



NVT Event 16 October 2025

'Coexisting with carnivores: Lessons for the UK from Malawi and Nepal.'

6.30pm at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street London SE1 8UJ



*Jonny Hanson filming
© Jonny Hanson*

Our speaker will be Dr. Jonny Hanson, a former trustee of NVT UK and known to many of you. In his interactive multimedia presentation, Dr. Hanson will consider the complex and contested topic of lynx and wolf reintroductions to the UK. Could and should they happen? Jonny will take us on a global journey to answer these questions, drawing especially on his work on snow leopard conservation in Nepal, and his upbringing in Malawi.

Jonny Hanson is an environmental social scientist at Queen's University Belfast and an award-winning social entrepreneur who set up and managed Northern Ireland's first community-owned farm. Raised between Malawi, Africa, and Monaghan, Ireland, he has a PhD in snow leopard conservation from the University of Cambridge and is an Affiliate of the Snow Leopard Conservancy. More information about his work can be found on www.jonnyhanson.com, and @jonnyhanson.

It's a very exciting subject and Jonny is an exceptionally good speaker, so don't miss it. Make sure it's in your diary and book your tickets. 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

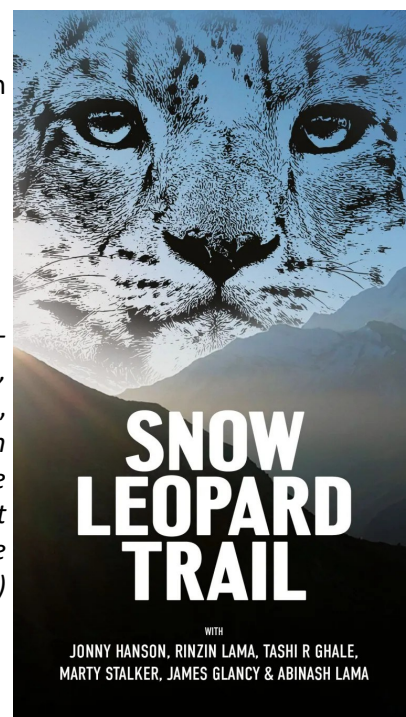
6.45 update from Chairman, Tom Lupton

7.00 Jonny Hanson's talk, followed by questions from the audience

8.00 networking continues. Cash bar.

9.30 evening ends.

Details of the event can be found at www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/UJC-2025.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 at 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.



Notes from the field

By Andrew Kanzunguze, NVT-funded Research Co-ordinator for the Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust

It has been an energising and humbling start to my tenure as Research Co-ordinator for the Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust (NVCMT). Over the past few weeks, I've been immersed in fieldwork across Nyika and Vwaza - reconnecting with communities, reviewing ecological monitoring, and shaping our research priorities around the realities of the landscape.

One evening in Vwaza, I watched a lone hippo on the banks of Lake Kazuni after a scorching day, just a week since launching the Nyika-Vwaza Gravity-fed piped water scheme on 7 August. The scheme, tapping water from Nyika National Park, now delivers safe water to communities around both parks, reducing the need to enter wildlife zones and risk encounters with hippos, crocodiles, elephants, and buffalo. Seeing women and children celebrate clean water access from this initiative was a powerful reminder of how conservation and community wellbeing go hand in hand, and why research must help replicate and enhance such synergies under the Trust.



Launch of the Nyika-Vwaza Gravity-fed Piped Water Scheme
DNPW Nyika and Vwaza Officers, DNPW Directorate, Principal Secretary
and Minister of Tourism, and Peace Parks Foundation Managers for
Northern Parks
© Andrew Kanzunguze

My immediate priority is strengthening the bridge between research and decision-making. This primarily means developing a strategic research and monitoring plan that supports adaptive management across the Trust's operational areas (i.e., law enforcement, human-wildlife coexistence management, ecosystem health, and sustainable community livelihoods). A workshop in early September (2025) will help refine our data systems so that biodiversity surveys, resource protection and patrol threat assessments, as well as community feedback directly inform the Trust's management actions.

As Prof. Nambota of Peace Parks Foundation (also Board member of the Trust) often says, "*conservation without communities is a mere conversation*". That ethos is central to the Trusts' approach. Communities are not just subjects of study but active contributors to knowledge generation in the management of the two parks. Driven by this ethos, we'll be reactivating partnerships with longstanding players in the landscape such as Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, academic institutions, and independent researchers to support priority studies and build scientific capacity of the Trust. The work ahead includes a focus on strengthening the Trust's MEL system, and commencing ecological studies and social research as below;

- **Systems Strengthening:** Standardized methodologies for data management (collection, storage, and reporting), data integration, and participatory monitoring.
- **Ecological Focus:** Orchid sustainability, fire ecology, invasive species, land-use change.
- **Social Research:** Community attitudes, tourism potential, scalable livelihood interventions.



During community engagement inspection of water points around Nyika and Vwaza
© Andrew Kanzunguze

As we move forward, I'm committed to fostering collaborations that bridge science, policy, and local knowledge. Expect more updates in future editions as we deepen our commitment to inclusive and evidence-driven conservation. Next time, I hope to share insights from our capacity review and how local custodians are gearing up to support the Trust's research strategy.



During a meeting with beekeepers at Thazima in Nyika
© Andrew Kanzunguze

Wildlife and Environmental Education Sourcebook for Primary Schools

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

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) partnership with The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), namely Malawi Institute of Education (MIE) and Directorate of Quality Assurance Services (DQAS) is getting stronger each day. Now that the sourcebook has been published, launched and was rolled out in 2024, LWT continued to mobilise resources to scale up the implementation of the sourcebook towards reaching the target of over 5,000 primary schools. The resources will also support continued engagement with MIE and DQAS to ensure that the curriculum integrates wildlife and environmental education. To date a total of 1,970 books have been printed, and a further 1,030 will be printed in August 2025.

In April 2025, LWT engaged MoBSE - especially coordinators and curriculum development personnel within MIE and DQAS - to explore ways in which LWT, with its sourcebook, would participate in the curriculum development process and, at the same time, lobby integration of wildlife and environmental education. MoBSE was very positive that the content of the sourcebook will be used in the curriculum review/development because it addresses the agenda's 63 enablers which are also informing the curriculum process. MoBSE recommended that the sourcebook undergo a levelling exercise. In August 2025, LWT initiated a sourcebook



Participants during the DQAS/LWT/MIE meeting on curriculum
© Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema

levelling meeting with a team of curriculum specialists and quality assurance officers in MoBSE as part of the process of ensuring that the sourcebook adequately and appropriately supports teachers and learners. The content of all the eight units of the sourcebook was divided among six grades according to level of difficulty. Six grades were used in the levelling exercise considering that the 2025 curriculum framework proposes a 6-year primary school compared to the current 8 years of primary school. The curriculum framework also proposed a pre-primary school and a competency/skill-based curriculum rather than the current outcome/result-based curriculum.

LWT and its partners, MIE and DQAS, are continuing to plan more printing of books, translation of the sourcebook into Tumbuka and Chichewa, developing radio and video programmes of the sources and teachers training.



A team of curriculum specialists, quality assurance and LWT officers during the sourcebook levelling process © Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema

Expanding Lilongwe Wildlife Trust's Environmental Education

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

The Lilongwe Wildlife Environmental Education Programme aims at expanding LWT's environmental education and now it is in the second year. The project is making strides in increasing the reach of environmental education activities undertaken by the LWT EEC, and increasing the impact on Malawian school children, students and (aspiring) teachers of the environmental educational activities. The project is famous amongst learners and environmental educators, especially with regular learning visits to protected areas, teachers training, consultations and environmental educators learning exchange.



Outside LWT's Lilongwe Environmental Educations Centre
© Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema

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An education visit to Liwonde National Park with 28 learners from four schools was conducted providing students with practical knowledge of wildlife management and conservation through guided game drives led by experienced Africa Parks guides. The visit also included learner guidance on establishing and managing wildlife clubs, training on meeting facilitation, leadership selection, and activity planning including debates, art competitions, and environmental clean-up initiatives.



A teachers workshop
© Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema

Teacher training and consultative meetings were conducted and the teachers' workshop aimed at equipping educators with knowledge of environmental education. The training showcased the potential impacts of environmental education programs in fostering conservation awareness. This integration creates a foundation for expanding environmental education across diverse educational institutions. The comprehensive three-day stakeholder workshop served as a strategic platform to showcase EEC's conservation work, outlined its educational missions, and fostered prolific partnerships with key stakeholders. The event provided an opportunity for the LWT to demonstrate EEC's collaborative work with schools, colleges, universities, communities and partners, while presenting future environmental education initiatives. This multi-institutional engagement established a foundation for structured and impactful collaboration in implementing EEC's environmental education initiatives across various educational and community sectors.

We are delighted to see the progress that LWT continues to make. The Nyika-Vwaza UK Trust has been involved with, and has financially supported, the environmental education programme through the curriculum and source book projects and now the Education Centre, for many years. It is gratifying for us and for our donors to see investment bearing fruit.

NVT Research grants

Gracious Lokoma should have recently arrived on the Nyika Plateau to start his research study on 'Avian-flora interactions: investigating the role of fruiting plants in shaping the distribution and diversity of significant ecotourism bird species in Nyika National Park'. His first task is to ensure that all the logistics are in place and that he has transportation, accommodation and of course food. The project's main objective is to reveal crucial ecological insights into the correlation between the presence of prolific touristic bird species and the seasonal production of fruits in Nyika National Park. He will collect data in both the dry and wet seasons and aims to produce his report in early summer 2026. We very much look forward to reading it.



Gracious Lokoma
© Gracious Lokoma

The trustees have agreed that further research grants will be deferred until Andrew Kanzunguze, Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust's recently appointed research co-ordinator, has had time to establish a clear view on future research needs. Trustee, Jonathan Timberlake has sent digital copies of all NVT grant funded research projects to Andrew and is arranging to send him all hard copy materials.



*Fruit of the *Cussonia arborea*, a species of small tree found on the Nyika Plateau*

NVT UK Accounts 2024/25

Income	
Donations & legacies	£12,382
Promotional activities	£1,306
Interest	£4,062
	£17,750
Expenditure	
Nyika Vwaza Co-Management Trust: Research Support	£25,000
LWT Education centre	£14,633
Research grants	£3,765
Fundraising and Support	£888
	£44,286
Available Cash as at 5 th April 2025	£167,638
Future Commitments:	
NVCMT – Research Support	£125,000
LWT Education Centre	£30,000

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 the investment account, which has now been closed and the money transferred to the bank account.

Expenditure

- NVCMT Research Support: This is the first payment towards the three-year Research Support programme for the Nyika Vwaza Co-Management Trust which NVT is funding. The programme is being overseen by the Peace Parks Foundation. 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 2024/25. 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, and using the remaining balance from the Ian Hay legacy funds. All funds are held in Current and Interest-Bearing Accounts with Lloyds Bank.

The Full Accounts are available at: www.nyika-vwaza-trust.org/wp-content/uploads/NVT-Annual-Report-and-Accounts-2024-5.pdf

The Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust – the story so far

You will have read the inspiring piece at the start of this newsletter written by Andrew Kanzunguze. He not only provided us with interesting information, but tickled our imagination by describing the scenes around him.

We thought it might be helpful to explain the bigger picture to Andrew's role as the Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust's research co-ordinator, both with a reminder of how our involvement came about and with a status update.

In February 2023 the Trust received an unexpected donation of £180,638 from the Happold Africa Fund. This generous donation enabled us to continue funding the LWT conservation education work, but also to seek a further project which would be appropriate for us to fund. After lengthy discussions, NVT UK trustees decided that the funds could be deployed to the greatest effect through the Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust, which resulted from an agreement between the Malawi government and the Peace Parks Foundation. This 20-year agreement will enable effective management of the two parks and surrounding communities and NVT UK is funding Andrew Kanzunguze's research role which will inform that management.

In the Peace Parks Foundation article that follows, PPF have described the broad process by which the Trust will bring about changes that will eventually result in better management of the Nyika and Vwaza, as well as benefit the communities of the surrounding area. Changing behaviours takes time and it is vital to work with the local communities to ensure they are deeply involved in creating that change.

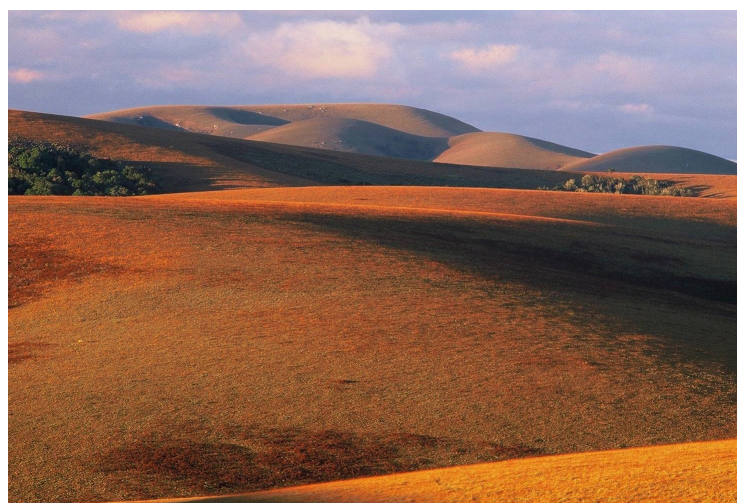
So that we can understand how the changes will be planned and implemented, we have asked Peace Parks Foundation to let us have more detailed information on the anticipated community involvement, with photos and examples so that we can better imagine who is involved and get a flavour of how the project is working 'on the ground'. We will share this in future newsletters.



Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust begins bold transition with change management support

By Jessica Faircliff, PPF Communications Officer

Nyika National Park and Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, critical landscapes in the Malawi-Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area, are entering a new era. The signing of a co-management agreement between the Government of Malawi and Peace Parks Foundation in 2023 marked the start of a new chapter. At the heart of this agreement is the newly formed Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust, tasked with overseeing the long-term protection and sustainable development of this landscape.



Nganda—the highest peak in the Nyika National Park

As the Trust officially takes over management, a smooth, people-focused transition is essential, not only to avoid disruption but to lay the foundation for something far more ambitious – a future-ready conservation model that places community involvement and strong leadership at its core.

To ensure this occurs, Peace Parks is bringing in expert change management support through Inspiro, a seasoned practitioner in guiding organisations through strategic transformation. The aim is to empower the newly created park management unit, led by its Chief Executive Officer

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(CEO), M. George Nxumayo and Edward Guzani, the Human Resources Manager, to manage this change effectively and sustainably.



One of the many meetings between Nyika-Vwaza Co-Management Trust and Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife
© Peace Parks Foundation

Why change management matters

This transition is about more than just handing over responsibilities. It involves re-imagining how these protected areas operate, with a refreshed business-oriented model, increased staff capacity and deeper community engagement. It also involves changing mindsets.

Without clear planning and support, changes in leadership, policy and systems can easily lead to confusion or disengagement. But with structured change management in place from the outset, the Trust can build momentum, strengthen internal alignment and keep its focus on the long-term goals of biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism and inclusive community development.

The goal is to ensure that everyone, from staff to partners, feels part of the process and is confident in the road ahead.

A four-phase approach to change

The process will follow a flexible, four-phase model, adapted specifically to the needs and context of the Nyika-Vwaza landscape:

1. **Laying the groundwork** Develop the business case for change and craft a shared vision with key stakeholders.
2. **Designing the journey** Co-create interventions and communication plans based on real stakeholder input. Activities will include focus groups, feedback loops and hands-on workshops.
3. **Putting plans into action** Implement change initiatives, from workshops and training, to

establishing a 'change agent' network shaped by feedback and timelines.

4. **Making it stick** Equip the park management unit to measure success, gather lessons learned and build momentum for future changes across other sites.

Throughout the process, the park management unit will take the lead, with support provided by Inspiro, Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife, and Peace Parks Foundation. Regular progress updates will be shared with the Trust's board, and external partners will be brought in where needed to ensure shared understanding and continuity.

Timing is key

The time to act is now. With the CEO and HR Manager taking up their roles, the conditions are right to embed change management into the Trust's DNA from day one. Early support will help shape onboarding, establish leadership confidence and ensure a united team ready to guide Nyika-Vwaza into a new era.



Elephants at Lake Kazuni in Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve

Donations appreciated

Our focus may have changed but we are still funding very worthwhile conservation projects as you will have read in this newsletter. We continue to support LWT's Education Centre and we have one active grant-funded research project. Andrew Kanzunguze is in place as PPF's Research Co-ordinator and 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 deployed 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 NyikaVwaza (UK) Trust account at Lloyds Bank, sort code 309089, account number 44504860, IBAN GB94LOYD30908944504860

A very big 'thank you' for your support.

2026 Malawi Wildlife Calendar

Once again, we have the opportunity to source 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. Please do not send any money at this stage and we will let you know when the stock is available.

They should arrive with us in time to have a supply at the NVT event in London on 16 October 2025, but please place your order well before the date. Cost £12 for calendars collected at the event. A big thank you to Jane Lawrance for organising the calendars.



We haven't yet been sent pictures of the 2026 calendar, but above is an example from a few years ago.

Mount Mulanje added to prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List

Some of you may missed the news that Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape in southern Malawi has been officially inscribed onto the UNESCO World Heritage List. It celebrates the mountain's rich cultural traditions, profound spiritual significance and its ecological value.

For centuries Mount Mulanje has been a sacred site for the Mang'anja, Yao and Lomwe peoples, with sites across the massif continuing to serve as venues for traditional rites and rituals. It offers some of Africa's most breath-taking natural scenery with its deep ravines, rainforest gorges, montane grasslands and miombo woodlands. It is home to the critically endangered Mulanje cedar, Malawi's national tree.

Editor: Jennie Kettlewell
Designer: Mike Budgen

Nyika-Vwaza (UK) Trust

**Promotional Evening with a discussion led by Dr Jonny Hanson
at the Union Jack Club,
Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ on Thursday 16th October 2025.**

“Coexisting with carnivores: Lessons for the UK from Malawi and Nepal.”

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 16th October 2025 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:.....

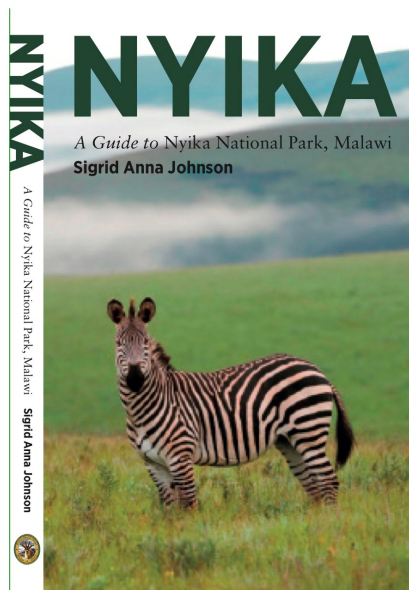
Please return this completed form to:

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: