



NVT Event Thursday 5 November 2026
6.30pm at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ.
‘Shaping the future of the Nyika Plateau
- the place where water comes from.’

Our speaker will be Dr Jamie McCallum, Director UK and EU for The Peace Parks Foundation (PPF).

As you will know, The Nyika Plateau is a fascinating and important ecological site, not just because of its flora, fauna, history and beauty, but because it plays an essential role in being an essential source of water for the region. It deserves to be protected for Malawians and the wider world now and for future generations.

Who could be more appropriate as a speaker, given NVT's commitment to funding the post of research coordinator for the Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust which operates under the PPF umbrella. The resulting research is intended to provide the information that will guide management of the plateau and its resources.



Jamie McCallum © PPF

His talk will focus on the latest scientific research on the Nyika-Vwaza plateau and he will also take the opportunity to give us an update on the work of the Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust.

After starting his career in sports sponsorship, marketing communications and running a sustainability consultancy, he completed a Biological Sciences PhD on the use of technology in monitoring conservation along the US/Mexico border. He now focuses on technology and ranger-training for large landscape nature conservation and ecosystem services for regenerative agriculture. He is passionate about his subject and a captivating speaker, so this is an event to which we can truly look forward.

Do come, but please book a ticket in advance, as security at the Union Jack Club means only those who have booked tickets and are on the attendance list will be admitted.

At the Union Jack Club:

6.00 doors open, Gascoigne Room. Networking, sale of merchandise and cash bar
6.45 update from Chairman, Tom Lupton
7.00 Dr Jamie McCallum's talk, followed by questions from the audience
8.00 networking continues. Cash bar
9.30 event closes.

Details of the event can be found at www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/UJC-2026.html. Tickets for the evening at the Union Jack Club (£20, students £8), are available from Tom Lupton, e-mail: sec.nvt@gmail.com, or 72 North Street, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8AS, UK. Alternatively, please complete the application form included with this newsletter.

Payment for tickets and donations may be made direct to the Trust account – Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust, Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-90-89, account number 44504860, (IBAN GB94LOYD30908944504860); account name The Nyika-Vwaza UK Trust, or by a UK cheque payable to The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust.

George M'manga appointed as Research Coordinator

It is very good news that George M'manga has been appointed to take on the important role of Research Coordinator for the Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust (NVCMT) the organisation that oversees all management activities within the parks and surrounding communities following the co-management agreement between the Malawi Government and PPF. Costs are assured for the 20-year period of the agreement and NVT UK has committed £50,000 a year over three years to fund the role of Research Coordinator.



George M'manga
© George M'manga

George is well known to us, and you may recognise his name from previous newsletters, when he won a grant from NVT to carry out research on honey hunter and honeyguide mutualism in 2024.

He has a Master's degree in Forestry and Environmental Management from Mzuzu University, and has recently participated in the 7th Annual Emerging African Researcher Training Academy, under the theme 'African Research Voices in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.'

The post is part of the NVCMT senior management team and we hope that the foundation work done by Andrew Kunzungaze will be useful to George as he plans and commissions research to support management plans for the Nyika Plateau and Vwaza Marsh. Results of all the research studies funded by NVT over the past 10 years will be available to George.

We wish you every success George and hope to include some of your observations in future issues of this newsletter.

Wildlife and Environmental Sourcebook for Primary Schools

By Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema, Director of Programmes at the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), in collaboration with Malawi Institute of Education (MIE) and Directorate of Quality Assurance Services (DQAS), and other partners continue scaling up efforts to ensure greater outreach and that the Wildlife and Environmental Education Sourcebook (WEES) is integrated in the new primary curriculum. The sourcebook work is continuously recognised and, for the second time, we participated in the second draft curriculum validation audit meeting for the upper primary syllabus and lower secondary school syllabus. Using the sourcebook as a reference material, we identified gaps and provided feedback to include or strengthen existing content/material in the draft syllabus/curriculum. We assessed and audited/validated related subjects including Science and Technology, Social and Moral Studies, Agriculture and Integrated Science, Christian Education, Chemistry, Islamic Education, Religious and Moral Education.



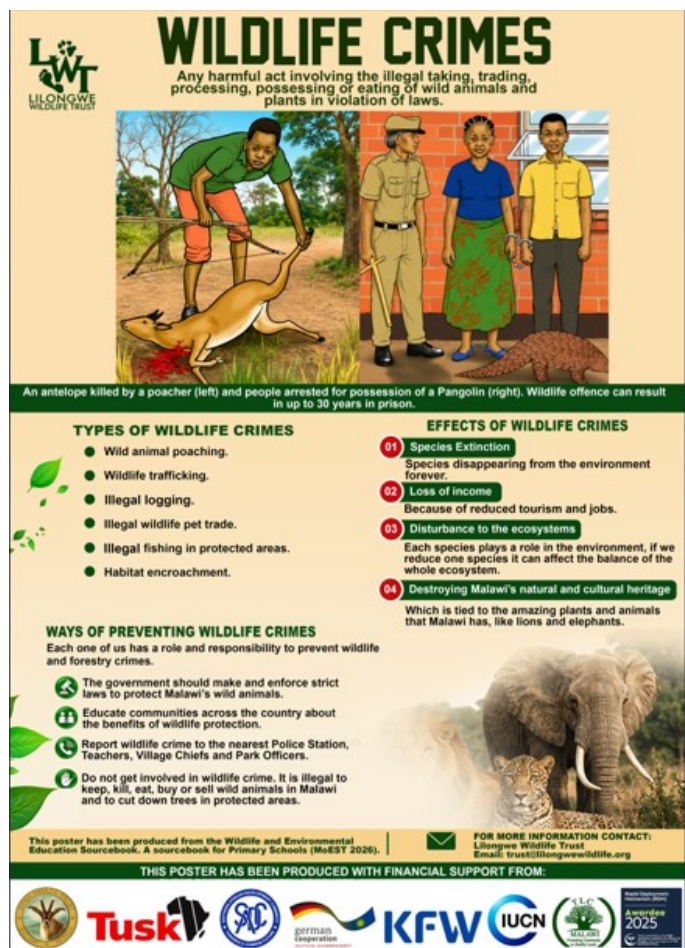
Extracts from the source book © LWT

We have also continued disseminating the hard copies, airing the sourcebook programmes on community radio across the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

country and on television, translation into local language, production of posters and supplementary reading to reach more learners, teachers and the public. Teacher training is being conducted in August/September 2026 and will reach over 90 schools across six of the eight pilot districts.



Extracts from the source book © LWT

Expanding Lilongwe Wildlife Trust's Environmental Education

By Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema, Director of Programmes at the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust's Environmental Education (EE) programme continues to implement activities that help expand environmental education across Malawi. We facilitated a stakeholder workshop to address challenges faced by education stakeholders and schools, when implementing its activities in schools, and set priorities to strengthen environmental education programmes in 2026. The participants emphasised inclusive environmental education (including both private and public schools), strengthening communication through Zone Primary Education Advisors, student recognition in competitions to sustain motivation, and promoting targeted selecting of active and attentive students to visit the LWC EEC to ensure

lessons are effectively shared back in schools. Key stakeholders included Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), Independent Schools Association of Malawi (ISAMA), the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), the Central West Education Division, the Director of Education and Sports, Primary Education Advisors, and block leaders.



Learners during educational visits to National Parks © LWT

The programme also facilitated teacher training with an aim of introducing EE initiatives designed to strengthen environmental action and enhance student participation; a school-based monitoring framework and a rewards-based scoreboard system. Teachers were pleased with the system and pledged to support its implementation.



Learners during educational visits to National Parks © LWT

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Again, we facilitated a learners' educational visits to Liwonde and Kasungu National Parks to provide practical outdoor experiences and enhance awareness of nature conservation inspiring learners to protect the environment. Learners were excited and enjoyed being in the natural habitat, and walking in the trails while learning of ecosystems, animal behaviours, wildlife threats, and the interactions between living and non-living things. In the evenings they gathered around campfire where they enjoyed telling stories from park officials and to help them with any environmental protection questions that they had.



Learners during educational visits to National Parks © LWT

Research Grants

In our spring issue, we wrote that four new research grants have been awarded.

Evance Samikwa

Enteromius fisheries assessment of Lake Kazuni.

Evance provided us with some wonderful photos taken during field sampling, as well as brief information on his study.



Enterobius kerstenii in Lake Kazuni research team comprising of officers from, Vwaza Marsh wildlife reserve, Mzuzu University and fishing community members during the July 2026 sampling.



Fishing in Lake Kazuni using a Beach seine in order to catch Enteromius kerstenii and other fish species.



Enteromius kersteni is a fish locally known as Kazuni, abundant in Lake Kazuni, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve.



Collection of reproductive biology data of Enteromius kerstenii from Lake Kazuni during the field sampling.

Indeed, during the rainy-season sampling, conducted in April 2026, which coincided with heavy rainfall, the high-water level in the lake presented a significant challenge. However, this did not deter us from carrying out the planned sampling activities. With the assistance of a strong, flat-bottomed motorised boat, provided by Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, we were able to survey the entire lake without major difficulties. Additionally, the presence of Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve Rangers as part of our research team provided reassurance and alleviated our concerns about potential encounters with elephants and hippopotamuses during sampling. Interestingly, rather than being a source of fear, encounters with these animals became an enjoyable and memorable part of the fieldwork. Around midday during each sampling session, buffaloes, elephants and hippopotamuses were often observed around the lake, either drinking water or engaging in their natural activities.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Sullamithe Manduwa

Fish Assessment of Lake Kazuni.

Fieldwork for the Nyika-Vwaza Trust-funded Fish Assessment of Lake Kazuni is complete. Water samples for eDNA metabarcoding were collected across five sites around the lake; Karwenje, Chamalibwe, Vwandamire, Lodge side, and Thunduwike plus filtration controls, each processed in filtration replicates. At each site, water was collected in a triangulated composite (three sub-samples mixed into one) before filtering.

Samples are now back at the University of Malawi's eDNA laboratory, where DNA extraction (which included an extraction control) has been done. I am now preparing libraries for sequencing and the results on Lake Kazuni's fish community should follow in the coming months.



On the water at Lake Kazuni geared up for sample collection.



The team retrieves a water sample.



Water sample filtration at Lake Kazuni.



DNA extraction at the UNIMA laboratory.

Mungeti Mulungo

*Investigating the health and regeneration patterns of *Brachystegia boehmii* in woodlands in Nyika National Park.*

Mungeti has been busy working in the field but managed to send us some photos. We expect to receive his report at the end of this year.



Data collection in an area of frequent fire.



Mungeti measuring tree diameter at breast height.



Navigating at the East of Nyika with small Brachystigia.



South part of the Nyika with undisturbed woodland.



Mungeti recording data.

Weather station on the Nyika Plateau

For those of us who miss being up on the Nyika Plateau, you can imagine being there by checking on the local weather in real time.



Nyika plateau weather station

© Jollyweather .com

The African Mountain Research Foundation purchases, installs and maintains solar-powered weather stations with data-logging capability in secure locations above 1,700 metres in the mountains of southern Africa. The Nyika station is located at Chelinda and you can find out the current air temperature, wind speed and direction, atmospheric pressure, humidity, rainfall and evaporation on <https://jollyweather.com/nyika/index.html>. The information is updated hourly and 24 hourly.

As this newsletter is being written, the temperature at Chelinda is 17°C. There's no rain of course, being the dry season, but the relative humidity is 45%.

You will be able to track the first rains when they come.

Michael Siska

Evaluation of damage caused by elephants to woody vegetation in the Nyika Elephant Sanctuary.

We have heard from Michael that his research has gone well and that he is now analysing his findings to write his final report. We look forward to it.



Gracious Lokoma

Avian-flora interactions: investigating the role of fruiting plants in shaping the distribution and diversity of significant ecotourism bird species in Nyika National Park.

Gracious is due to submit his report which, once reviewed, will be available on our website.

NVT UK Accounts 2025/26

Income	
Donations & legacies	£9513
Promotional activities	£1,618
Interest	£5,256
	£16,386
Expenditure	
Nyika Vwaza Co-Management Trust: Research Support	£50,000
LWT Education centre	£15,000
Research grants	£14,430
Fundraising and Support	£2,928
	£82,398
Available Cash as at 30 June 2026	£101,759
Future Commitments:	
NVCMT – Research Support	£75,000
LWT Education centre	£7,500

Explanation of the accounts

Income

- Funds from donations are divided into Unrestricted Funds (which trustees are free to use for any purpose in line with the charitable objects), and Restricted Funds (which are designated for specific projects).
- Interest refers to interest on capital held in NVT's bank account.

Expenditure

- NVCMT Research Support: This is the sum of the second and third payments towards the three-year Research Support programme for the Nyika Vwaza Co-Management Trust. NVT has committed a total of £150,000 towards this project.
- LWT Environmental Education Centre: NVT has committed to support LWT's Environmental Education Programme for a three-year period (total £45,000, ending March 2027).
- Research Grants covers grants made during 2025/26. This programme will continue, with reduced funds, due to capital being directed to the NVCMT programme.
- Expenditure exceeds income for the year, and the difference was funded by drawing on the Happold Africa Fund. All funds are held in Current and Interest-bearing accounts with Lloyds Bank. The Full Accounts are available at: [NVT Report and Accounts 2025-26](#)

Donations appreciated

It is so good to see the Nyika Plateau and Vwaza Marsh becoming the focus for large-scale and long-term conservation that will ensure a better future for the area and its communities.

As you will have read in this newsletter, we continue to support LWT's Education Centre and we have active grant-funded research projects. George M'manga has picked up the baton as PPF's coordinator as part of the Peace Parks Foundation's Co-Management Agreement with the Malawi Government. We are funding his important role which will help ensure appropriate information is established to help guide the management of the Nyika National Park and the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve. Our funds continue to be well used and donations are very much appreciated.

We are most grateful to all of you who have already made donations and hope that this newsletter will encourage others of you to support this important work. You can find a donation form at the end of this newsletter, or you can make a direct donation to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust account at Lloyds Bank, sort code 309089, account number 44504860, IBAN GB94LOYD30908944504860

A very big 'thank you' for your support.

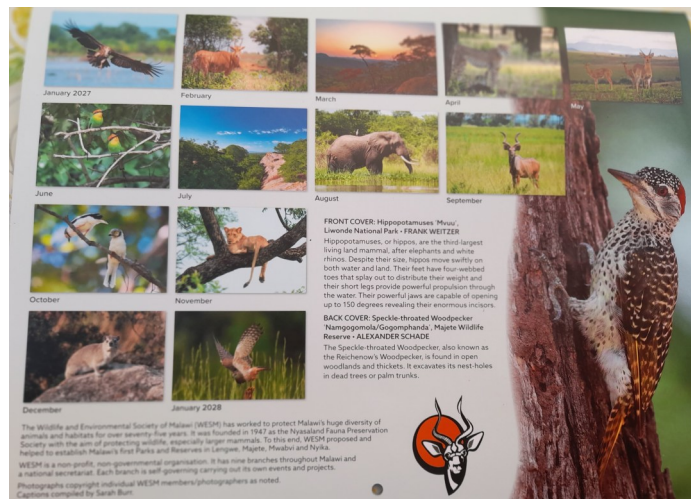
Malawi Wildlife Calendar 2027

Once again, Jane Lawrance has sourced the Wildlife Society of Malawi calendar, which has delighted us in the past with stunning photos of flora, fauna and scenic views. For those who know and love the country, it is a daily reminder of its delights. For those who haven't yet visited, it is a temptation to do so.

The price is £12 for the calendar + UK p&p of £3, making a total of £15. To be sure of a copy, please send your order by email to malawicalendars@gmail.com, or by post to Jane Lawrance, 50 Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4NA.

Copies will be available at the NVT event in London on 5 November 2026, but please place your order well before the date so we can be sure to have the right supply on the day. The cost is £12 for calendars collected at the event.

Here are photos of the front and back covers of the 2027 calendar and we hope they encourage you to buy.



Short films of the Nyika Plateau

Here's another chance to remind yourselves of the beauty of the Nyika Plateau and the charm of its communities. Lawrence Luhanga PhD, a lecturer and researcher in film production and photography at the University of Malawi, has produced a series of 90-second films and there are more in the pipeline.

Produced for Wilderness & Travel Africa; a channel dedicated to exploring Africa's landscapes, wildlife, forests, mountains, cultures and hidden travel destinations; the films are described as: 'A poetic journey across the vast landscapes of Nyika Plateau, told in the voice of Nyika itself. As a group of hikers moves through rolling grasslands, mist-covered hills, forests and open skies, the plateau becomes more than a setting. It becomes a living character, reflecting on time, solitude, beauty, memory and the footsteps of those who pass through it. Through cinematic imagery and intimate narration, this short-film series invites you to experience hiking not simply as a journey across the land, but as a conversation with the wilderness.'

These films are so evocative that you will probably want to watch them more than once!

You can find them here:

[A Story from Nyika | Full Series - YouTube](#)

STOP PRESS!

LWT has just circulated a newsletter with an update on their programme to integrate environmental education into the national primary school curriculum.

<https://lilongwewildlife.org/news/turning-environmental-education-into-action>

Much of the content is covered in the article written by Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema in this newsletter but there were two delightful new photos, one of which we include here.



Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust
Promotional Evening with a discussion led by Dr Jamie McCullum
at the Union Jack Club,
Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ on Thursday 5th November 2026.

**‘Shaping the future of the Nyika Plateau
- the place where water comes from.’**

Application Form for Tickets

Admission tickets are £20 per person or £8 per student.

I would like to apply for..... tickets to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust evening 5th November 2026 for the persons named below.

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

Alternatively you may email your application to the Hon Secretary, NVT UK Trust, sec.nvt@gmail.com, quoting your name and email and phone contact, and listing your guests, and make payment direct to the Trust's account at Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-90-89, account number 44504860.

(Please complete in block letters)

Name of applicant:		Ticket number
Organisation name (if applicable):		
Address:		Date issued
Contact Tel. number:		
Email address:		

Names of other people for whom tickets are requested

Name:		
Name:		
Name:		
Name:		
Name:		

If paying by cheque please return this form, with your remittance to Tom Lupton, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Nyika Vwaza (UK) Trust, 72 North Street, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8AS.

Order Form for Guide to Nyika National Park

To order "Nyika – A Guide to the Nyika National Park, Malawi", payment can be made by £sterling cheque (made out to Nyika-Vwaza Trust), or direct to NVT's UK bank – see details below.

Prices:

UK: £20, incl. p&p, direct to the Trust's account at Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-90-89, account number 44504860

Overseas: direct to Lloyds Bank plc account (IBAN GB94LOYD30908944504860), account name The Nyika-Vwaza UK Trust, or by banker's draft) £28, including p&p.

We rely on donations to the Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust to fund our programmes, so please consider adding a donation to the amount you are paying for the guide.

Please complete the following:

I would like copies of the book, "Nyika – A Guide to the Nyika National Park, Malawi."

I would like to add a donation of £.....

I enclose my cheque for £.....

Or, I confirm that I have paid £.... direct to the
Trust account at Lloyds Bank plc, sort code 30-90-89, account number 44504860,

Or that I have paid £....sterling by bankers draft,

Please use your last name as the reference.

Cheques must be in £sterling and drawn on a UK bank.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other.....

Forename:.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

..... Postcode:.....

Email address:.....

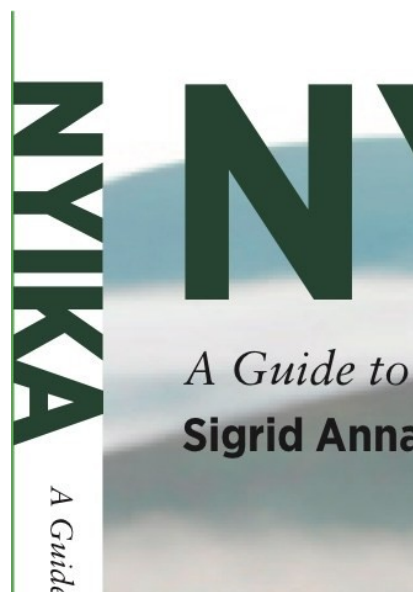
Please return this completed form to:

Hon. Treasurer, Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust

72 North Street,

Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8AS, UK

Alternatively, you can download a pdf of the book from the NVT website.



The Nyika Guide
© Sigi Johnson



Working for environmental and wildlife conservation in
northern Malawi.

The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust

Reg. charity no. 1105105

The Hon. Treasurer/Secretary
72 North Street,
Biddenden,
Kent
TN27 8AS
Tel: +44 (0)1483 714130
Email: sec.nvt@gmail.com

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 Lloyds Bank plc, for the credit of
The Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust, Sort Code 30-90-89, account No.
44504860, 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,

72 North Street,

Biddenden

Kent.

TN27 8AS

for registration and onward transmission to your Bank.

Alternatively you may set up a standing order direct with your bank and advise us of your arrangement by email to

sec.nvt@gmail.com.

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 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: