



NVT Event 2nd November 2016

We hope you already have the evening of Wednesday 2nd November firmly booked in your diary for this year's NVT event at the Royal Overseas League.

We are fortunate to have Dan Bucknell, executive director of TUSK Trust UK, as our speaker. TUSK is a pioneering and high profile organisation with 25 years' experience initiating and funding conservation, community development and environmental education programmes across Africa. One of their current programmes is C4C, Coaching for Conservation, which creates awareness of conservation through sport in primary schools in Botswana. NVT's own education programme was initiated when TUSK introduced us to the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and TUSK has supported NVT projects with funding in the past.



Dan Bucknell
© Dan Bucknell

With a lifelong passion for wildlife, Dan has worked in conservation for the past 14 years. He joined TUSK from Elephant Family where he was Head of Conservation and Campaigns. His talk **'Why Attitudes and Perceptions of Wildlife Matter'** will include the importance of research and education. It is sure to be of very great interest to us all. Please come to the event and spread the word to others. It's a great opportunity to hear about NVT developments and for you to network with old and new friends who share an interest in Malawi.

More details on the event can be found at www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/ROSL-2016.html. Tickets for the evening cost £16, students £8. They are available from Peter Lawrance (e-mail: 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.

News Update

Education programme on track

Our education programme, operated by The Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), is making real progress on the groundwork for tackling the environmental issues that are a concern for the Nyika and Vwaza.

Core programme

- Education through schools to teach communities about the harmful consequences of poaching, deforestation and killing animals that threaten livelihood through crop raids.
- Working with local magistrates to reinforce prosecution of poachers.
- Finding ways of replacing community income currently earned through lucrative trade in bush meat and the 'Chikanda' trade in orchids.

Jonny Vaughan, executive director of LWT, was in London in May this year and met up with some of NVT's trustees to tell us more about the work of LWT and local challenges. LWT's focus is on animal protection, with emphasis moving from animal rescue towards education and other activities which target causes of animals being killed, poached or traded. Education and lobbying are now their major activities, which fits neatly with our needs. It was great to meet Jonny and hear first-hand about the impressive skills and experience of his team and about work on the education programme for Nyika and Vwaza.



Teachers with modules
© LWT

LWT's latest report, shows gratifying progress.

1. Following recruitment earlier this year of two education officers, Frank Chimpango and Jayne Kumwenda, modules for training were completed. The three module subjects are wildlife conservation and welfare, human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime.
2. Twelve schools along the border zones of Nyika and Vwaza were registered for the programme, with a wildlife club being established in each school.
3. Teachers from the twelve schools (11 primary and 1 secondary) were trained on the modules. Staff from

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- CAWS' Children in the Wilderness programme were invited to the sessions and they kindly shared their experience and collaborated in setting up the clubs.
4. LWT were joined by DNPW officers to train 32 Natural Resource Committee (NRC) participants on the content of the modules.
 5. The LWT/DNPW team addressed various community leaders and senior members from four NRCs at their council assembly on critical issues such as lighting of fires and making charcoal. Discussion covered potential livelihood programmes such as bee keeping, orchid production and afforestation work.
 6. The NRC event provided an opportunity for LWT to hand over some of the bicycles to enable easier access to remote areas.

As always, some schools embrace initiatives more quickly than others. Two that have shown their enthusiasm in action are Kamphenda primary school and Rumphi secondary school. The wildlife club at Kamphenda organised a 'Big Walk' in their local community, with 635 students creating awareness of the environmental issues through songs. Over 700 community members came to listen. Rumphi school's club spread the word through songs, drama, poems, posters, banners, debate and a march through the township's streets. The Malawi Police service gave a speech on the dangers of poaching. It is estimated that 1000 residents heard the messages.

Interesting too to note a piece in The Nyasa Times: "Poachers in the north have surrendered over 40 home-made guns to authorities in a programme that signals a ceasefire in the battle against poaching in protected areas in the region..."

What happens next?

- Meetings with NRC zones to develop understanding of the module content.
- Development of a collaborative action plan with Nyika-Vwaza stakeholders.
- Start to establish tree nurseries in schools and communities.
- Mentoring and monitoring of wildlife club programmes.
- Distribute more bicycles where needed.
- Appraisal and assessment of livelihoods project.

Funding

A second tranche of funding (£11,158) was paid in April 2016 and a third tranche in July (£5,840). It is pleasing to see that the programme is progressing within the expected budget. It is also pleasing that all NVT UK's funds are being spent directly on conservation and that we no longer need be distracted by demands that should rightly be met by others.

David Billing to see Education Programme first-hand



David Billing
© David Billing

NVT trustee David Billing will have the opportunity to view the Education Programme first hand when he visits Malawi in November 2016. He will first travel to Lilongwe where he, Jonny Vaughan, and the wider education team at LWT have planned an in-depth review of progress over the first year of the programme. This will lead to a discussion about activities and budget for 2017, year two of the initiative.

In Rumphi David will see the programme in practice at Rumphi Secondary School and look for examples of the impact of environmental education in the area. Next the plan is a field visit to meet facilitators and children involved in the Wildlife Clubs in four schools, likely to be Chankhalamu, Thazima, Masato and Kamphenda, to assess key performance indicators.

While in Malawi, David intends to meet with Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW) to discuss the wider context of how LWT and NVT UK are jointly supporting the government in protecting Malawi wildlife.

The spring 2017 newsletter will carry a report of the visit.

Big thanks to Juliet!

Juliet Cornelius-Rumsey did us proud when she completed the April 2016 London Marathon to help raise money for the Nyika-Vwaza Trust. It's hard to run a marathon and it helped to have people in the crowd shouting: "Well done Juliet!" and "Go on Malawi!" Juliet's sponsorship and donations in support of her run raised a total of £1396 which will go towards our work in Malawi. Thank you Juliet and all those who supported her run.



Juliet
© Juliet Cornelius-Rumsey

Conservation research grants



Emmanouela
© Emmanouela Galanou

First round of applications: MSc student Emmanouela Galanou from Cranfield College, UK, has completed the field work for her study of **vultures on the Nyika** and the role they play in the local ecosystem. Vultures are declining on the plateau, most vulture species are critically endangered worldwide, and we hope Ms Galanou's research will shed light on a little understood subject. As well as vulture carcass counts, Ms Galanou interviewed local communities, conservation bodies and other stakeholders to assess the benefit from vulture populations. The research also

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explored awareness and emotional response towards the vulture. A report is expected this autumn, but unfortunately not before this newsletter has been put to bed.

NVT UK offers small grants for short-term studies and the grant for this project was the first allocated following our decision to call for research grant applications from universities and institutions on the following suggested topics in the Nyika and Vwaza Marsh:

- Fire management, especially in the Nyika National Park
- Invasive species control in both the Nyika and the Vwaza Marsh
- Bird population and endangered bird species
- Orchid poaching on the Nyika
- Socio-economic studies on hunting, gathering and poaching inside and outside the protected areas.

Second round of applications: We have received proposals of interest for research projects on **orchids and the 'chikanda' trade, incursion of invasives following pine removal around Chelinda camp,** and a general **survey of invasives on the Nyika plateau.**

Maganizo Namoto, from the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi, has proposed a project that seeks to determine the main areas of the Nyika where edible orchids grow naturally, what species grow in each place and how abundant they are. This would provide a good starting point for the ambitious long-term goal of conservation and sustainable use of wild edible orchids.

Edible orchids are potentially high income generators due to the lucrative 'chikanda' trade in which the powdered tubers are used as food ingredients and in traditional medicines. Of the 158 ground orchids listed for Malawi, seven have been identified as of economic use: *Satyrium buchannani*, *S. abylosaccos*, *S. cursonii*, *Disa engleriana*, *D. robusta*, *D. zombica* and *Hebanaria clavata*. Indications are that availability of these species is decreasing, though none is yet reported to be extinct.



Orchid tubers confiscated from poachers
© Paston Simkoko

Sopani Sichinga, previously involved with the Nyika TFCA project as a research assistant, has applied for funding to establish which plants have established themselves following pine removal around Chelinda Camp and how this impacts on natural grassland regeneration. A plantation of *Pinus patula* was created in the 1950s and 1960s as a commercial experiment in pulp wood production. After planting, the project was abandoned due to the inaccessibility of Chelinda. *Pinus patula*, which is not a native of the Nyika, started to self-seed outside the original planted area and to threaten other species and natural grassland. DNPW recently cleared much of the original plantation with the aim of returning the land to its natural state. This project aims to establish exactly what is growing on the areas where pines have been removed, whether grassland recovery is really taking place or whether other species are beginning to colonise the space. The resulting information will be used by DNPW to plan how they can help natural grassland be restored after pine removal.

Andrew Kanzunguze, also from the Nyika TFCA project, proposes a survey of alien invasives across the Nyika to act as a baseline for future research work on invasive species. Preservation of the ecology of the Nyika is essential for the long-term supply of water to northern Malawi and to the lake itself. Invasive species act as indicators of climate change and of the ecological health of the area, hence the importance of understanding the distribution and abundance of invasives such as *Eucalyptus*, *Pinus patula*, *Acacia mearnsii* (black wattle), and *Rubus ellipticus* (Himalayan raspberry). The long-term aim of this research is for DNPW and other stakeholders to develop more specific research projects that eventually lead to knowledge which enables creation of a plan for management of invasive species.

Third round of applications: A call for the third round of applications will be on the NVT website shortly, with a deadline of 30 Dec 2016. Details are available from Peter Lawrance Tel: +44 (0)1483 714130, Email: sec.nvt@gmail.com

It is pleasing to see that the call for applications is attracting relevant and practical proposals. These are based on significant conservation issues facing the Nyika and there is much work to be done. We need the base line data in order to build a case for what conservation programmes must be undertaken and funded.

Guide to Nyika National park

Following feedback from all members of the Technical Advisory Group, Sigrid Johnson has made the required amendments to the text and set about getting the layout done, with Sue Macartney's graphics to help with species identification. Just the last few photos to be put in place and the guide will be on its way to production. As soon as the guide is available we will put it up on the website, so that you can order your copy.



Photo from the Nyika
© Sigrid Anna Johnson

Accounts for the year to 5 April 2016

Income and expenditure 2015- 2016	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Donation Income (Incl. gift aid)		
>£1,000		
	5,000	5,500
£500-999	1,250	500
£1-499	4,531	650
Other income	5,635	
Transfers from Investments	18,000	
	34,416	6,650
Expenditure		
In Malawi LWT Education prog.	22,702	15,452
Research grants	1,805	
In UK – newsletter, events	4,403	

Bicycle Cinema spreads conservation message

Two Zoology students from the University of Exeter, UK, Hannah Pollock and Jamie Unwin, founders of NGO Stand Up for Nature have recently completed an imaginative bicycle powered cinema project in Malawi. The project focused on elephants and the illegal ivory trade and used media education to highlight the significance of this human-wildlife conflict.



Jamie and Hannah
© Jamie

They travelled the length of Malawi over a 6 week period, reaching over 14,000 people with their film which was originally made as part of the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and the Department of National Parks & Wildlife 'Stop Wildlife Crime' campaign. The bicycle cinema enabled them to take the film to places that previously wouldn't have had the opportunity to see something like this due to a lack of electricity and televisions. The pair were shocked to learn that despite many communities living a mere few hundred metres away from the National Parks most of the people never have the opportunity to see the wildlife. The two also took 336 children into six of Malawi's protected areas including Nyika National Park and Vwaza Wildlife Reserve.

The first stop on their journey through Malawi was the Nyika, where they took 55 children on a residential 2 night stay onto the plateau to see their country's wildlife for the very first time. After an 8 hour drive over rough terrain, made harder by the fact it was the rainy season, the children eventually arrived excited to spend the weekend up in the park. They saw lots of wildlife and were particularly excited to see the zebra. Local educators ran lessons and there were lots of fun games and a chance for the children to win prizes at the end. Next on the schedule was Vwaza. Hannah and Jamie organised to take a group of 30 children into the park, it was a wonderful day and everyone had the opportunity to see lots of wildlife, including plenty of hippos! The children and teachers asked if Hannah and Jamie would visit their school the following day so that the other students would have a chance to see the film. It was agreed and the following day they travelled to Kazuni Primary school where over 800 students were awaiting them! It was a fantastic surprise to see so many people and the film showing was held in the nearby church to accommodate everyone. The children were all incredibly enthusiastic and asked lots of questions.



The cinema in action
© Jamie

Hannah and Jamie worked with local educators who helped to engage the local communities and, in an initiative close to

NVT's interests, Hannah and Jamie set up a network of enthusiastic individuals as 'wildlife guardians' awarding each member with an elephant badge. This was to be progressed by CAWS' 'Children in the Wilderness' team, together with the wildlife clubs of DNPW. The project has now come full circle, being taken on by the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, where the showings can be used as part of the NVT-funded conservation education programme, ensuring the project's sustainability.

Leopards at Chelinda

Central African Wilderness Safaris (CAWS) report that July and August have been excellent months for leopard sightings in Nyika National Park and guests visiting Chelinda Camp and Lodge were treated to some memorable sightings of the park's majestic but elusive top predators.

In the early hours of the evening on July 15, guests and staff were able to observe a leopard relaxing on the far side of Dam 1, before it slowly got up and strolled into the forest. At 05.40 the next day, a large male leopard was spotted moving past the stables complex. Later that evening, guests were fortunate to watch an adult female leopard for 15 minutes as she walked along the road near the TNM tower. More sightings were reported in early August.

As the sightings continue to occur, the CAWS team plans to track and monitor more closely the leopards that inhabit the park.



Leopard on the Nyika
© Alan Lowe

Please support our programmes

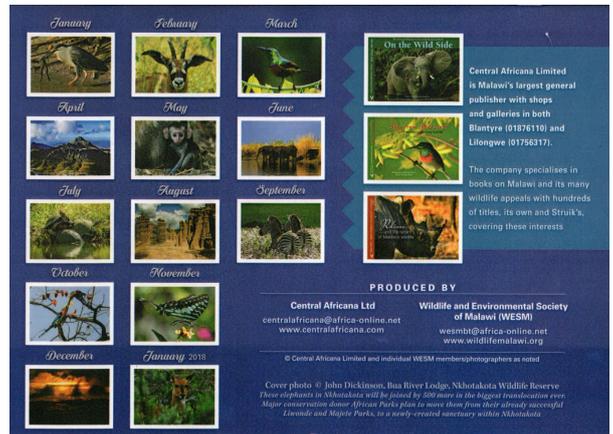
Donate: Our intention is to see the conservation education and research programmes through to a stage where we can help make a positive impact on the conservation of the Nyika and Vwaza Marsh. We estimate this will need significant and regular investment – some £125,000 for the first three years for education and around £20,000 a year for grants. Our reserves have enabled us to kick start the funding, and we need funds to continue to run the programmes at an effective level.

We rely entirely on donations from you and others like you to fund our conservation work in northern Malawi. We thank you for your generosity and hope you will help us build the funds to deliver our programmes. All donations can be gift-aided.

Please use the donation form at the end of this newsletter, or donate online at www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org. Thank you for your support.

2017 Calendar

The Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) 2017 calendar is ready. The stunning photos will remind you of the wildlife wonders of Malawi and buying a calendar will contribute to our environmental programme funds. The cost is £10 + postage and you can order your copy from NVT Secretary, Peter Lawrance on sec.nvt@gmail.com or +44 (0) 1483 714130. If the calendars are delivered in time, it may be possible to pick up your copy at the event on 2 November.



The WESM 2017 calendar

Merchandise

NVT UK notelet packs (5 designs in each) feature flowers, birds, animals and butterflies found on the Nyika, all painted by David Kelly. Each pack costs £6.00 including postage and packaging, with cards in A5 folded format (150mm x 105mm) and blank on the inside. Please order, specifying whether you would like a pack of flowers, birds, animals or butterflies, from Peter Lawrance on sec.nvt@gmail.com, or Tel: 01483 714130.

Examples of the cards can be seen here, all of which are shown on the website.



Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust
Promotional Evening with a talk by Dan Bucknell
at the Royal Overseas League,
Over-Seas House, Park Place, London SW1A 1LR on Wednesday 2nd November 2016.

“Why Attitudes and Perceptions of Wildlife Matter”

Application Form for Tickets

Admission tickets are £16 per person or £8 per student. They will be issued from end-September 2016.

I would like to apply for _____ tickets to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust fundraising event on 2nd November 2016 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:

Name:		Ticket No:

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.



The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust
Reg. charity no. 1105105

The Hon. Treasurer/Secretary
50 Brewery Road,
Woking,
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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.

I undertake to inform the charity if I wish to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on my income and/or capital gains.

Signature:

Date:

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

