

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN MALAWI

**PRESENTED TO FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
GOVERNANCE STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

Crossroads Hotel

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Contents

- What wildlife is
- Ownership of wildlife
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What is wildlife?

- Refers to all forms of flora and fauna not domesticated by man;
- Generally protected by legislation e.g. wildlife Act.
- Usually categorised to indicate protection or conservation status (e.g. protected species, endangered, threatened, rare, endemic, pest)



Ownership of wildlife and status of protection

- National Parks and Wildlife (2004 amendment): Who ever has lawfully taken it as long as it is not a protected species;
- PROTECTED SPECIES: All those in the gazetted protected areas and also declared as such by the Minister under the Act if occurs outside;

Policy and legal framework currently in use

- The Constitution of Malawi (Chapter 3, Section 13(d)) provides for conservation and management of biodiversity.
- Governed mainly by the National Parks and Wildlife Act (Amended 2004) and 2011 amended Regulations and the Wildlife Policy;
- Environmental Management Act; Forestry Act; Firearms Act; Penal Code; Money Laundering ... Act

Main Policy focus

- Collaborative Management is the main philosophy primarily involving;
- Government agencies e.g. IACCWC
- Communities – largely from the vicinity of protected areas
- NGOs and CSOs
- Private Sector – mainly Tourism and PA management
- Donor agencies

Issues addressed in the Policy

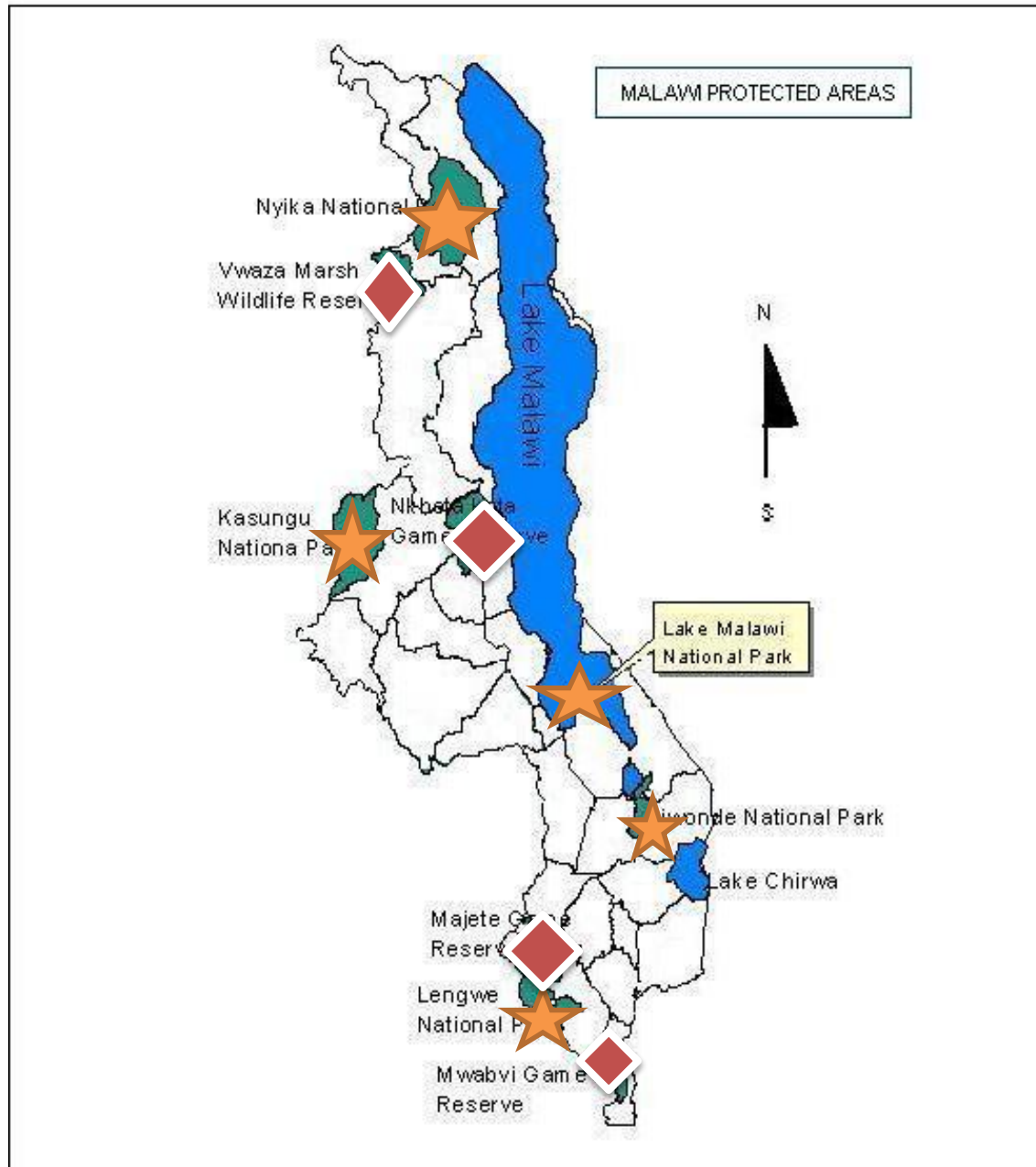
- Conservation and management of wildlife resources in protected wildlife areas
- Conservation and management of wildlife in forest reserves, other public lands, customary and private lands
- Community Extension and Environmental Education
- Co-operation with national and international partners
- Wildlife utilisation and management approaches (CM, PAC, RM, Hunting, Introduction, Ranching)
- Species protection and law enforcement

Scope of Wildlife Conservation

- Protected areas cover about 11.6% of the total land area.
 - 5 National Parks (Nyika, Kasungu, Lake Malawi, Liwonde and Lengwe)
 - 4 Wildlife Reserves (Vwaza Marsh, Nkhotakota, Majete and Mwabvi) and
 - 3 Nature Sanctuaries (Michiru, Lilongwe and Mzuzu).
- In PAs, there is high concentration of wild animals than areas outside largely due to increasing human population pressure, poverty and inadequate appreciation of the resources benefits which often lead to habitat loss and overexploitation.
- In terms of fauna, the country has a wide diversity of animal species
 - 207 mammal species,
 - 658 bird species,
 - 108 reptile species,
 - 56 amphibians and
 - Over 500 fish species occur in LMNP.



MALAWI'S NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE RESERVES



Scope of Wildlife Conservation: IUCN Listed Species

Species Name	Scientific Name	Degree of Threat (IUCN)	Current Localities
Black Rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Critically endangered	Liwonde, Majete
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Vulnerable	Vwaza, Kasungu, Elephant Marsh, South-west arm of Lake Malawi, Upper Shire River, Lake Malombe, Liwonde National Park
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta Africana</i>	Vulnerable	Nyika , Thuma, Namizimu, Kasungu, Vwaza, Liwonde, Nkhotakota, Majete
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Vulnerable	Liwonde, Vwaza, Kasungu, Nkhotakota, Majete
African Wild Dog	<i>Lycon pictus</i>	Endangered	Kasungu, Vwaza (

Summary of protected areas and elephant population estimates.

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Protected Area	Size km ²	Population Size	Year
Nyika National Park	3,134	102	2014
Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve	986	310	2013
Kasungu National Park	2,316	67	2014
Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve	1,802	92	2013
Thuma Forest Reserve	158	145	2014
Dedza-Salima Forest Reserve	310	(145) ¹	2014
Phirilongwe Forest Reserve	264	5	2015
Liwonde National Park	538	777	2014
Majete Wildlife Reserve	700	300	2015
Mangochi Forest Reserve	409	?	
Namizimu Forest Reserve	890	?	

Forms of utilisation locally allowed under a prescribed licence / permit

- Bird licence:- hunt birds
- Game licence;
- Hunting license:
- Animal captivity licence:
- Game farming:
- Game ranching
- Resource use by surrounding communities on a permit

Some successes in Wildlife Conservation

- Rehabilitated Parks e.g. Majete Wildlife Reserve through PPPs
- National Inter-Agency Cooperation in Law enforcement with the formation of the IACCWC
- Community involvement with some Pas having resource use program and revenue sharing schemes)
- PPP arrangements – Liwonde and Nkhotakota now under Private Sector management
- More NGO and CSO involvement

Some successes/ ...

- Illegal Wildlife Trade study supported by GIZ
- Review of Policy at an advanced stage
- Signing of the Malawi – Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Areas Treaty on 7th July 2015 – providing for better joint management
- Review of the Wildlife Act has commenced
- Joint local enforcement – with Police, MRA, MDF, FIU

Challenges Experienced in Wildlife Conservation

- Poaching (Subsistence & Commercial) on the increase
- Trafficking of wildlife products due to low risk but high returns
- Increase in human pressure
- Inadequate field resources
- Weak legislation and sometimes failure to use multiple legislation during prosecution



Challenges/ ...

- Encroachments (Kasungu National Park, Lengwe, Nyika) – due to demand for land and tenure system
- Human-wildlife conflicts – negates attitudes towards wildlife
- Inadequate effective community participation



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

