



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

Welcome to the Autumn 2013 issue of Nyika-Vwaza News.

In the UK, we are just a month away from our annual promotional evening. We do hope to see you there, so that we can update you on all that has been going on in northern Malawi over the last year. You'll find details of the time and date, and how to obtain tickets, in the article immediately below.

In Malawi, we have had to say a sad farewell to Mike and Emma Rutter, who have been managing our activities up on the Nyika and in Vwaza for the last six months. They have worked incredibly hard, have been supremely effective - and we are extremely grateful to them for their efforts. Into the place they vacate to continue their Africa travels, steps Sam Banda. Sam was employed as the Nyika Transfrontier Conservation Area-funded Malawi Trust assistant manager in 2012. His background is in civil engineering and he is highly experienced in project management. That makes Sam an obvious choice for the Trust manager's role and we are delighted that he is leading the team.

Meanwhile, in another bumper issue of Nyika-Vwaza News, you will find a stunning guide to the Nyika's *Satyrium* orchids by Isobyl la Croix, an update on the first grants given by the Foot Educational Fund to a number of schools adjacent to the Nyika and an interview with a young English schoolgirl, Isabelle Beyer, on why she based a recent school project on the work of the Nyika-Vwaza Trusts.

So, we hope you'll find much to enjoy in this newsletter and also much to encourage you to continue to support us. It is only through your generous donations that we can continue to make a difference to the people and wildlife on the Nyika and in Vwaza. Thank you for that!

With best wishes,

**Jane Gallacher (Editor)**

## An evening with The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust at The Royal Over Seas League - Tuesday 5 November 2013

We hope you will be able to join us for our annual promotional evening at **The Royal Over Seas League** in London on **Tuesday, 5 November**.

As you know, we rely entirely on your donations to fund our conservation work in northern Malawi. So it is crucial that we update you on that work whenever we can. We're sure you will agree there is no better way of doing this than meeting face-to-face!

Tickets for the evening cost £16. They are available from Peter Lawrance (tel: 01483 714130; e-mail: [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com); address: The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4NA). Alternatively, please complete the application form at the back of this newsletter.

Please note the change of venue to The Royal Over Seas League this year (we are **not** at The Royal Geographical Society). Partly this is because the ROSL should provide a more intimate setting for our gathering. But also the new venue reduces the costs of running the event.

The programme for the evening is:

- 6.00pm** Doors open at the Hall of India and the Wrench Room. There is a pay bar beside the rooms.  
**Hall of India:** screen presentation of the work and current needs of The Nyika-Vwaza Trusts.  
**Wrench Room:** sale of David Kelly paintings and cards and WESM calendars.
- 6.45pm** **Hall of India:** update on the work of The Nyika-Vwaza Trusts by Tom Lupton, Chairman of The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust, and talk by Chris Badger of Central African Wilderness Safaris, "Ecotourism in Malawi – the Wilderness Story".
- 8.00pm** Sales and social continue in both rooms.
- 9.00pm** Evening ends.



Glorious Nyika

The Royal Overseas League is at Park Place, St James's Street, London, SW1A 1LR. The nearest tube station is Green Park. Meals are available in the Restaurant (a la carte menu), the Cocktail Bar (light snacks) or the Buttery (lighter meals). There is generally no problem getting a table in the Cocktail Bar or the Buttery but those for the Restaurant must be booked (tel: 020 7408 0214 x220). Last orders are at 9.30pm. It may also be possible to stay overnight at the ROSL (for more details see <http://www.rosl.org.uk/> or phone 020 7408 0214 x 217. You will need to say at the time of booking that you are attending The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust event on 5 November. There is no guarantee bookings will be accepted.)

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Where your money goes...

The table below shows the donations we received from you between September 2012 and August 2013 and how your money has been spent in that period.

We hope this gives you a clear picture of the projects that have been priorities in Malawi recently. Also, you will see that UK administration costs are kept to a minimum. We have no paid staff in the UK and the costs we do incur are associated almost entirely from producing this newsletter and holding our promotional evenings.

Main headings of Donations and expenditure September 2012 – August 2013	Unrestricted for unspecified projects or activities		Restricted for specified activities e.g. early burn, staff housing construction, road maintenance, management support, Education Fund, Endowment Fund	
	£	No	£	No
<b>Donations</b> (Including gift aid relief where applicable)				
>£1,000	12,500	1	6,000	2
£500-999			3,375	5
£250-499	612	2	312	1
£100-249	2,435	15	800	5
£1-99	5,346	61	731	18
	20,893		11,218	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>In Malawi</b>				
Conservation & general operating activities	18,500			
Early Burn programme			5,900	
Control of Invasive Species	2,450			
Management support	9,574		5,000	
Staff Housing construction	5,685			
Road Maintenance	5,900			
Maize Mill	900		2,500	
Other infrastructure	950			
Tree nursery			500	
Education fund project			1,000	
	43,959		14,900	
<b>In UK – Newsletter, Fund raising, Merchandise</b>	6,791			

One of the donations referred to in the table above was received from Mr Bob Phillips, son of the late Sir Henry Phillips, CMG, MBE, who was Minister of Finance in Nyasaland from 1962-64, after holding the post of Financial Secretary from 1957-62. Another donation was received in celebration of the birth of Prince George, the son of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, in the hope that in due course he will support the work of conservation of wilderness areas!

We fund our projects in Malawi entirely thanks to the support you give us. To make a donation, go to our website – [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org) – and click on the green “Donate now” button that appears on every page. Or contact Peter Lawrance (tel: 01483 714130; e-mail: [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com); address: The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4NA). Thank you!

## Satyrium on the Nyika

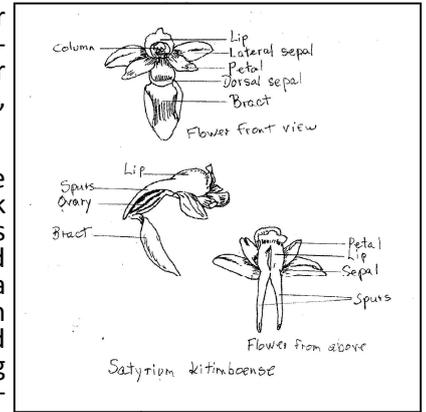
As many of you know, *Isobyl la Croix* is a botanist who lived in Malawi for ten years. She is an acknowledged expert on the country's native orchids and is also one of the UK Trust's *Patrona Naturae*.

*Isobyl* has already written an article for us on the diversity of orchid species that can be found on the Nyika, as well as a guide to the 22 species of *Disa* orchid that have been recorded there (readers of the electronic version of this newsletter can view these on our Articles webpage, under the "News" button ([www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org))).

*Isobyl* now turns her attention to another of the colourful orchid genera that occur on the Nyika, the *Satyrium*. As always, her text is accompanied by photographs of most these species, taken by her husband, the entomologist *Eric la Croix*.

The most colourful orchids in the Nyika National Park are species of *Disa* and their close relatives, *Satyrium*. They are both large genera. *Satyrium* includes over 100 species, most occurring in tropical and South Africa, but with five species in Madagascar and a few in Asia. Twenty-nine species have been recorded from Malawi and of these, 20 are known from the Nyika.

Some species are very showy, others have rather dull brownish flowers but all are easily recognised by the two spurs on the lip. The name is derived from the Greek *satyrion*, the two-horned satyr, referring to the twin spurs. In most orchids, the lip lies at the bottom of the flower but in *Satyrium* it is on top. The spurs may be short and bulbous or long and slender, hanging down or pointing upwards. The lip forms a hood, sometimes it is fleshy and almost globular with only a small opening, while in others it is wider with a more open mouth. Like *Disa*, satyriums have underground tubers and sadly, they are also in demand as food. Some species have leafy flowering stems, but others have the larger leaves on a separate sterile shoot with only sheathing leaves on the flowering stem. Several species have large, prominent, sometimes coloured bracts. Like *Disa*, *Satyrium* species grow in a range of habitats – bog, montane grassland and woodland.



Satyrium anatomy

One of the most striking species is *Satyrium princeae*, which has bright pink flowers and purplish bracts, a single heart-shaped leaf appressed to the ground and only a few sheathing leaves on the stem. Plants are slender, usually about 30 cm tall, and are quite widespread in wettish areas of the montane grassland at about 2100-2400 m. They flower in February and March. *S. princeae* is known only from the Nyika, in both Malawi and Zambia, and southern Tanzania. Three other Nyika species also have basal leaves tightly pressed to the ground. *S. orbiculare* has vermilion red flowers and two round or kidney-shaped leaves at the base. It occurs in a number of localities, growing in montane grassland between 1650 and 2200 m, and flowering from February to April. *S. carsonii* and *S. kitimboense* both have white flowers and two basal leaves. They are very similar, but *S. kitimboense* is a larger plant with bigger leaves (up to 8 x 9 cm), larger flowers and longer spurs, 20-24 mm long as opposed to 9-10 mm long in *S. carsonii*. *S. carsonii* is the commoner plant, growing in *Brachystegia* woodland (occasionally in dambos) at 1300 – 1750 m. It flowers in January and February, occasionally into March. *S. kitimboense* grows on grassy banks at the edge of woodland, in woodland and occasionally in dambos. It too flowers in February and March.



*Satyrium princeae*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium orbiculare*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium carsonii*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium kitimboense*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium buchananii*  
© Eric la Croix

*Satyrium buchananii* is one of the commoner species, forming big colonies in dambos and wet montane grassland at altitudes of 700 – 2400 m, although usually over 1200 m. The sweetly scented flowers are white with long, pendent, green-tipped spurs. The prominent bracts are pinkish-brown. The flowering time is December to January. *S. crassicaule* is another species that can form big colonies. It is a robust species, up to 1 m tall, with long, rather narrow inflorescences of pink flowers. It grows in wet areas, in bogs and at the edges of the dams, at 1300-2300 m and flowers from late December to February.



*Satyrium crassicaule*  
© Eric la Croix

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*S. monadenum* is a very striking species, 30-50 cm tall with carmine red flowers and red-tinged bracts. It often grows with *S. buchananii* in seasonally wet montane grassland at 2285-2400 m. It flowers in January and February, sometimes into March. Its overall distribution is similar to *S. princeae*.



*Satyrium monadenum*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium neglectum*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium sceptrum*  
© Eric la Croix

*S. rhynchantoides* is a distinctive little species, only 15-20 cm tall with a loose inflorescence of pale pink or lilac flowers. The lip has a very wide mouth and the spurs form an arch over the ovary. It grows among rocks and on seepage slopes in montane grassland at 1600-2200 m and flowers from January to March.



*Satyrium rhynchantoides*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium breve*  
© Eric la Croix

*S. breve* has one of the longest flowering periods of any of the Nyika orchids; plants can be found in flower from September to February. It is variable in colour, the flowers can be pale or deep pink, often with darker streaks, or reddish-purple. The lip is wide-mouthed and the spurs are short and thick, 1.5-5.5 mm long. It grows in montane bogs, sometimes in seepage areas in montane grassland, from 1200 – 2300 m.

*S. trinerve* (syn. *S. atherstonei*) occurs all over tropical Africa, in South Africa and in Madagascar and, as might be expected, is also widespread in Malawi. On the Nyika, it grows in dambos and in grassland at the edge of woodland, at altitudes from 600 to 2250 m. It flowers between December and March, with dense spikes of white and yellow flowers with very prominent white bracts. *S. amblyosaccos* has a superficial resemblance to *S. trinerve*, but the inflorescence is shorter, the flowers are white and green and the bracts are green rather than white and are less prominent. It is much less common than *S. trinerve*, but can be found in grassland and open spaces in woodland at 1300 – 2250 m. It flowers from January to March.



*Satyrium trinerve*  
© Eric la Croix



*Satyrium coriophoroides*  
© Eric la Croix

The remaining species belong to the group that has fleshy flowers with small mouths. Several may have vestigial spurs, usually about 1 mm long, below the "main" spurs. The most colourful of these species is *S. coriophoroides* (syn. *S. sacculatum*). It is a slender plant about 70 cm tall with a narrow, densely-flowered inflorescence. The flowers are smallish, deep cherry-red with slender spurs 13 mm long and a pair of vestigial spurs. It occurs as scattered plants in montane grassland, the edge of dambos and *Brachystegia* woodland at 1250 – 2285 m, and flowers in January and February, occasionally into March. *S. sphaeranthum* is a robust species up to 75 cm tall with a long, densely many-flowered inflorescence of bright yellow or white flowers. It usually grows in transition areas between different types of vegetation, such as the edge of thicket or forest in montane grassland, or the rank grass at the edge of woodland, at altitudes from 1200 to 2200 m. Plants growing below about 1700 m on the Nyika (and elsewhere) have white flowers while in the higher areas, they are clear yellow. It flowers between March and August.



*Satyrium sphaeranthum*  
© Eric la Croix

*S. riparium* is a slender species 50-60 cm tall with a long, narrow, many-flowered inflorescence. The small flowers are yellowish-brown tinged with green and dull purple, with slender, ascending, rather straggly spurs 20-25 mm long. It grows in damp or damp grassland at 1250-2300 m, and flowers from December to January, occasionally into February. *S. volkensii* is rather similar, up to 80 cm tall, with small green or yellow-green flowers. The two species are most easily told apart by the spurs, which are pendent in *S. volkensii* rather than straggling upwards as in *S. riparium*. Scattered plants grow in *Brachystegia* woodland and scrubby grassland from 1250 – 2300 m, flowering from late December till January or February.



Satyrium riparium  
© Eric la Croix



Satyrium volkensii  
© Eric la Croix

*S. chlorocorys* and *S. shirensis* are another pair of related species. Dried plants in a herbarium are not easy to tell apart, but in the flesh, as it were, they are easily distinguished. *S. chlorocorys* is a robust species 40-60 cm tall, with two large, spreading leaves (up to 14 x 4 cm) near the base (although not tightly pressed to the ground) and a densely many-flowered inflorescence. The flowers are yellow-green with slender, tapering spurs 10-20 mm long. It grows in drier areas of montane grassland, often forming colonies, at 1900 – 2300m. It flowers from late January to April. *S. shirensis* is a smaller and more slender plant. The two large leaves near the base are only about 6 x 4 cm. The flowers are creamy white, the spurs up to 10 mm long. It grows in montane grassland and on seepage slopes at 1700 – 2400 m and flowers from February to April. While *S. chlorocorys* is found in several countries down the east side of Africa, *S. shirensis* is only known from Malawi (all regions) and the Zambian Nyika.



Satyrium chlorocorys  
© Eric la Croix



Satyrium shirensis  
© Eric la Croix



Satyrium microcorys  
© Eric la Croix

Finally, *S. microcorys* is a slender plant up to 35 cm tall, again with two large leaves near but not at the base of the plant. The inflorescence is densely many-flowered; the flowers are yellow-cream with 3mm long spurs with bulbous tips. It grows among seepage rocks in montane grassland at 2270-2410 m and is very local but common where it does occur, and flowers from February to May. In one area of the Nyika, I have found plants that look like *S. chlorocorys* but are rather smaller and have spurs with bulbous tips. It is possible that these are hybrids as the two species grow together and flower at the same time.

It is depressing to think that these beautiful and often rare plants may end up as sad piles of tubers being sold in markets and we have to hope that this practice will soon cease.

#### Further reading

- Burrows, J.E. & Willis, C.K. (eds.) (2005). *Plants of the Nyika Plateau*. SABONET Report No.31, Pretoria.  
 la Croix, I.F., E.A.S. & T.M. (1991). *Orchids of Malawi*. A.A. Balkema, Rotterdam.  
 la Croix, I.F. & P.J. Cribb (1993). *Orchidaceae* part 1, in *Flora Zambesiaca*, vol. 11, 1, ed. G.V. Pope. RBG, Kew.  
 la Croix, I.F. & P.J. Cribb (1998). *Orchidaceae* part 2, in *Flora Zambesiaca*, vol. 11, 2, ed. G.V. Pope. RBG, Kew.  
 Williamson, G. (1977). *Orchids of South Central Africa*. Dent. London.

As ever, we are very grateful to Isobyl for this detailed guide to the Nyika's *Satyrium* orchids, beautifully illustrated by Eric's photographs.

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the growing problem of orchid poaching on the Nyika. We continue to work closely with Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife to form appropriate plans to help resolve it.

Orchid poaching does not attract newspaper coverage in the way that the decimation of African elephant and rhino populations does. However, Isobyl's articles clearly demonstrate that all Malawi's native orchids have special qualities and all of them deserve to endure. We are determined to make sure this happens. With your continued support, we can help stem the tide that is threatening these rare plants. If you want to help, please make a donation by contacting Peter Lawrence (tel: 01483 714130; e-mail: [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com); address: The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4NA). Thank you.

### The Chelinda women's co-operative gets a new maize mill!

Thanks to a very generous grant from The Horseman Trust, a new maize mill engine has been purchased for the Chelinda women's co-operative. A new engine was badly needed because the old one was in a very poor shape, needed constant maintenance and, when working, did so slowly and very noisily.

Sourcing difficulties were many and varied but the new engine finally arrived in Mzuzu in March 2013. Mike and Emma Rutter, the incoming Trust managers, picked up the engine from there, managed to get it into the back of their Landrover and travelled very slowly over the poor roads to the Nyika!

Once there, an afternoon was spent putting it together – a strange process that involved taking off various bits and putting on alternatives often in a different place. After a few hours and a lot of head-scratching, the engine started up – to cheers and much dancing from the women of the co-operative, who had assembled to witness proceedings. After celebrations, production started very quickly and the first bags of flour were soon being filled.

The Malawi Trust has drawn up an agreement with the co-operative, specifying that they are to put money aside for parts and servicing, which has to be carried out at specified intervals by a qualified mechanic. The Malawi Trust will provide this support to ensure the engine has a long working life.

The mill is in constant use and is of great benefit to the community. The women pool the monies raised and these are distributed to members annually, providing a welcome source of income for hard-pressed families.

The cost of the new engine was £3,400. We are most grateful for the £2,500 grant from The Horseman Trust which made this project possible.



Celebrations!



Some of the Chelinda residents who will benefit

### Foot Educational Fund takes its first steps in Malawi!

The first of what we hope will be many grants has been made by the Foot Educational Fund.

You may recall that this fund was established just under a year ago to recognise the contribution made by the Foot family to the UK and Malawi Trusts. Its purpose is to increase awareness among young Malawians of the value to their country's natural heritage of the Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve (you can read more about the fund on our website – [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org)—under the "Support us" button).

We received our first proposal from Charity Kumwenda, the Education and Extension Officer for the Northern Region of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). Charity was born and educated in Mzuzu. In 1994, she graduated with a Wildlife Management Certificate at the Natural Resources College in Malawi and followed this in 2002 with a Diploma in Natural Resource Management at the Southern African Wildlife College. Since 1994, Charity has worked for DNPW – first in Kasungu National Park and, since 2008, in the Mzuzu Nature Sanctuary.

Charity's proposal, for which a grant of £1000 was given by the Foot Educational Fund, was to begin the sensitisation of children in a number of schools bordering the Nyika National Park. The hope is to develop wildlife and environmental clubs in all schools in the border zones of the Nyika and Vwaza.

Eleven schools in the Nyika border zone around Ngala and Nyungwe were contacted as part of the pilot programme. Lessons took place between 3 and 7 June 2013 and involved five members of staff from Mzuzu, an extension worker from Ngala and a Peace Corps volunteer who was based at Nyungwe. Here is an extract from Charity's report on this pilot project:

*"The program was thrilling as we really had children from the border of Nyika National Park. There are some schools with an enrolment of 200 children for all the eight classes. Some children have never walked to the tarmac road, which is about 20 km away. Certain schools only a few had shoes and they have never heard about poaching. They only feel killing of animals for food is okay... It is felt that a trip to the Park will be memorable for the rest of their life if offered. We really appreciate the Foot Educational Fund for the funds which have made us have such an experience."*

We have recently released funds of £1000 for phase 2 of this project. Charity's latest proposal involves follow-up visits to the clubs formed by all eleven schools involved in the initial pilot. Each school now has a constitution for its club and an action plan. The activities that are being undertaken include tree planting, seed selling and community sensitisation. Planning for the visits will take two weeks, while the visits themselves will last 10 days. Four members of DNPW will be

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involved, along with a forestry officer and a Peace Corp volunteer. We will update you on this phase of the project in the next newsletter.



Some of the school children holding examples of the educational material produced by Charity Kumwenda

*For those of us who have visited the Nyika National Park as tourists, it really is humbling to think that there are school-children living nearby who have never been as far as a tarmac road, let alone visited what is arguably Malawi's premier national park. This surely cannot be right and we are delighted that, in a small way, we can help schoolchildren and other young people understand and gain access to their wildlife heritage through grants from the Foot Educational Fund.*

*If you would like to make a donation to the Fund, please contact Peter Lawrance (tel: 01483 714130; e-mail: [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com); address: The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4NA). Thank you!*

### **An interview with Isabelle Beyer launching "Isabelle's Poster Campaign"**

*At the same time as the UK and Malawi Trusts have started reaching out to the children and young people of Malawi through grants made by the Foot Educational Fund, we can also report on the touching story of a young English school-girl, Isabelle Beyer, who based a recent school project on the work of the Nyika- Vwaza Trusts.*

*Isabelle, can you tell us a little bit about yourself, your family and your school, please?*

My name is Isabelle Beyer. I am 10 years old and am in Year 5 at South Farnham School. I live with my Mum and Dad, Annelise and Richard, and my younger brother, Caspar, who is 8. My main hobbies are swimming, ballet, cooking and I really enjoy reading. With my family, I go on lots of walks, which we like. At school, my favourite subjects are geography, science and maths.

*Can you explain to us the school project you did early in 2013?*

The project we had to do was part of PSHE & C. [Editor's note: This is Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship. It is taught in many schools as a tool to enable children and young people to develop the skills they need to "learn to live life well".] Basically, our task was to make a poster or leaflet about a charity and deliver a three minute presentation to the class on it. The idea was to learn to be aware of things going on around us and also, as part of being a good citizen, to create awareness of issues affecting our society and to think about how to persuade people to donate to charities.

*What made you decide to base your project on The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust?*

Many of the children in my class were looking at some of the big, well-known UK charities – like Comic Relief, Oxfam and WWF. At first, I didn't really know what to do. Then my Mum remembered that one of her friends was a trustee of a charity and that's why I decided to find out more about that charity, which was The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust. I am interested in the environment and natural history and I have adopted a black rhino called Lankeu through the WWF, so this trust seemed a good choice and a bit different from what other children in my class were doing.

*What were the things you had to cover in your presentation and how did you find out the information you needed?*

We all had to find out some of the basic facts about our charity, including what its main purpose was and what it did to achieve its purpose. We also had to say what its annual income was and how many people it employed. One of the things I found out about The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust was that, in the UK, it doesn't employ any staff and so tries to make sure as much money as possible goes to Malawi. This made it very different from the big charities. I was able to find out everything I needed for my presentation from the website.

*How did you go about designing your poster?*

I knew that my poster needed to be eye-catching but also that it shouldn't have too much writing. So I tried to prepare short informative sentences to get the message across. Including lots of photos made it eye-catching and more exciting. But also it needed to show where anyone who was interested could find out more information about the charity and that's why the website address is there. Most important of all, it had to tell people how they could make a donation, since this was the whole point of the poster!

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*Was there anything you especially enjoyed about preparing your project? Were there any things that were more difficult than you expected? What did your teachers think of your project?*

I really enjoyed finding out more about the trust through its website, which I thought was interesting and had lots of exciting photos. Getting the poster right took me a bit of time. At first, I started off trying to put too much information in but then I cut it back. Preparing for the presentation was quite daunting. There are more than 30 other children in my class and it was only the second big presentation I have done. Speaking for three minutes can feel like a long time! I practised my presentation with my Mum and Dad in the kitchen at home and I think that helped me. This project is called a levelled piece of work. This means that, although the teachers do give it a mark, we don't find out what it is. However, my teacher said that I did well and I think that what I did was quite good.

*As you know, the trustees of The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust want to use your poster to launch a new fund-raising campaign in Autumn 2013. How does this make you feel?*

*When I found out that the trustees wanted to use my poster and the story behind it to launch a new fund-raising campaign, it was quite unexpected. I had thought the project was just a piece of homework. It's nice to see it being used because I will actually be able to see how successful my poster is in persuading people to donate to the charity, which is really good, and was one of the main points of the project. I am looking forward to seeing how much money is raised and also what happens to the money.*

***On behalf of the trustees of The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust, can we just say that we think it is absolutely brilliant that you have used our trust for your school project?! You can be sure that all the money you raise from this poster campaign will be put to good use, helping the people and wildlife of northern Malawi. Thank you very much indeed for your hard work, Isabelle. (Interview date: 29 May 2013.)***

**To make a donation to Isabelle's poster campaign, please contact Peter Lawrance (tel: 01483 714130; e-mail: [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com); address: The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4NA). It would be great if you could let Peter know that your donation is for Isabelle's campaign. That way, we can tell her how much money she has raised.**

## **The Nyika - Vwaza Trust**



**Help us preserve this land for generations to come!**



*Couldn't you sit here for ages admiring these beautiful views? However without your help ages may not be that long. Due to poaching and fires the land is being rapidly destroyed.*



**The Nyika - Vwaza Trust  
Needs YOU!**



To donate now go to:  
<http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/>



## Evaluating Biodiversity Conservation Projects in Malawi

Those of you with access to the internet might be interested in a series of blogs written by Dr. Bruce Byers about his recent work in Malawi ([www.brucebyersconsulting.com](http://www.brucebyersconsulting.com) (You may need to copy and paste this URL into your browser)). Bruce is a biodiversity conservation and natural resources management specialist, who graduated from the interdisciplinary Human Biology Program at Stanford University, and holds Master's and Ph.D. degrees in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Of particular interest from the Northern Malawi perspective are Bruce's blogs on:

- Restoring miombo woodland for village development, a project based in Maputi village in Rumphu District;
- Islands of biodiversity in the African sky – The Nyika Plateau; and

## Changes to the Board of UK Trustees

We are delighted to announce that a new trustee, Jennie Kettlewell, has joined our Board. Jennie spent many years as a director of corporate communication companies, before becoming a consultant working with boards to determine their strategic priorities, advising clients on culture change and development of individuals and teams. For the past three years she has studied botany to learn why plants do what they do and where they prefer to do it.

Strong family connections made her curious about Malawi, but she did not go there until January 2013 when she visited Nyika and Vwaza with members of her family. Inspired by the experience, she saw an opportunity to help conserve these special habitats and became a trustee with responsibility for raising awareness of NVT. Home is West London where she lives with her partner Ian Bruce and is chairman of The Friends of Holland Park.



Jennie Kettlewell

On a sad note, we must also report that Rupert Brown has resigned as a trustee. It is likely that Rupert's career will involve significant overseas travel and he feels that this will compromise his ability to give the time he would like to the UK Trust's activities. We are grateful for the contribution Rupert has made in his time as a trustee and wish him and his family all the very best for the future. He has promised to keep in touch!

## Readers' corner

### "African Naturalist – The Life and Times of Rodney Carrington Wood 1889-1962" by David Happold

Our thanks to David Happold, one of our Patronus Naturae, for donating 50 copies of his book, "African Naturalist – The Life and Times of Rodney Carrington Wood 1889-1962", to the UK Trust. We offer these books for sale to supporters at £5.00 per copy (£7.50 with p&P). All proceeds will fund our conservation work in Northern Malawi.

Books can be ordered by contacting Peter Lawrance (tel: 01483 714130; e-mail: [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com); address: The Malt House, 50 Brewery Road, Horsell, Woking GU21 4NA). Payment can be made by cheque, by electronic transfer to the NVT account (sort code 30-90-15, account number 01192885) or via the "Donate now" button on our website – [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org). However, if using the "Donate now" button, the price will be price £8.50, to cover the additional Paypal charges. Copies of the book will also be available at our promotional evening at The Royal Over Seas League on Tuesday 5 November (see above for more information on the event).

By way of background, Rodney Wood was a remarkable man - a great naturalist who spent 50 years mainly in Nyasaland (now Malawi) studying and collecting mammals, birds, fish, insects, shells and plants. He was also a tracker and hunter who preferred to hunt with a bow and arrow rather than with a gun. Throughout his career, collecting in the most meticulous and scientific fashion was his all-absorbing passion. His valuable collections are now in prestigious museums and several species have been named after him, and yet his name is not widely known. Wood was a determined conservationist and was responsible for many conservation initiatives in Nyasaland, including establishing the first National Parks in the country.

This delightful and absorbing account of Wood's life by David Happold is based on Wood's diaries, notebooks and collections, and on the accounts of many people who knew him personally.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Aerangis

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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.

### 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, we would be grateful if you could inform us of your decision.

The Nyika-Vwaza Trusts can only continue with the vital task of helping to conserve the Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve 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.

### And finally ...

Elephants inspect the newly constructed bund at Lake Kazuni, Vwaza Marsh wildlife Reserve. Luckily, they approved!



**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](mailto:manager@nyika-vwaza-trust.org)  
[info@nyika-vwaza-trust.org](mailto: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 Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust**  
Reg. charity no. 1105105

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

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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 TSB Bank plc, 40 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 IBQ (Sort Code 30-90-15), for the credit of The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust's Account No. 01192885, 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 Chris Badger**  
**at the Royal Overseas League,**  
**Over-Seas House, Park Place, London SW1A 1LR on Tuesday 5 November 2013.**

“Eco-tourism in Malawi—The Wilderness Story”.

**Application Form for Tickets**

Admission tickets are £16 per person or £8 per student.

I would like to apply for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust fundraising party on 5th November 2013 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)		Date Issued:
Address:		
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: <small>(if applicable)</small>		
Address:		Date Issued:
Contact Tel. No:		
Email Address:		

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

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

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