



## An evening with The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust at The Royal Over-Seas League Thursday 5 November 2015

Our speaker this year is Anastasiya (Nastya) Timoshyna, medicinal and aromatic plants programme leader at TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network. TRAFFIC is the leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. TRAFFIC works in many countries to reduce illegal trade in wild plants and ensure wild-harvesting and trade are sustainable, using their FairWild Standard. One in five of the world's plant species is estimated to be threatened with extinction in the wild and unsustainable harvesting is a major factor.

Nastya will speak about TRAFFIC's work on trade in wild plants, and her talk **The 'Hidden Harvest': addressing the issues of trade in wild plants** will help us learn what might benefit The Nyika.

As you know, we rely entirely on your donations to fund our conservation work in northern Malawi. By holding a promotional and social evening, it is our opportunity to update our supporters and for us all to meet old and new friends.

More details on the event can be found at [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/ROSL-2015.html](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/ROSL-2015.html).

Tickets for the evening cost £16. They are available from Peter Lawrance (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 included with this newsletter.



Nastya  
© Anastasiya Timoshyna

## News Update

### Progress on NVT's new direction

In the March newsletter we explained that NVT UK had reluctantly had to make the decision to stop funding operations in the Nyika and Vwaza due to lack of the necessary institutional capacity on the ground and the fact that the local trust had been required to expend undue resources on infrastructure which should have been a shared responsibility under the Nyika Trans Frontier Conservation Area (NTFCA) project.

It was the right decision, judging from feedback, and it has allowed us to make progress towards a more effective way of operating and a different role for the Trust.

The Tusk Trust has put us in touch with an experienced non-governmental organisation already working in Malawi and we are now in discussion about proposal for a programme that will encompass the three essential elements of:

- Education through schools (building on our successful work with Charity Kumwenda) to teach communities about the harmful consequences of poaching, deforestation and killing animals that threaten

livelihood through crop raids.

- Working with local law enforcement agencies to reinforce prosecution of poachers as poaching will only be stopped if there is a meaningful deterrent.
- Finding ways of replacing community income currently earned through lucrative trade in bush meat and the 'Chikanda' trade in orchids.

This complex problem needs a robust and carefully considered solution. The proposed programme looks very promising, the intention being to test the programme with a pilot study and to underpin the work with a strong local presence.

It is early days yet and we cannot say more until we have had further discussions. We intend to update you fully at the evening event on Thursday 5 November at the Royal Over-Seas League. We do hope you will be able to attend, but for those that cannot, we will update you all with information on the NVT website.

### Foot Education Fund—Latest Schools Project

The ecology of northern Malawi can only be preserved for future generations if today's children understand its importance to their lives. In the last newsletter, we reported on the fourth stage of our project to help young Malawians in the communities bordering The Nyika to appreciate the value of their natural surroundings. A fifth stage was agreed and continued the work in Rumphu district and Karonga, which lie just outside the Nyika. Once again the project was led by Charity Kumwenda, the DNPW's Regional Education Officer, and her team of three.



Nkhozo primary school  
© Charity Kumwenda

They visited two schools each day in the Rumphu district, with attendance from 200-300 pupils from the seven schools in the programme – that's an impressive number of children who have taken part in discussions about local environmental issues and then created action plans to deal with those issues. In this area, deforestation is caused by the need for space to process tobacco and by the increasing number of settlements. The Mwazisi community club has been particularly successful with forest regeneration, planting of fruit trees and with bee keeping and Charity intends to bring students from Mwazisi to help other communities learn.



Mbweziwe Primary School  
© Charity Kumwenda

Follow up visits to schools in the Karonga area showed each of the nine schools has achieved good results, caring for their trees in spite of drought and even planting more. Pupils were reminded to manure and mulch their plants and to erect simple fencing as protection against damage from cattle, goats and pigs roaming freely. The success in these communities is attracting other schools to ask to join the project.

### Conservation Research Grants

In support of NVT's objectives of conservation and education, the Trust is calling for applications from a wide range of qualified individuals or organisations for grants to carry out research studies in northern Malawi on suggested topics.

Grants will be offered to graduate level researchers affiliated with University Departments or other organisations dedicated to the study of natural sciences. This financial assistance is designed to enable researchers to undertake assignments relevant to their research with the parameters set out in the Grant Agreement by the Trustees of NVT. Applications for MSc-level fieldwork are particularly welcome. The Trust is also willing to consider grants for undergraduate level study field visits to the Nyika and Vwaza. The first field studies are expected to be carried out in the period 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2017.

The grants are offered at two levels: up to £1,000 for short-term studies and up to £5,000 for more extensive projects.

Suitable conservation issues are:

- Fire management, especially in the Nyika National Park.
- Exotic invasive species control in both the Nyika and the Vwaza Marsh
- Bird population and endangered bird species
- Orchid poaching on the Nyika.

Further details are available, giving background, application process, notes for applicants, expected format and content of the application report. Contact Peter Lawrance, Secretary, NVT on: [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com)



Wildfire fighting on the Nyika  
© Mike Rutter



Elephants at Vwaza  
© Mike Rutter

## Remembering old friends

### Rosemary Lowe-McConnell 1921 - 2014

Rosemary Helen Lowe (known to friends as Ro) was a pioneer in the study of tropical fish. She launched her career by spending two years in Malawi from August 1945 (arriving in Bulawayo on VJ day) to April 1947, studying the food fish of the then Lake Nyasa. The aim of the study was to improve the population's nutrition. Her account of this time is described in Volume two of 'Life and Work in Nyasaland', a series of books edited by Colin Baker that are filled with stories of the life and works of those who have lived in Nyasaland/Malawi.

Ro continued her career in East and Southern Africa and also Central America. Returning to the UK in 1962, she took up a post at the Natural History Museum, becoming a world expert on Tilapia. She did not return to Malawi until the 1990s, when she observed the impact of over-fishing at first hand, which she attributed to the rapid increase in the human population.

In 1997 she received the Linnaean Medal of Zoology in recognition of her life time's work.

We have recently received a generous legacy from Ro Lowe-McConnell's estate, for which we are most grateful.

A fuller obituary is available on line (Daily Telegraph, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015).

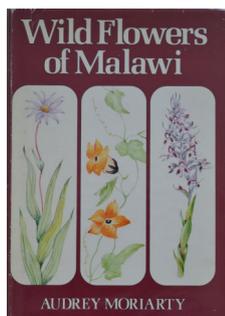
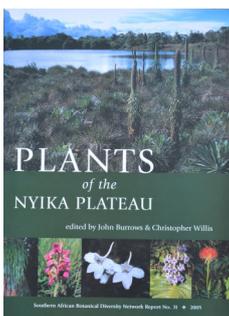
### Bill Reed

We were also sorry to hear of the death of Bill Reed earlier this year. Bill served with the Nyasaland Department of Agriculture from 1954-64 and he was a great supporter of the Nyika-Vwaza Trust, about which there will be more in our next newsletter

We offer our condolences to both families.

## Rich information on our website

One of NVT's strengths is the rich information we provide on flora and fauna of The Nyika and Vwaza Marsh. We are grateful to trustee, Jonathan Timberlake for adding a full bibliography to the species lists that you can find on our website. So, if you want to read about the area, you have around 200 books to choose from! Whether your interest is birds, butterflies, plants, reptiles, amphibians or mammals you can check out our species lists for what you might see when you visit Nyika or Vwaza or it could bring back memories of what you did see when you were last there.



Visit [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org) and enjoy:

- Bibliography
- Nyika bird list
- Nyika bird check list
- Nyika butterfly check list
- Nyika plant check list
- Reptiles and amphibians
- Nyika & Vwaza Marsh mammal check list
- Vwaza Marsh bird check list.

You can also access the World Bird Portal, a system for the collection, storage and retrieval of bird data worldwide.



© Mike Rutter



© Mike Rutter

## Guide to Nyika National Park

Sigrid (Sigi) Anna Johnson tells us the new guide book is progressing well and that the next challenge is to get all the illustrations done. We are fortunate that Sue Macartney, the graphic artist who created the illustrations for the original guide, has agreed to work with Sigrid again and is currently drafting updates. This is a big piece of work! Sue has lived in many countries, including East Africa, has an MA in anthropology and an honours degree in graphic design.

Apart from working hard on the Guide, Sigrid reports that she and Don have just done a 600 km river canoe trip which, if not adventurous enough, was enlivened by having to be rescued from a forest fire by helicopter.

We look forward to seeing the new guide.

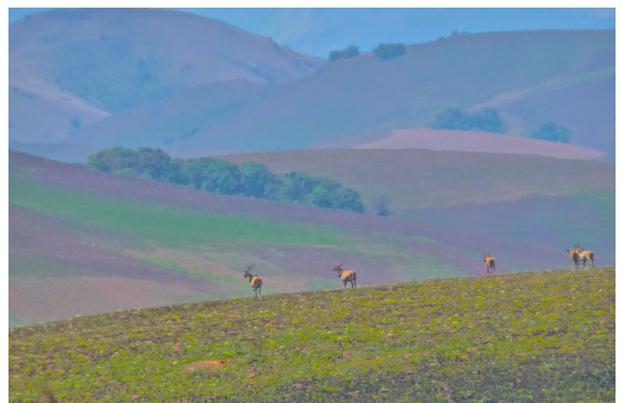


Photo from The Guide to Nyika  
© Sigi Anna Johnson

## NTFCA

We have recently received a report from Sam Banda, who is now working full time for the World Bank and Norwegian Government-funded NTFCA. He reports that good progress is being made with the infrastructure programme at Vwaza and Nyika, and that the road and firebreak programme, previously undertaken by NVT, is now being carried out and funded by NTFCA, using ex NVT staff. The following pictures give an indication of the progress being made.



*Controlled burn - Nyika Pine Plantation  
© Sam Banda*



*Zambia Resthouse rehabilitation  
in progress  
© Sam Banda*



*Vwaza dining area during rehabilitation  
© Sam Banda*



*Vwaza fence, 43km,  
fixed and electrified  
© Sam Banda*



*Runyina bridge upgraded from  
timber deck to concrete bridge  
© Sam Banda*

## We rely on your donations

All the work we do in northern Malawi is dependent on donations. Although we will work under a different structure in future, we are still reliant on funds to make things happen. The programme that is under discussion will mean a greater financial commitment over a number of years. Meanwhile the Schools Project we continue to sponsor is reaching ever more children.

Please help us generate funds to run these programmes. We thank those that have already kindly sent donations and encourage others of you to send what you can – small or large amounts, your donations make a big difference.

To donate, fill in the form on the next page of this newsletter, or donate online at [www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org](http://www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org)

## Are there subjects you want to read about?

Each of our newsletters aims to update you on NVT's work in northern Malawi and on our plans. We also include occasional articles on flora and fauna of the region. Please do let us know if there is something specific you would like us to cover in a future newsletter and we will do what we can to accommodate your requests. Long articles will probably be put up on our website with an introduction in the newsletter, so that we can keep postal costs to a minimum. Any ideas you have should be sent to Jennie Kettlewell, Newsletter Editor, on [jenniekettlewell@aol.com](mailto:jenniekettlewell@aol.com)

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## Calling for a London Marathon volunteer!

The Nyika Vwaza Trust has an opportunity to benefit from donations made to a sponsored runner in the London Marathon 2016, a chance that we get once every five years. If anyone would like to volunteer to run in the London Marathon and raise funds for the Trust, or knows anyone who might volunteer to run for us, please get in touch with the Honorary Secretary, Peter Lawrance on [sec.nvt@gmail.com](mailto:sec.nvt@gmail.com) or by post at 50 Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4NA. Our 2011 runner raised over £1,000, a tremendous effort



**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

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

Email: info@nyika-vwaza-trust.org  
Website: 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 (UK) 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:

Please return this completed form to:- Hon. Treasurer,  
Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust, 50 Brewery Road, Woking,  
Surrey. GU21 4NA.



*An image of the Nyika*  
© Sigi Anna Johnson

# Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust

Promotional Evening with a talk by Nastya Timoshyna  
at the Royal Overseas League,

Over-Seas House, Park Place, London SW1A 1LR on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 .

## The 'Hidden Harvest': addressing the issues of trade in wild plants

### Application Form for Tickets

Admission tickets are £16 per person or £8 per student. They will be issued from end-September 2015.

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.

Alternatively you may email your request for tickets to sec.nvt@gmail.com and make payment direct to the Trust account at TSB Bank, sort code 30-90-15, account number 01192885, quoting last name as a reference.

**(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: (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)		
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Email Address:		

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