which is key to realising all the other benefits.

In terms of specific planned impacts, the outcome will be measured by three indicators:

- Transfrontier planning instruments adopted by Ministerial Committee. Joint planning and management documents are the basis of coordinated and collaborative work by the Zambia Wildlife Authority, Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife and other related institutions. Adopting and using joint plans is seen to be a key performance area.
- Areas with signs of illegal land use inside the protected areas of the Nyika TFCA are 5% for Nyika and 0% for Vwaza. Encroachment into protected areas has been identified as a serious threat to the recovery of various animal populations as it reduces their habitat. The success of the project will be partly measured by the extent to which this particular problem is contained and reduced.
- Score of Protected Area Management Effectiveness. This is a loaded measure of the capacity of the management agencies effectively to manage protected areas within the TFCA. Some of the factors that determine management effectiveness are: legislation and policies, management plans, staffing levels, budget, research strategy, and the existence of secure protected area boundaries. Individual scores for each factor are added to come up with an overall capacity rating.

The Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve received massive investments in the recent past, in particular from the German government, without significant conservation impact. The GEF/World Bank, the Norwegian



Nyika law enforcement team



Impala at the breeding sanctuary



Embassy and Peace Parks Foundation are providing a small fraction of funding provided by the German government. However, the prospects of conservation success are much higher because of the ecosystems approach the Nyika TFCA project is supporting. The success of the joint law enforcement project implemented from 2005 to 2008 justifies our optimism about the current Nyika TFCA project. However, gains brought about by the project require that sustainable financial mechanisms and institutions are developed in the course of the project.

The Nyika TFCA project is at an early stage but all stakeholders are clear that, for it to be successful, sustainable benefits must extend beyond the five year life of the project. There is optimism that this is an achievable goal.

Zebra release at the breeding sanctuary

### Recent donations and projects requiring funding

***We rely entirely on donations from you, our supporters, to fund our work in Northern Malawi. However small the amount you are able to afford to give will be most gratefully received and you can be sure that it will be put to effective use. Thank you in anticipation.***

With this in mind, we thought you might like to see the level of donations we have received from supporters over the last six months or so. Set out below is a summary of donations in general, donations in memory of someone who has died and other donations. These are based on accounts for the period of six months ended 31.8.12 and include the value of Gift aid where applicable.

#### General donations

Range	Number	Total value
>£1000	1	5000
£500-£999	3	2158
£250-£499	-	-
£100-£249	3	394
£1-£99	36	2796
Donations given in memory of those who have died	11	500
Other donations		490

There are two particular projects on the Nyika and Vwaza for which we are still seeking funding from our supporters, as set out below.

Project	Budget	Period
Three Forest Access	£2600 p.a.	3-5 years
Bridges Project	£2000 p.a.	3-5 years

**Three Forest Access:** Within the Nyika National Park there are three important forests which have become neglected: Zovo Chipolo and Chowo, on the west, and Fingira Rock, a site of special archaeological interest with rock paintings that was used by hunter-gatherers over 3000 years ago, in the south. Work at each site includes the clearance of and repair to access roads, areas cleared for car parking, forest trails cleared and signposted and information leaflets printed.

**Bridges Project:** This project is to maintain the existing bridges in both Nyika and Vwaza and to make two new bridges in Vwaza.

*If you would like to fund either the Three Forest Access or the Bridges projects, please get in touch with our honorary secretary and treasurer, Peter Lawrance, at The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4NA. Email [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com). Tel : 01483 714130.*

*If you would like to make a donation for general trust purposes, you can do so right now by going to the trust website at [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org) and click on the Donate Now button as shown below or you can contact Peter Lawrance as above.*

 **Donate Now**

## Leopards of the Nyika: a Wilderness Safaris report

As many readers will know, the Nyika National Park supports a healthy leopard population. In the two years since ecotourism company Wilderness Safaris took over the tourism concession on the Nyika, their guides and guests have had some extraordinary leopard encounters. Roshenka de Mel, Marketing Co-ordinator for Wilderness Safaris Malawi, explains more...

The Nyika National Park is Malawi's largest park and carries the distinction of being the only big game Afro-montane area in South-Central Africa. Whilst the Nyika harbours rich biodiversity, and an abundance of flora and fauna inhabit the high altitude grasslands and plateau, one of the park's main highlights is its leopard population and the incredible sightings which guests, guides and staff on the Nyika continue to experience on a regular basis.

Wilderness Safaris is an ecotourism and conservation company which in 2010 was awarded the concession to run Chelinda Camp and Chelinda Lodge in Nyika National Park. The company's sustainable business model operates on the 4C's – the belief that conservation, community, culture and commerce form four equally significant pillars in our overall business operation. Wilderness Safaris strives to preserve pristine areas with the help of local communities and to connect guests to these areas through ecotourism. Although the Nyika-Vwaza Trust's main role is to support the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the NVT team have also assisted Wilderness Safaris guides, including by notifying them of special sightings (especially that of wild dog and leopard).

Leopards on the Nyika can be incredibly elusive but between Wilderness Safaris' guests and guides and NVT drivers, sightings are reported on a regular basis. As a result of this co-operation, guests are often able to come into close view of these majestic big cats.

**Off to a promising start:** When Wilderness Safaris first received the concession to run Chelinda Camp and Lodge in 2010, our General Manager, Sam Chiwayu, reported an exciting stream of leopard sightings. In September 2010, Sam spotted four leopards in one night, on the same game drive at around 6:45 pm near Chelinda Bridge, including a female leopard and her two cubs. The first sign that leopards were venturing in close to camp came from a single spoor print that was found outside room 4 at Chelinda Camp. The spoor print was located on the whitewashed walls, right beside the window pane. Two German tourists had been occupying the room at the time and the spoor print indicated that the inquisitive leopard had reached up and peered through the window, possibly in an effort to observe them!



Leopard in Chelinda pine plantation

**A rare window into the world of leopards:** The sighting reports continued to pour in as our teams got incredibly close to the Park's leopards and were able to observe many unusual moments. Their notes showed that they really did have a unique window into the lives of Nyika's leopards, and they were in turn able to share this with our guests. In September 2010, for example, Sam Chiwayu reported the following: "I had a lovely sighting of a mating pair of leopard the other morning at the entrance to the Zambian rest house (just off the main road). It was the very big male that I had seen the previous day, however this time he was on honeymoon with his mate. Undisturbed by my presence, the leopards mated three times within 30 minutes before slowly walking into the bush."



Leopard cubs photographed by Matt Floreen

In August 2010, guide Whyte Mhone had reported another close encounter that brought both guest and guide up close to several leopards:

*"We started our afternoon drive at 3:30 pm. Around 5:00 pm we were observing Red-winged Francolin when we noticed something sitting right in the middle of the road. When we drove closer we realised it was a big male leopard. He watched us and then he moved off the road and looked at us as if to say 'what are you looking at?' He then lay down in the grass. My four guests happily observed him for the next 30 minutes, their cameras busy all the while. We then proceeded uphill towards Chosi View Point and stopped a while for a sundowner.*

*It was almost dark and I was serving beer and snacks when we suddenly saw a female leopard watching us. Not far from her, we noticed a second sub-adult leopard. Both of them started moving towards us in a stalking motion (advancing very slowly under the spotlight). They drew closer and the sub-adult came to within 3 metres of us, all the while looking into our eyes. After about 30 minutes of very inquisitive behaviour they moved on. This was the best leopard sighting I have had as a guide and my guests were absolutely thrilled. The most enjoyable moment for us all was when the leopards were closely observing the beer being served. It was just as if they too wanted their share!"*

**Earlier this year:** In May 2012, guide Apollo was on a game drive from Dembo road and was returning from the airstrip when he saw a large male leopard jump onto the road. He followed the leopard for a while, driving quietly behind him. Suddenly abrupt noises were heard 50 metres away and the leopard dashed ahead and stopped on the right hand side of the road. As Joe the spotter shone his light along the road, there were two spotted hyenas feeding on a fresh kill of reedbuck. Whilst the hyenas feasted, the leopard quietly waited for his turn. Hyaenas are often scavengers but

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

curiously, the tables were turned in this instance. In the month of August 2012, there were eight leopard sightings reported; often leopards were seen sitting by, or walking alongside, the roads. The best time for spotting leopards on the Nyika is in the early evenings (from 5:45pm onwards); however, there have been instances where our guides have spotted leopards stalking their prey in the heat of the early afternoons.

As time has progressed, more guests continue to visit the Nyika and explore its vast grasslands. Guests can, if they are lucky, get “up close and personal” with the Park’s leopards and are able to observe them and their unique behaviours without being obtrusive. Often NVT team members pass on their own reports to Wilderness guides giving them a “heads up” on any new sightings and their locations. In March 2012, for example, NVT driver Baxter alerted our guides to a record sighting of six leopards in one and a half hours! Baxter had seen all of the leopards on the road and had excellent views of all of them. It is this team-work and sharing of knowledge between Department of National Park Scouts, Nyika-Vwaza Trust team members and Wilderness Safaris guides which enables us to share these incredible leopard sightings with guests and highlight them on various news forums, which in turn serves to encourage visits to the Nyika and tourism on the whole to the region.

*Roshenka's article is based on source material from Sam Chiwayu, Whyte Mhone and Chris Badger. Photographs are courtesy of Matt Floreen (a Wilderness Safaris' guest) and Zana Scheltema and Sam Chiwayu (both of whom are Wilderness Safaris' staff).*

*These days, there can be no argument that ecotourism is a vital component for the sustainable development of wilderness areas like the Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve. Wilderness Safaris is an important stakeholder on the Nyika and we value the collaborative relationship we have with them, both on a day-to-day basis on the ground and at an institutional level.*



Leopard seen by spotlight

### First promotional evening in Edinburgh for UK Trust

On Friday, 17 August 2012, the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust held its first ever awareness event in Edinburgh. The aim of the evening was to present the activities of the UK and Malawi Trusts to people in Edinburgh who have strong connections with Malawi and who could help widen the support network of the Trusts in the UK.

The evening began at 5.00pm with an opportunity for guests to mingle and chat over refreshments, which included wine and canapés, before sitting down for a presentation by our chairman, Tom Lupton, on the activities of the Trusts, both in the UK and Malawi. The talk was very well received and Tom was able to provide an excellent overview of both the Nyika and Vwaza. Everyone seemed to appreciate how much had been achieved to date by both the UK and the Malawi Trusts, with great interest being shown in our project portfolio, “Supporting our projects”. Recent pictures sent by our volunteer Trust Managers in Northern Malawi, Geoff and Patsy Woole, added plenty of colour.

After the talk and questions there was again the opportunity for people to catch up over a glass of wine or coffee and to discuss Tom’s presentation further. There was also time to look at David Kelly’s most recent wildlife art work of Malawian birds. About 40 people attended the evening and the gathering eventually closed at about 7.45pm. On the night we raised £490, from a combination of picture and card sales.

The event could not have been held without the fantastic support given to the UK Trust by Scottish Life, who provided us with the venue and security, and their caterers, Baxter Story, who provided the refreshments and their services free of charge for the evening. Thank you very much to both of them!

## Nyika news

Geoff and Patsy Woole, our volunteer Trust Managers, based at Chilinda, provide an update on developments earlier this year on the Nyika.

**Visitors:** We have enjoyed many visitors to the plateau in recent times.

We very much appreciated the visit of Ed Gordon (nephew of Ian) earlier in the season. Ed donated a sturdy hand-wound diesel pump for the vehicle workshop. It has already been put to good use, as there is much transferral of diesel from drums to chigubus (ubiquitous five litre containers – invariably yellow) to vehicles. The mechanics wished us to pass on their thanks to Ed – no more mouthfuls of siphoned gas!

We also had a cup of tea with Lorna Hobson and her husband Alan. Lorna had worked here forty years ago and was thoroughly enjoying re-establishing a strong link with Malawi.

Our final visitors were a pair of sunbirds, who ‘adopted’ our cabin garden. The bird pictured has made several attempts to get inside the house – his frustration is usually assuaged when he catches sight of his reflection in the window!



Double collared sunbird

**Mount Mulanje Fire Training Seminar:** Earlier this year, Geoff, Rodwell Kaonga and Gurnett Mhango (capitao/burn leaders) bussed down to Mulanje Mountain to attend a course by Lesley Williams and her team of three from the United States Fire Service. The event was hosted by the Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust, under the direction of NVT's Carl Bruessow.



View of Mulanje from MMCT



Luchenya plateau

Course elements examined habitat management through to controlled burn techniques. The practical was carried out on the mountain, at Luchenya Plateau. This included weather reading and recording, discussion of relevant burn strategies, management of natural fuel, characteristics of smoke, velocity, communications, safety, monitoring and evaluation.

**Core Trust Responsibilities:** The main work of the Malawi Trust is still road and bridge maintenance, habitat management (the burn programme and invasive removal) and signage.

### Road maintenance

Zungwara Loop, the Runyina Alternative route, Chosi Loop, Chilinda village and the Wilderness Safaris road network have all been graded. In addition, further work on roadside drains has been carried out.

Prior to grading, many of the grassy stretches of our roads are hand slashed. This important work enables tourists and park staff to travel freely, without the risk of cramming their radiators with chaff and grass seeds; a situation which leads to ineffective water cooling, and hence engine overheating.



Baxter, head mechanic



Tow grader team



Runinya road after grade

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

It's great to get positive feedback from tourists and stakeholders. Mr Mteto, Nyika National Park manager, commented that the first section of the Runyina Road was "a dream - like a tarmac road".

#### Habitat Management – Invasive control (exotic species)

This season, we have allocated most programme time to the removal of the rapidly advancing *Rubus* genus. We have removed thousands of plants from around the Chilinda Forest to Dam 3 area.



Fire campaign underway, Manyanyeze Forest (Chosi Loop)

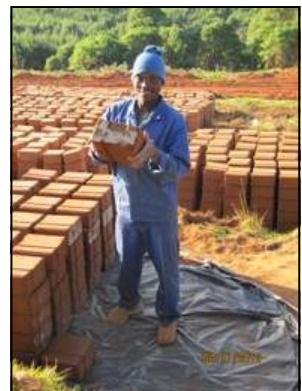
#### Habitat management - Early burn programme

Our fire programme began officially on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, with seven trial burns set along the drier sections of the Runyina alternative route.

#### Projects

##### Permanent staff housing

Building of the sub-structure (footing and wall) for the first duplex is presently taking place. We have engaged Amon Manda a master builder to act as building advisor and inspector on our behalf.



The brick-making process.....from left; Mateyo Kapira, Kondwane Kafunda x 2, and Peter Chione, placing the last block

#### Indigenous Tree Nursery

Geoff is cautiously optimistic about the several juniper transplants growing in the trial plot. Many of the seedlings are beginning to show the first signs of adapting to their new site – fresh green shoots are sprouting from their growing tips.

The *Hagenia* specimens have settled very well, many have now doubled in size.

Further updates on activities in the field from Geoff and Patsy will follow in the next issue of Nyika-Vwaza News.

#### Butterflies of the Nyika – new list on website

As mentioned in the Spring 2012 Newsletter, part of the Nyika-Vwaza Trust's task is making information on the area more accessible through our website (see [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/Resources/Resources.html](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/Resources/Resources.html)).

The latest addition to our resources is a checklist of the butterflies of the Nyika National Park. Originally compiled by the late Ivan Bampton, one of Africa's leading experts on the group, it was published in Sigrid Johnson's *Visitors Guide to the Nyika National Park, Malawi* (1993), but has been updated for nomenclature and any recent additions by Ivan's colleague, Colin Congdon.

The list, which also indicates the areas where each species has been recorded, shows there are 223 species recorded from the National Park, of which 13 are endemic (only known from the Nyika). Not surprisingly, the majority of these endemics are Blues (family Lycaenidae), which is also the most species-rich group.

Over the next year we plan to produce a plant checklist, based on the very detailed 2005 Sabonet report written by John Burrows and Chis Willis, and a checklist of molluscs. These will be valuable additions to the existing bibliography and bird checklist already on the NVT website. Any other suggestions, and of course any additions or corrections to the existing lists, would be most welcome.

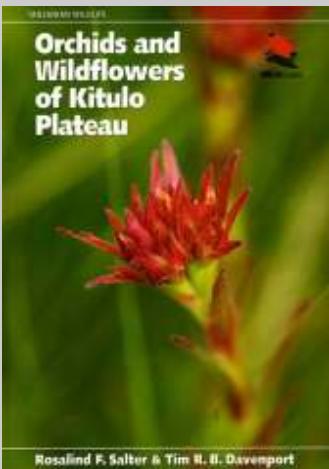


*Iolaus helena* (male), an endemic butterfly from the Nyika plateau (© Colin Congdon)

## Readers' Corner

In this issue of Nyika-Vwaza News, we highlight two books in which readers may be interested – *Not out of Malawi by Enid Waterfield* and *Orchids and Wildflowers of Kitulo Plateau* by Rosalind Salter and Tim Davenport, the latter of which is reviewed by orchid expert and Nyika-Vwaza Trust Patroni Naturaee, Isobyl la Croix.

**Orchids and Wildflowers of Kitulo Plateau** by Rosalind F. Salter & Tim R.B. Davenport, 84pp. 130 colour photographs, 2 maps, softback, 21 x 14.6cm, 2011, WildGuides Ltd., ISBN 978-1903657-34-8. £15.00. Available from [sales@wildguides.co.uk](mailto:sales@wildguides.co.uk) or the Natural History Book Service, [www.nhbs.com](http://www.nhbs.com).



In 2002, the Kitulo Plateau in Tanzania became the first National Park in tropical Africa gazetted mainly for its wild flowers. It is rich in orchids and it was the threat to these caused by large-scale collection of tubers, lorry-loads of which were sent to Zambia as food items, that led to the formation of the National Park. While small-scale harvesting by local people presented little threat, the international trade was a different matter. This is discussed in the introduction to this booklet, along with a description of the park and its habitats.

The book is aimed at visitors to the park who may not know much about wild flowers but would like to put names to some of those they see. The Kitulo plateau and Nyika have many species in common, so the book should also be relevant to visitors to the Nyika National Park. It is clearly written, using as few “technical” terms as possible and an illustrated glossary explains terms that are used.

Following this, 112 species of flower found in Kitulo NP are described, including 29 orchids. Each is illustrated by a good colour photograph with text alongside giving a brief but clear description and describing the habitat where each may be found. There are some mistakes in the orchid accounts – the photograph captioned *Disa welwitschii* is not that species but *D. ukingensis* – a name that is not a synonym of *D. engleriana* as stated but represents a species in its own right. *Disa erubescens* is given as a synonym of *D. stolzii*, but it is the accepted name for that beautiful species, while *D. stolzii* (a later name) is the synonym.

That apart, the book is attractive and well-produced and should appeal to many people who want an inexpensive and conveniently sized book that they can carry around if they are fortunate enough to visit Kitulo NP and other high grasslands of eastern and central Africa.

*Isobyl la Croix*

**Not out of Malawi** by Enid Waterfield describes the formative years of a young couple embarking on marriage in a remote corner of a remote country in Africa, in the pre-plastic, pre-mobile phone days of the early 1950s. The stated aim of the husband, an Agricultural Assistant in the British Colonial Service, was to improve the lot of the impoverished people who lived there, by means of better farming practices. It is an enjoyable read for those who know northern Malawi and the Misuka area in particular.

Enid Waterfield, born 1927, was brought up in Hertfordshire and educated in the air-raid shelters of Watford. She trained as a librarian and followed that career for some years. She and her husband live in Dorset. They have been married for 54 years and have four children.

For copies of this book contact Enid Waterfield, Tel 01308 485599 or email [enid.waterfield225@btinternet.com](mailto:enid.waterfield225@btinternet.com) Price £12.99 to include UK P&P.



## Donate Now

To make a donation now please go to [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org) and click on the Donate Now button shown above.

### Printing and postage costs

Like everything else the cost of producing and distributing the bi-annual NVT newsletter continues to increase dramatically. One of the most significant costs is the postage for both UK and international recipients of the newsletter. Just over a third of you now receive an electronic version of the newsletter by email and this helps enormously to reduce our expenditure. We would like to increase the number of people receiving the newsletter by email to well over fifty percent so if you have an email address and are not already receiving the newsletter by email please send the details of your email address to [mikebudgen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mikebudgen@tiscali.co.uk) if you are happy to receive the newsletter by email in future or fill in the enclosed form. The newsletter is sent in PDF form so it easy to print on your own printer in colour or black and white.

For those of you who have no email and so would like to continue receiving the newsletter by post please fill in the enclosed form and send it to our trustee Mike Budgen who maintains the Nyika Vwaza Trust mailing database. His address is 15 Kempton Close, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 2TY or you can contact him by telephone on 01420 82810.

Thank you.

### Legacies

Leaving a legacy is one of the easiest ways to make a gift to charity and is a good way to make a significant donation and help secure the charity's long-term future. Please consult your solicitor on making a will or to make an adjustment to include The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust, or alternatively visit the "Remember a Charity" website for a step-by-step guide at:

[www.rememberacharity.org.uk](http://www.rememberacharity.org.uk)

If you decide to include The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust in your will for a legacy, we would be grateful if you could inform us of your decision.

The Nyika-Vwaza Trust can only continue with the vital task of helping to conserve the Nyika and Vwaza Marsh with the continuing support of generous donations. We welcome further donations from current Friends of the Trust but we also endeavour to widen our scope for funding so please pass on copies of the newsletter to your friends and relations.



Disa orchid, Nyika plateau

The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust registered in England and Wales Reg. charity no. 1105105  
The Nyika-Vwaza Trust registered in Malawi

The Trust Manager  
Box 577  
Mzuzu  
Malawi

Tel: +265 (0) 1 310 180  
Email: manager@nyika-vwaza-trust.org  
info@nyika-vwaza-trust.org  
Website: [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org)



*Working for environmental and wildlife conservation in northern Malawi.*

The Hon. Treasurer/Secretary  
50 Brewery Road,  
Woking,  
Surrey.  
GU21 4NA  
Tel: +44 (0)1483 714130  
Email: sec.nvt@gmail.com

Email: info@nyika-vwaza-trust.org  
Website: [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org)

## BANKER'S ORDER

(for UK residents only)

To:- ..... Bank plc.

.....  
.....  
.....

(Please insert the name and address of your Bank in the space above)

Please pay to Lloyds TSB Bank plc, 40 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1BQ (Sort Code 30-90-15), for the credit of The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust's Account No. 01205669, the sum of :-

£ ..... on .....

(Please insert date above)

and thereafter every month/quarter/six months/year (*delete as appropriate*) until cancelled by me in writing.

Name of Account to be debited .....

.....

Account Number .....

Signature .....

Date .....

Please return this completed form to:-

Hon. Treasurer,  
Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust,  
50 Brewery Road,  
Woking,  
Surrey.  
GU21 4NA  
for registration and onward transmission to your Bank.

## Friends of the Nyika-Vwaza Trust Donation Form

PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS IN CAPITALS

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Forenames: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a donation of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or: I have completed the Banker's Order Form.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

In the past four years  Today  In the future

(Please tick boxes you wish to apply)

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature:

Date:

UK taxpayers are asked to send donations to the UK Hon. Treasurer, other donors either to the UK Hon. Treasurer or to The Trust Manager, Box 577, Mzuzu, Malawi.



**Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust**  
**Promotional Evening with Lecture by Jerry Kent and Lisa Holyhead**  
**at the Royal Geographical Society,**  
**Exhibition Road entrance, London SW7 2AR on Tuesday 06 November 2012.**

“One Land Rover, Two Lawyers, Three Years - Our 70,000 Mile Journey Through Africa”.

**Application Form for Tickets**

Admission tickets are £18 per person or £9 per student.

I would like to apply for            tickets to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust fundraising party on 6th November 2012 for the people named below.

I enclose my cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust.

**(Please complete in block letters)**

Name of Applicant:		Ticket No:
Organisation Name: (if applicable)		
Address:		Date Issued:
Contact Tel. No:		
Email Address:		

Names of other people for whom tickets are requested ( see also Continuation Sheet ):

Name:		Ticket No:
Organisation Name: (if applicable)		
Address:		Date Issued:
Contact Tel. No.		
Email Address:		

Please return this form, with your remittance, a.s.a.p.to Peter Lawrance, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, NV(UK)T, The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4NA.

**((Please complete in block letters))**

Name of Applicant:		Ticket No:
Organisation Name: (if applicable)		
Address:		Date Issued:
Contact Tel. No:		
Email Address:		
Name of Applicant:		Ticket No:
Organisation Name: (if applicable)		
Address:		Date Issued:
Contact Tel. No:		
Email Address:		
Name of Applicant:		Ticket No:
Organisation Name: (if applicable)		
Address:		Date Issued:
Contact Tel. No:		
Email Address:		
Name of Applicant:		Ticket No:
Organisation Name: (if applicable)		
Address:		Date Issued:
Contact Tel. No:		
Email Address:		