

IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022



A force for nature in Malawi

OUR VISION: A FUTURE
IN WHICH MALAWI'S
WILDLIFE AND WILD
PLACES CAN THRIVE.

OUR MISSION: TO SAVE
WILDLIFE, CAMPAIGN FOR
CONSERVATION JUSTICE
AND INSPIRE PEOPLE TO
VALUE AND PROTECT
NATURE IN MALAWI.



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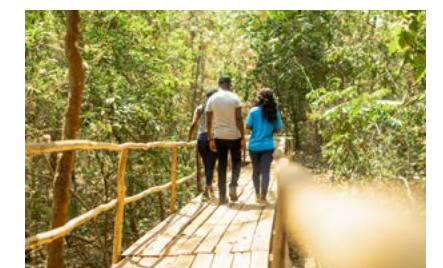
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

On 28 September 2021, the kingpin of one of southern Africa's most notorious wildlife crime syndicates was jailed. Yunhua Lin was given a 14-year sentence by Malawian courts, making him the 14th member of the Lin-Zhang syndicate to be imprisoned. The landmark ruling demonstrated the Government's ability to fight organised crime at the highest levels and take progressive action to protect its natural heritage.

This hard-fought win reflects many years of resilience and dedication from multiple agencies and organisations, in Malawi and beyond, to dismantle the trafficking networks that are wreaking devastation on wildlife populations in the region. It also shows the power of a multi-disciplinary approach that utilises all available tools, from securing political and public will to strengthening legislation, investigations and prosecutions. The adaptation of this model to combat forest crime is underway, developments of which are detailed later in this report.

Illegal wildlife trade is one of the key challenges we tackle under our broader mission to protect Malawi's wildlife and wild places. Many of the record 150 animals we rescued this year were victims of wildlife crime. Of those, 36 were pangolins and we are proud to report that our survival rates through rehabilitation and release are amongst the highest in Africa. For a species highly threatened by the wildlife trade, every individual really does count.

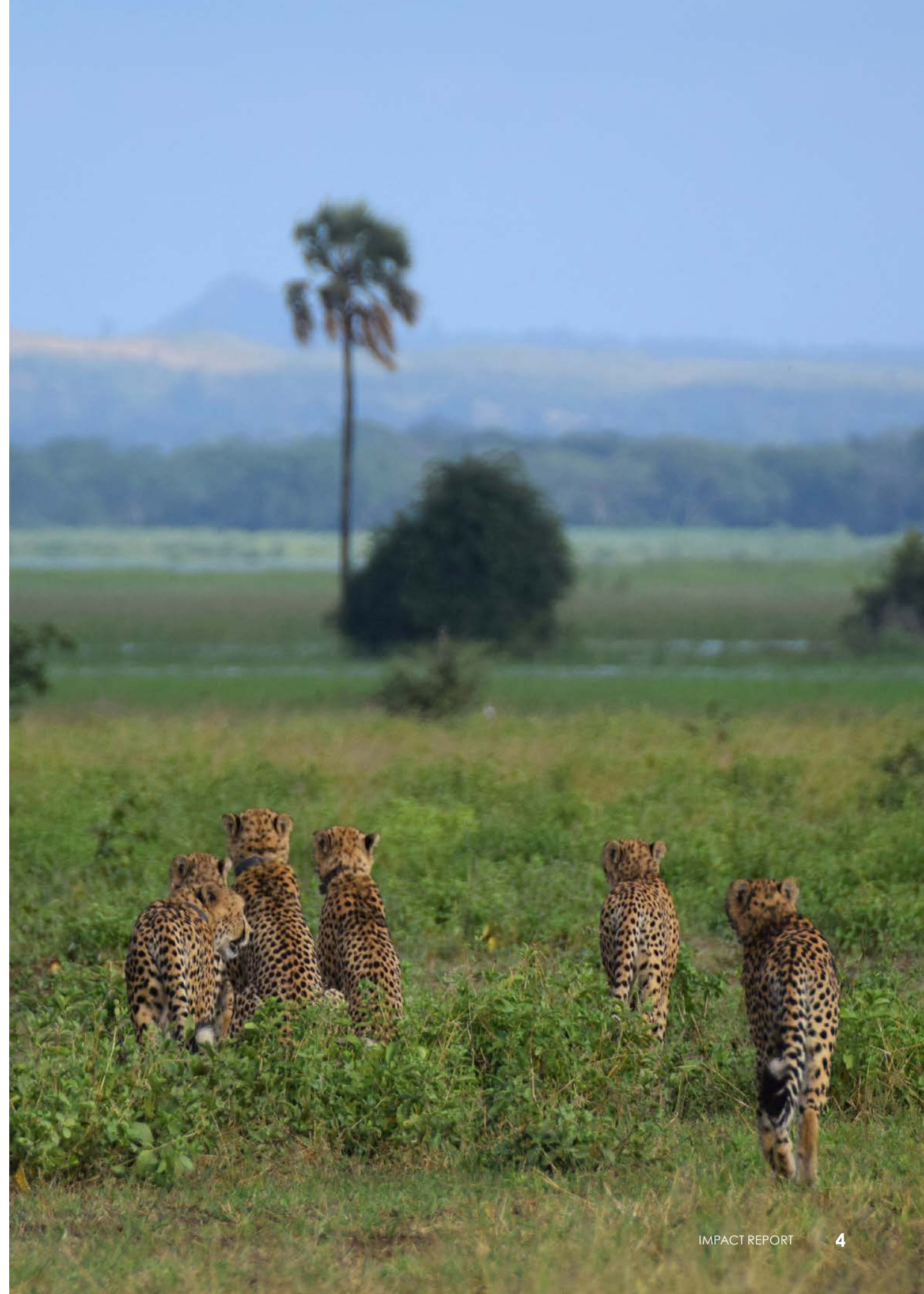
Regardless of conservation status, our team is devoted to achieving the best outcome for each animal we care for at Lilongwe Wildlife Centre and through our veterinary work in the field. Our docuseries *Malawi Wildlife Rescue* gives a dramatic insight into what it takes to remove a snare from an elephant, place a tracking device on a rhino or save an orphaned monkey, with season two airing worldwide earlier this year.

We are also thrilled to announce the opening of our new wildlife rehabilitation centre and veterinary clinic. These redevelopments ensure we have fit-for-purpose facilities to further hone our clinical and husbandry care for animals in need, and also provide high quality training for both Malawian and international students.

The other achievements highlighted in this report were set against a backdrop of significant challenges, including the turmoil created by COVID-19. Our impact is due to our wonderful team and the strong, collaborative relationships we have forged with government and technical partners. The incredible generosity of our donors also meant that we were able to put over \$4 million into our wildlife conservation and welfare initiatives in Malawi this year.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of this year's success. We are looking forward to another successful year and hope we can count on your continued support.

Jonny Vaughan, MBE
CEO



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022

SAVING WILDLIFE ►



We are a force for wildlife, rescuing and rehabilitating animals and releasing as many as possible back into the wild.

- 150 animals** rescued
- 189 animals** cared for at Lilongwe Wildlife Centre
- 84 animals** released back into the wild
- 165 clinical procedures** performed
- 75 animals monitored** (all threatened species) per month in protected areas
- 2,327 checks** undertaken to monitor the status of animals in the wild

EDUCATING AND ENGAGING COMMUNITIES ►



We are a force for knowledge, inspiring our next generation to value the world around us and mobilising communities to defend nature.

- 10,292 children** and **150 schools** engaged in our education programmes
- 205 teachers** trained to deliver environmental education and micro projects, e.g. beekeeping
- 11,494 trees** planted
- 2,056 people** reached through community outreach

PROMOTING CONSERVATION JUSTICE ►

We are a force for justice, campaigning for an end to illegal wildlife trade and other environmental crimes.

- 112 wildlife trafficking convictions** secured
- 87% conviction rate for offences against Listed Species** (elephants, pangolins, rhinos) with all convictions resulting in a custodial sentence
- Average custodial sentence of 5 years** and maximum sentence of 14 years (for offences against Listed Species)
- 98% conviction rate for forestry cases**



We are a force for progress, campaigning across society and partnering with policy makers to make conservation a national priority.

- 41 journalists** trained on a range of issues related to wildlife crime
- 204 press, TV and radio articles** secured on wildlife and forest crime
- 4 campaigns delivered** on conservation and wildlife and forest crime issues



CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE ►

CONVICTIONS FOR NOTORIOUS WILDLIFE CRIME SYNDICATE



Our Conservation Justice Programme supports the Government of Malawi to ensure that wildlife poachers and traffickers are brought to justice. In 2021, Malawian courts convicted multiple members of one of southern Africa's most prolific wildlife trafficking syndicates, responsible for the illicit trade in tonnes of ivory over the past two decades. In September 2021, Yunhua Lin, the 'kingpin' of the Lin-Zhang syndicate, was sentenced to 14 years for dealing in rhino horn, 14 years for possession of rhino horn and six years for money laundering, with the sentences to run concurrently. He will be deported back to China on completion of the jail term.

Lin's sentencing brings the total of Lin-Zhang syndicate members sent to prison to 14. Ten Chinese and four Malawian nationals have received prison sentences for offences related to the possession of firearms and protected or Listed Species, including pangolins, rhino horns, hippo teeth and elephant ivory. Lin's wife, Quin Hua Zhang, and son-in-law, Li Hao Yaun, are currently serving 11-year prison terms and Lin's daughter, Lin Hui Xin, has also been charged with money laundering offences (her trial is ongoing).

These are impressive convictions for any country, but for Malawi convicting members of this organised crime syndicate is particularly significant as it was previously seen as an easy country to exploit due to weak law enforcement.

In response to the convictions Brighton Kumchedwa, Director of Malawi's Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW), said: "Malawi is no longer a playground for the likes of the Lin-Zhang syndicate that exploit our natural heritage, damage our economy, incite corruption and pose a risk to national security. This is indeed a victory for Malawi."

Malawi's robust programme of law enforcement in recent years is delivering strong outcomes. Since the establishment of our Conservation Justice Programme in 2016, when custodial sentences were almost unheard of, the overall conviction rate for wildlife crimes has risen to an impressive 87%. During the same time period (2017-2020) 91% of convictions for Listed Species (elephant, pangolin, rhino) resulted in a custodial sentence.

In early 2022 Malawi became the fourth country in the world to call for combatting illicit wildlife trafficking to be embedded into the international criminal law framework in the form of a Fourth Protocol under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. Joining Angola, Costa Rica and Gabon, Malawi is urging an addition to the existing three protocols against human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms.

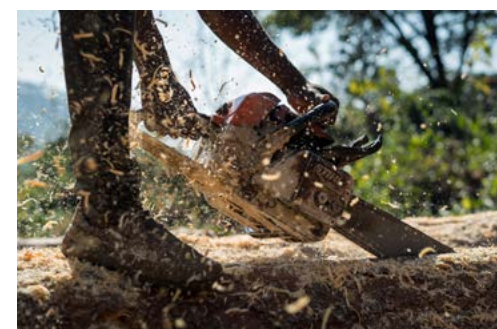


FIGHTING FOREST CRIME



Over 90% of urban households in Malawi use charcoal for their cooking and energy needs. Demand is met by the unregulated charcoal trade, and this illicit trade is one of the key drivers of deforestation, which itself is one of the most pressing environmental and developmental challenges facing Malawi today.

We support the Government to strengthen justice initiatives that will curb and disrupt forest crime. This year, we worked with the Department of Forestry and the Malawian judiciary to finalise new charcoal regulations, building on the landmark passing of the Forest Act Amendment Bill that we supported in 2020. Copies of this new legislation were distributed to magistrates and law enforcement agencies, and training was provided to prosecutors as well as officers from the Department of Forestry, Malawi Police Service, and the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

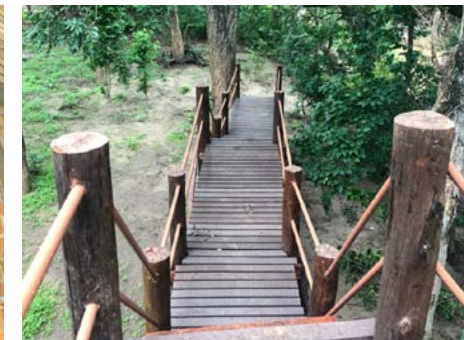


Communicating the scale and urgency of the crisis as well as the evolving face of forest crime to support the step-change in law enforcement was central to our advocacy in 2021. We worked with partners on the USAID and UKAID co-funded Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests project, to publish a dossier entitled 'Sounding the Alarm: Malawi's Forests on the Brink' (www.lilongwewildlife.org/forests). It has served as a key reference tool for engagement with media, decision makers, and other government bodies, and includes investigative pieces by journalists from the nation's leading media houses, supported with opinion from influential environmental and political commentators.



REDEVELOPING LILONGWE WILDLIFE CENTRE

In October 2021 we opened our brand new veterinary centre - the flagship redevelopment of our ongoing Project GreenHeart initiative to transform Lilongwe Wildlife Centre. The new centre includes a large veterinary clinic, purpose-built lab, multiple enclosures, intensive care room and conference room. Generously funded by the Olsen Animal Trust and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, it is significantly larger than our old facility and means that we will be able to continue providing excellent care for Malawi's wildlife as well as teaching for both national and international students in veterinary medicine and animal care. We have also redeveloped our network of enclosures, quarantine facilities and aviaries to deliver gold standard care for injured, orphaned and abused wildlife.



With support from the United Nations Development Programme we are also nearing completion of a new education centre that will be at the heart of an immersive education experience for children and youth. Alongside the new centre, a network of wilderness trails, interpretive signage and forest infrastructure will inspire learners to value and protect nature. We also opened our brand new volunteer accommodation for students, researchers and volunteers undertaking placements at Lilongwe Wildlife Centre.

Our Project GreenHeart work also involved securing cross-sector support for the Lilongwe Ecological Corridor Initiative (LECI). This initiative - led by Lilongwe City Council - aims to create a green corridor around the Lingadzi and Lilongwe rivers to connect key sites of biological importance and build Lilongwe's status as an emerging green city. We were delighted to secure Presidential support for LECI, with His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera authoring a foreword to a special report we published on the importance of protecting urban biodiversity. Writing that the LECI represents a "unique and paradigm-shifting opportunity...to turn our cities into spaces where nature and people thrive together," the President urged government agencies, donors, and residents to champion the initiative.

RESEARCH ON THREATENED SPECIES

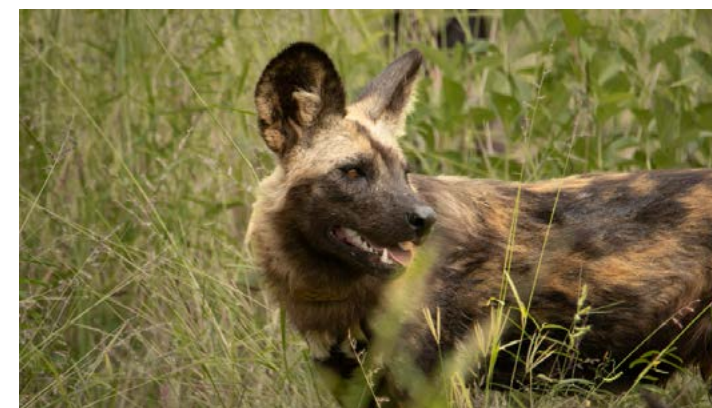


As Malawi continues to make impressive conservation gains, it is critical that its growing wildlife numbers are closely monitored and protected. Our biodiversity research and monitoring initiatives provide this support, focusing largely on threatened species. Working in partnership with the Government of Malawi as well as partners like African Parks, we collect data that inform national and regional wildlife management decisions and interventions such as translocations, anti-poaching efforts and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.



In the last year we've made significant progress on our vulture project. To date we have tagged 41 vultures across three species and four locations in Malawi, giving us remarkable insights into the large distances they travel across southern Africa. We have also trained rangers across four parks in species identification and wildlife poisoning response and have disseminated vulture identification kits to aid rangers with on-the-ground assessments. We are delighted to have secured a Conservation Action Grant from Fondation Segré through IUCN Save Our Species to continue this vital research.

In the north of Malawi we are working in Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve to investigate key drivers of elephant crop raiding behaviour. This will help to predict 'hotspot' conflict areas and support park management to implement targeted measures to protect both elephants and people. Meanwhile our post-release monitoring of pangolins is helping to identify optimal release sites and improve post-release survival rates (currently at 75%). Monitoring has also allowed us to intervene when released pangolins encounter threats, such as moving near to electrified fence lines or being captured by poachers.



We're also delighted to welcome the participation of students and volunteers in our carnivore monitoring programme in Liwonde National Park, which is run in partnership with African Parks and collects valuable data on iconic species such as lions, cheetahs and the park's newly reintroduced pack of wild dogs.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

A record year for wildlife rescues

This year Lilongwe Wildlife Centre rescued 150 animals - the most intakes we've ever recorded in a year, reflecting the continued high demand for our services. These included two orphaned hyena cubs, a bushpig severely injured by poachers and numerous primates rescued from the illegal pet trade. We also undertook a large-scale reorganisation of our baboon troops to create a troop of 25-30 individuals that will eventually be released back into the wild. We also made preparations for the release of a troop of 16 vervet monkeys in early 2023. These monkeys all arrived as orphans or ex-pets and have spent a few years being integrated into a cohesive family unit that will soon be ready to begin their new lives back in the wild.



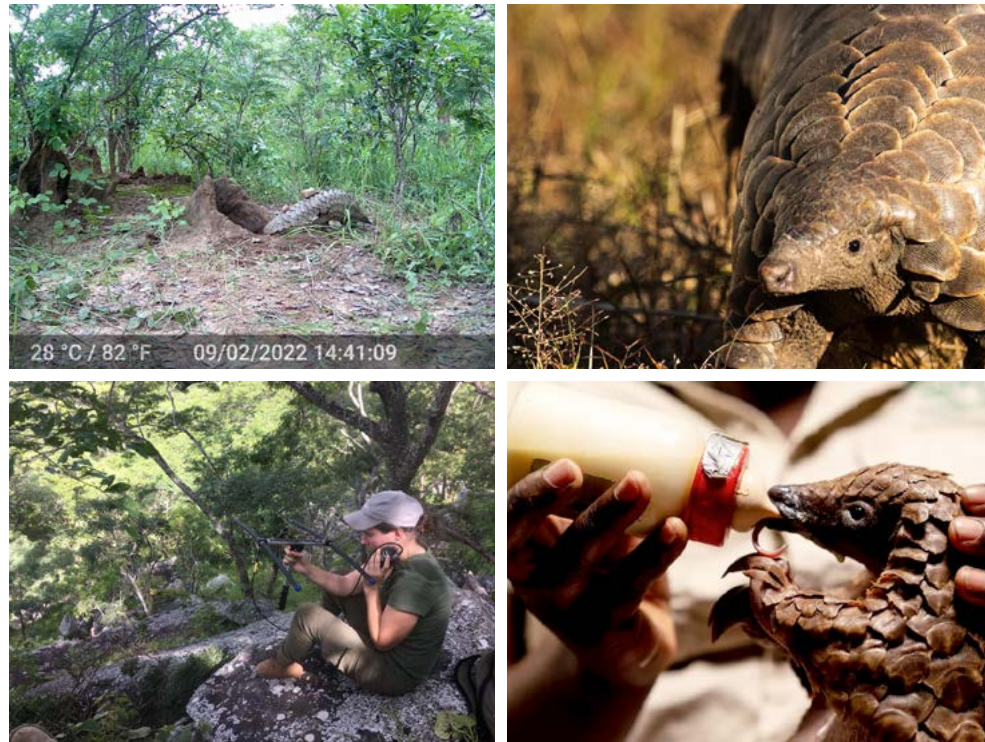
Malawi Wildlife Rescue TV series returns

Following the success of season one, the film crew for Malawi Wildlife Rescue returned to document the trials and tribulations of our wildlife rescue and animal care team in what turned out to be one of our busiest years. The action-packed second series launched in April 2022 on television channels worldwide, shining a spotlight on Malawi's conservation challenges and inspiring viewers from across the world to donate, visit and volunteer to support our work.



Protecting pangolins

With technical support from the Tikki Hywood Foundation, we care for the majority of illegally traded pangolins seized by the authorities in Malawi. This year we rescued 36 pangolins, a 33% increase from the previous year - sadly indicative of the overall rise in pangolin trade in Malawi. Although pangolins are notoriously difficult to care for in captivity and are often severely injured during their time with traffickers, we are currently seeing survival rates of around 75%, which are among the highest in Africa. In 2021 we worked closely with DNPW to draft Malawi's first Pangolin Conservation Action Plan to support a national, coordinated response to the increasing threats to pangolins. Our post-release monitoring is also securing fascinating insights on pangolin ecology in Malawi.



Monitoring biodiversity in Liwonde National Park

During its first year of operation our biodiversity monitoring programme has helped identify a number of new animals born into the park, including four cheetahs, six hyenas and nine lions. We provided over 2,000 reports on priority species, as well as identification kits and studbooks on every large carnivore in the park. Decades of persecution led to an almost total absence of carnivores in Liwonde, so watching these populations expand is hugely exciting. Our team supported with collaring one lion and 11 cheetahs and put the first satellite transmitter on a pangolin in Malawi. And, after hosting our first Malawian undergraduate researcher, we are now working with him to publish his thesis findings, which assess dietary overlap between carnivores to inform management of the park's predator and prey populations.



Emergency support for wildlife

Our Wildlife Emergency Response Unit provides veterinary support in the field for wildlife emergencies and conservation projects across the entire country. This year our team assisted with one national and two international cheetah translocations. These movements helped to facilitate cheetah range expansion and promote gene flow between isolated populations in southern Africa. In addition we also supported the historic reintroduction of African wild dogs to Malawi which have not been seen in the country for 20 years. Through a collaboration between African Parks, DNPW and Endangered Wildlife Trust, eight dogs were moved into Liwonde National Park from South Africa and six into Majete Wildlife Reserve from Mozambique.



Supporting Malawi's next generation of conservationists

Through internships, mentoring and work placements, we are committed to supporting aspiring Malawian conservationists. This year two members of our wildlife welfare team graduated in veterinary medicine from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. One is now our Assistant Veterinarian at Lilongwe Wildlife Centre and the other is playing a critical role in our pangolin conservation programme. We also welcomed two female Malawian researchers to support our monitoring work. And thanks to funding from the United Nations Development Programme we initiated an apprenticeship programme, with the first three apprentices going on to join our operations, finance and programme teams. In Liwonde National Park, two university students are also completing research projects with guidance from our biodiversity monitoring team.



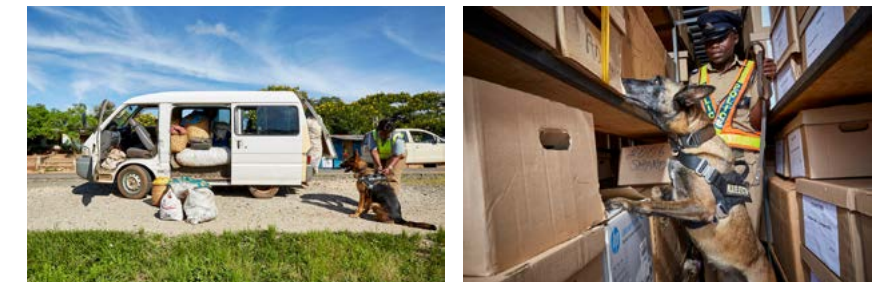


Inspiring youth

Together with DNPW we organise wilderness camps for children and teachers around the country to encourage a passion for wildlife conservation through an immersive experience in nature. This year we ran a five-day children’s camp at Kasungu National Park for 25 schools surrounding the park. Students and teachers took part in nature walks, environmental games, game viewing, storytelling and data gathering and interpretation. After the trip, teachers were inspired to share their learnings with other teachers in their communities, thereby increasing the project’s reach into new areas. This helps children develop a personal connection with nature, hopefully an experience that will inspire them for a lifetime.

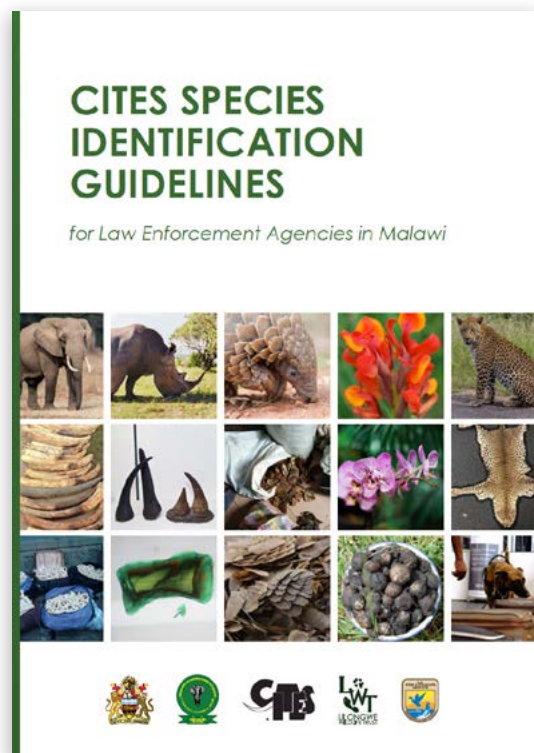
Accolades for Malawi’s detection dogs

The Wildlife Detection Dog Unit - a partnership between the Malawi Police Service, DNPW and LWT - uses dogs to detect illegal wildlife products and prevent trafficking at key transit points such as airports and border crossings. We are so proud that the handlers and dogs were certified by the American Society of Canine Trainers International following a ten-day training programme on detecting illegal wildlife products in vehicles, buildings and through open area searches. We provide the highest standards of care for these special dogs, so were delighted that the unit was also endorsed by the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development and the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals for achieving the highest standards of animal welfare.



Building Malawi’s CITES capacity

This year we supported the Government of Malawi to establish and train a new Expert Advisory Group, formed of multiple government institutions, to act as the country’s Scientific Authority to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Group provides scientific expertise on the effects of trade on endangered species. With DNPW, we also developed an online CITES permit system to track and report on applications to import or export endangered plants and animals. Malawi is now one of the few countries in Africa to deliver this capability. In collaboration with DNPW we developed and distributed 600 booklets and 150 posters to help law enforcement agencies easily identify the most commonly trafficked species.



Keeping wildlife in the media spotlight

We facilitated a media workshop for 29 journalists from 25 media houses to develop their understanding of key issues related to wildlife crime, including CITES, court case procedures and key species threatened by illegal wildlife trade. We also developed a new wildlife crime billboard campaign in collaboration with DNPW targeting key trade routes and maintained our strong presence throughout Malawi’s international airport with a refresh of all awareness materials. As a result of our media engagement, we have tracked a notable increase in coverage of criminal cases involving pangolins and other Listed Species, with stories and social media posts published by various media outlets.



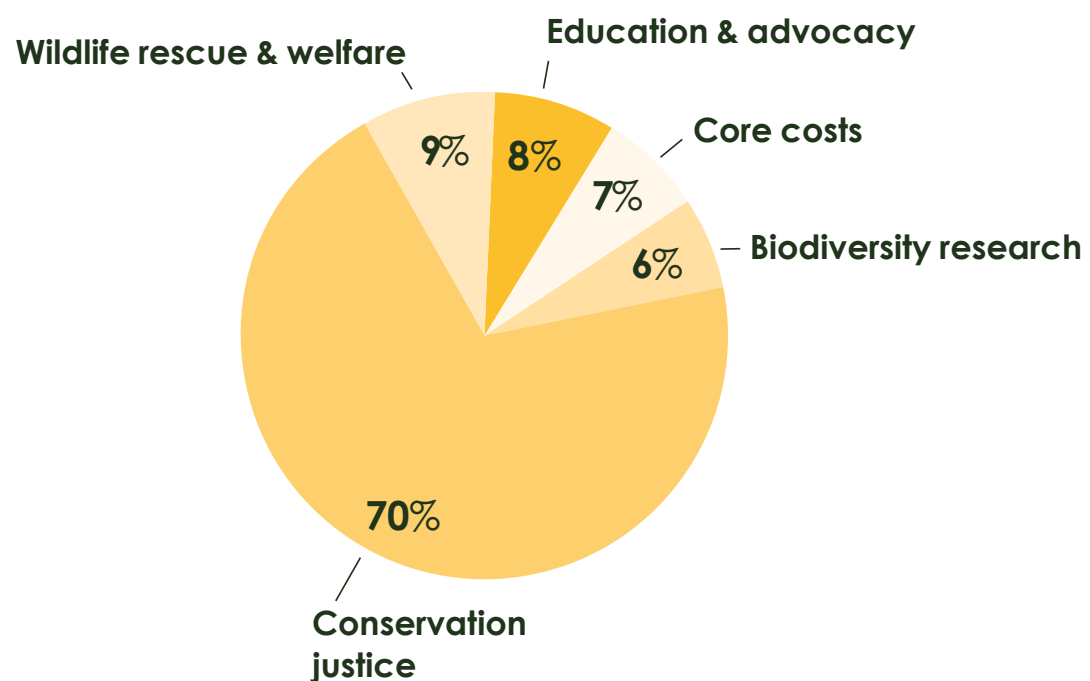
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In our last financial year, **\$4,356,647** was raised for Malawi-based conservation initiatives, thanks to the support and generosity of our donors and partners.

Direct project costs accounted for **93%** of our spend with **7%** on administration/core costs.

For full audited accounts please contact trust@lilongwewildlife.org

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



OUR NETWORK AND TEAM

DONORS & PARTNERS

Donors: Alliance One, Animal Welfare Institute, Born Free Foundation, Central African Wilderness Safaris, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK), Elephant Crisis Fund, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, Fondation Segré through IUCN Save Our Species, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Partnership against Wildlife Crime in Africa and Asia implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), International Conservation Caucus Foundation, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Primate Protection League, Lion Recovery Fund, Madárvilág Nonprofit Ltd, Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, NBS Bank, Nyika-Vwaza Trust, Oak Foundation, Olsen Animal Trust, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Pangolin Crisis Fund, Paul Allen Family Foundation, Perivoli Trust, The Prince Bernhard Nature Fund, Remembering Wildlife, Rosemarie Nathanson Charitable Trust, The Stadler Family Charitable Foundation, Stichting Amfortas, Tetra Tech, Tusk Trust, United Nations Development Programme, US Agency for International Development, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, US Department of State INL, World Bank Global Environment Fund, Wildcat Foundation, The Woodtiger Fund.

Individuals: Edward Ellis, Sallyann Garner, Christine Hake, Edmond and Simone Hilhorst, Marie-Claire Hughes, Jeffrey Silver, Ralph Spencer, Liz and Jeremy Venable, Paul and Glynis Young.

Partners: African Parks, Biosphere Expeditions, Blue Ant Media, C4ADS, Conservation South Luangwa, Elephants for Africa, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Environmental Investigation Agency, Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment, Hawk Conservancy Trust, Icon Films, Kuti Wildlife Reserve, Lilongwe City Council, Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals, Maisha, Natural Resource Conservation Network, North Luangwa Conservation Programme, PAMS Foundation, The Peregrine Fund, Tikki Hywood Foundation, Wildlife Action Group, Wildlife Crime Prevention.

Government partners: Anti-Corruption Bureau, Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development, Department of Education, Department of Forestry, Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Environmental Affairs Department, Financial Intelligence Agency, Malawi Police Service, Office of President & Cabinet.

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

LWT is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Malawi representative for the Species Survival Network and the Secretariat for the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus. Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is the only sanctuary to hold accreditations from the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance and Born Free Foundation's PAW initiative.

LWT is a member of Malawi's Inter-Agency Committee for Combatting Wildlife Crime and the CITES Expert Advisory Group. The Wildlife Detection Dog Unit - a partnership between the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the Malawi Police Service and LWT - is accredited through the American Society of Canine Trainers International and locally for animal welfare standards through the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development and the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals.

PATRONS

HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester
Virginia McKenna, OBE

TRUSTEES

Mark Sprong (Chair)
Simon Cousins
Ton de Rooy
Anton Evans
Gerard Grant
Rod Hagger
Brighton Kumchedwa
Ron Ngwira
Julie Saunders
Bev Trataris
Laurie Webb

Jonny Vaughan, MBE (CEO)
Arthur Nyirenda (Secretary)

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust is a Malawian not-for-profit trust, registered under the Trustee Incorporation Act of Malawi since 2008 (No. TR/INC4209) and has been a Council of Non-Governmental Organizations of Malawi member since 2009 (No. C466). Malawi Wildlife Trust is registered with the UK Charity Commission (No. 1176185).

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Lilongwe Wildlife Trust was established in 2008 when we opened the doors to Malawi's first sanctuary, Lilongwe Wildlife Centre. Since then we have grown to become one of the country's leading conservation NGOs.

Our mission is to save wildlife, campaign for conservation justice and inspire people to value and protect nature in Malawi. Working in collaboration with local and international partners, we respond to urgent conservation challenges as well as drive long-term social and institutional change.

Visit www.lilongwewildlife.org for more information.

