

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.

LWT's Vet Nurse Auze Polela feeds

being washed out of its nest in a storm

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The past year has been one of the most striking years of my time as CEO. Striking for both the scale of the challenges we faced and for the incredible depth of dedication we witnessed from our supporters. To all of the staff, partners, donors and volunteers who helped us survive the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic over the last twelve months - a huge thank you.

Like many other conservation organisations we were hit hard by global travel restrictions which cut off funding and hands-on support from our placement programme, both of which are critical to our wildlife rescue and welfare work. Thanks to the generosity and flexibility of our long-standing donors, a handful of new funders and our amazing community of individual supporters, we were able to buffer much of this loss. As a result, Lilongwe Wildlife Centre (LWC) and our other wildlife protection services not only survived the year but maintained the highest standards of rescue, welfare and rehabilitation. This was reflected by the fact that we were successfully re-accredited for another three years by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, the only globally recognised organisation for licensing ethical animal sanctuaries. We also embarked on an ambitious site redevelopment - known as 'Project Greenheart' - that will transform our rescue and rehabilitation facilities, develop new civic engagement and training programmes, and boost local livelihoods as part of a 'green recovery' from the pandemic. It also represents the first phase of a new 'ecological corridor' through the heart of Lilongwe.

Our resolve was further bolstered by the continued efforts of government agencies and law enforcement to bring perpetrators of environmental crime to justice. The conviction of a major wildlife trafficking syndicate by Malawian courts was a significant milestone, proving that the Government's tenacity is translating into hard wins for its wildlife and its people. During the year we also supported the Government to turn its attention to forestry, applying the same progressive model of legal reform and enforcement to halt the continued devastation of the nation's forests by criminal entities.

We are emerging from a difficult year with renewed determination to achieve our mission and an acute respect for the challenges still to come. We hope you will continue to support our efforts to save wildlife, campaign for conservation justice and inspire people to value and protect nature in Malawi.

Jonny Vaughan, MBE $_{\text{CEO}}$

Pangolins are afforded the highest level of protection under international law. Perpetrators caught in possession of live pangolins or any of their derivatives face a prison sentence of up to 30 years in Malawi.



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

SAVING WILDLIFE



Working in partnership with African Parks, our new monitoring team in Liwonde National Park provides park management with data to inform management strategies for lions and other threatened species

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

136 animals rescued

83 animals released back into the wild

102 calls for assistance with wildlife 179 clinical procedures performed 90 field procedures

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

125 wildlife trafficking convictions across 72 concluded court cases

94% custodial conviction rate for offences related to listed species (elephants and pangolins) with an average custodial sentence of 5.2 years

589kg ivory and 84 pangolins seized by government authorities

100% conviction rate for monitored forestry cases



PROMOTING CONSERVATION JUSTICE

EDUCATING AND ENGAGING **COMMUNITIES**



Our environmental education programme teaches modules on wildlife welfare, wildlife crime, human-wildlife conflict, biodiversity, deforestation and climate change.

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

5,589 children and 110 schools engaged in our education programmes

129 teachers trained to deliver environmental education

15,514 trees planted and 9,010 fuel briquettes produced

1,023 individuals engaged in communityled conservation meetings and 463 people participated in micro projects, including bee-keeping, briquette making and tree planting

\$2,307 raised through honey and briquette selling

Numbers are lower than normal as COVID-related school closures and social distancing measures throughout much of 2020 prevented our education team from delivering their usual programme of activities.

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

89 TV, radio and press articles secured on wildlife and forest crime

47 journalists received training on investigative techniques, or attended workshops on prominent wildlife crime cases and species-specific issues

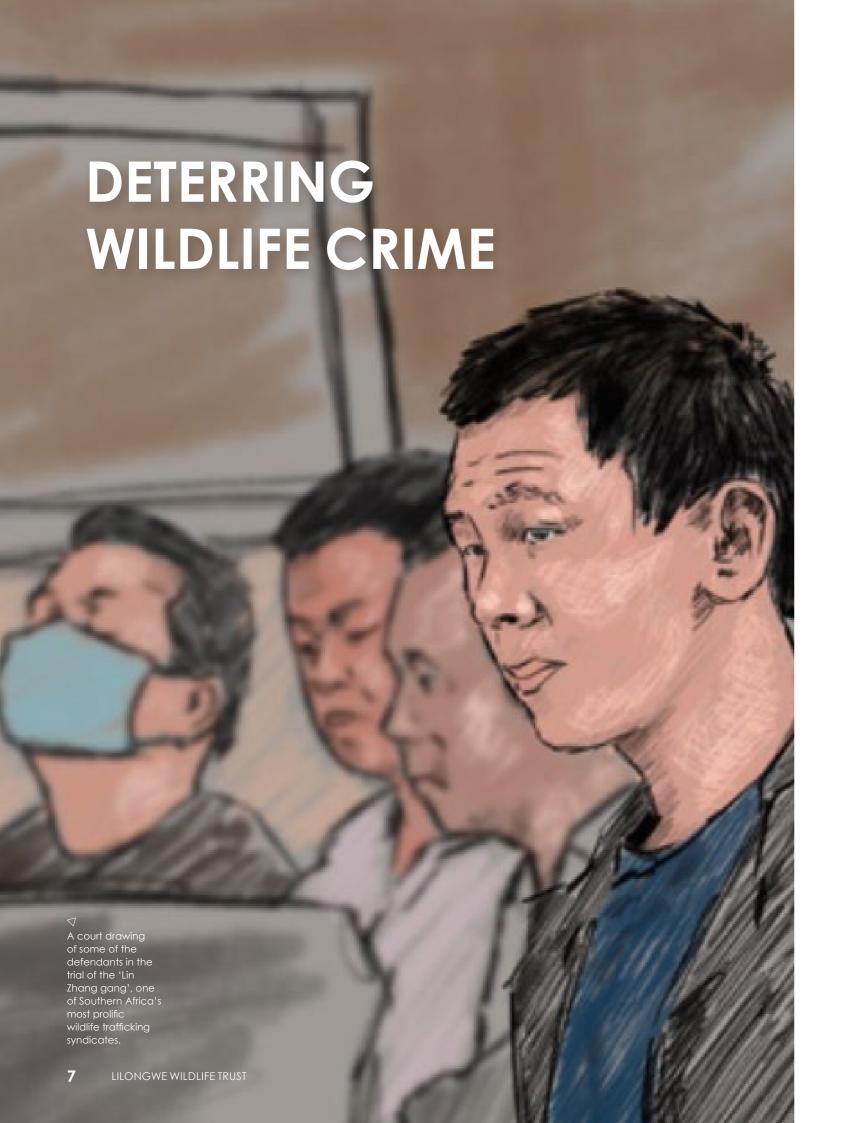
6 campaigns delivered on a range of wildlife and forest crime issues



CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

In September 2020 the Malawi Police Service and Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) held a joint press conference to underline their continued commitment to fighting wildlife and forest crime in Malawi.

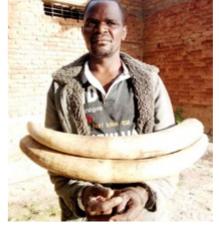
LILONGWE WILDLIFF TRUST IMPACT REPORT







Transnational syndicates are fuelling local demand for illicit wildlife products.





support the Government of Malawi's commitment to bringing perpetrators of wildlife crime to justice. A notable milestone was the prosecution of one of Southern Africa's most prolific trafficking syndicates. The group known as the Lin-Zhang gang - has allegedly been operating for two decades and linked to a number of record international seizures. including over six tonnes of elephant ivory seized in Singapore in 2001.

Throughout the year we continued to

Speaking at a press conference, the Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau Reineck Matemba acknowledged the scale and severity of the highly organised global trade in wildlife products: "Illegal wildlife trade harms not only a country's ecosystem but also its economy and society. It funds terrorism, organised crime and corrupts everyone and everything connected with it. Public officers are put at risk of corruption, from customs and police officers to the judiciary, such is the power of criminal syndicates and their dirty money."

Following the first arrest in May 2019, the authorities undertook a successful operation that led to the subsequent arrest of nine Chinese nationals and four Malawian nationals. The gang members were charged with a range of offences, including illegal possession of wildlife specimens (including pangolin, rhino horn, ivory and hippo teeth) and firearms. Jail terms of a total of 56.5 years were handed to nine defendants, including 11-year sentences for two repeat offenders, one of whom is believed to be one of the gang leaders, Mrs Qin Hua Zhang.

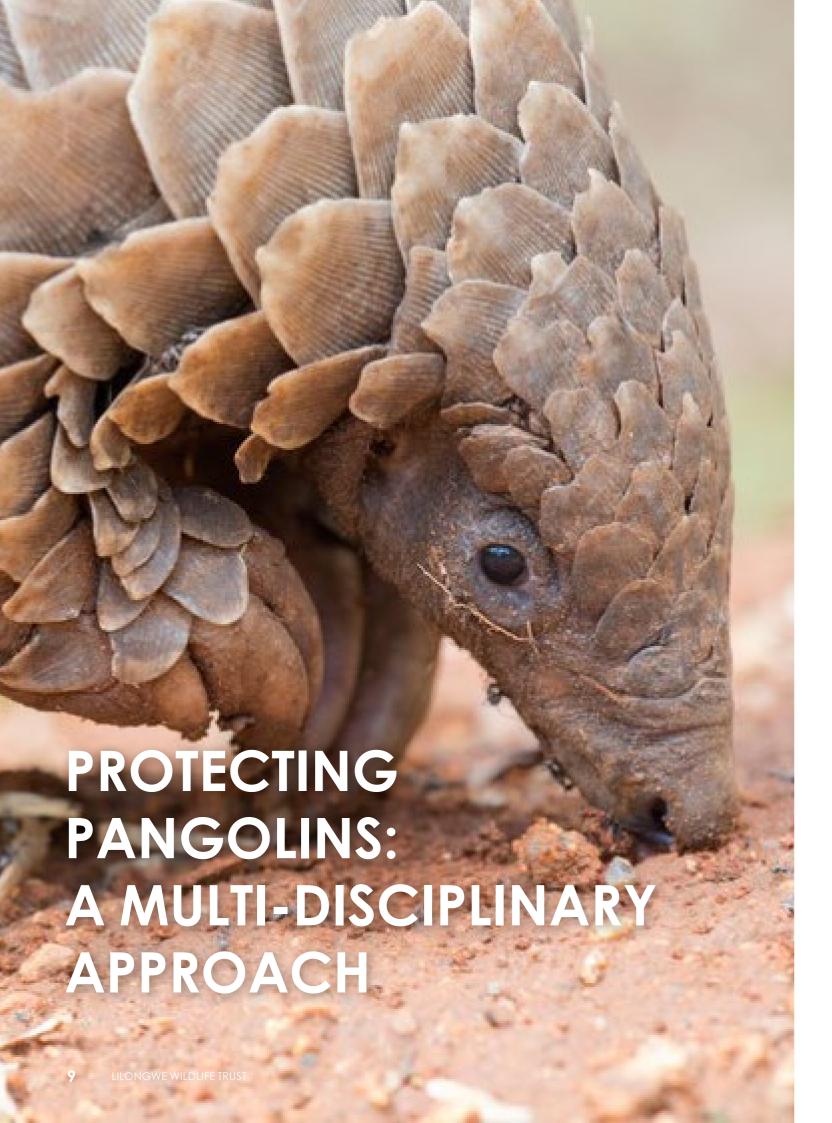
Her husband and alleged ivory king-pin, Yun Hua Lin, is currently awaiting judgment for rhino horn trafficking and money laundering. Their daughter was arrested early in 2021 on suspicion of financial crimes related to wildlife products. Her prosecution would represent the first time that multiple financial crime charges have been brought against an individual in relation to wildlife crime in Malawi.

This case study exemplifies the progress made by Malawian authorities in recent years, considering that just five years ago wildlife criminals could operate with relative impunity in the country. LWT will continue to support the Government's efforts to deliver strong criminal justice outcomes for perpetrators of wildlife crime.





Wildlife crime has become big news in Malawi. High-profile arrests make the front pages of the leading national weekend newspapers.



Malawi is a range state for the Temminck's Ground Panaolin the only pangolin species found in Southern Africa.



This briefing paper was published in partnership with DNPW, to highlight the plight of pangolins in Malawi and the Government's resolve to combat the illicit wildlife

Malawi is a well-documented source and transit hub for international wildlife crime, including the illegal trade in pangolins, the world's most trafficked mammal. LWT's response to this crime has grown to incorporate a range of interventions, from emergency rescue and rehabilitation to criminal justice and advocacy.

Pangolin trafficking arrests tripled in Malawi between 2019 and 2020, the majority of which have included live confiscations. Pangolin meat is regarded as a delicacy by some international diaspora living in Malawi; the meat is consumed while the scales are collated and exported to more profitable markets in the East.

As the only government-sanctioned rehabilitation facility for victims of wildlife crime, our LWC team has worked hard over the last year to meet rising demand. Pangolin intakes have increased from just one in 2018, to six in 2019 and 24 in 2020, and numbers are expected to remain high throughout 2021 and beyond.

Pangolin rescue and rehabilitation is highly specialised and intensive work, given that these animals are extremely prone to stress and therefore difficult to care for in captivity. Pangolins that arrive at LWC following confiscation are usually dehydrated, stressed and exhausted. Others are carrying more serious wounds and injuries that require immediate, lifesaving medical attention. Pangolins have a very limited diet of specific species of ants and termites which are not always found in abundance. This means that they must be taken out for 'foraging walks' several times a day, sometimes for up to several hours, in order to find enough food. Rehabilitation of pangolin pups which cannot be kept with their mothers is also incredibly complex. LWT aims to return all pangolins back to the wild as soon as feasible and the authorities allow. Thanks to technical support from regional partners such as the Tikki Hywood Foundation in Zimbabwe, our team has become proficient at rehabilitating pangolins; last year we successfully released 71% of the pangolins we received back into the wild.

Beyond rescue, pangolins have become a focus species for both our advocacy and justice teams, which are working to ensure that pangolin-related crime is treated as a serious offence, and that would-be perpetrators are deterred and suspicious activity is reported. Dozens of media pieces have been secured, politicians have spoken out, and 95% of pangolin-related cases that were completed in 2020 resulted in a custodial conviction of between 1.5 and 10 years. For more analysis, read our Protecting Pangolins briefing paper at www.lilongwewildlife.org/reports.

Pangolin scales are used in traditional Chinese medicine despite being made from keratin the same substance found in human hair and fingernails - and thus having no prove efficacy.



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 \triangle A growing body of evidence documents the benefits of urban nature to human health and wellbeing, which makes LWC perfectly placed to provide critical opportunities for nature-based recreation.

Just over a decade after first opening its gates LWC began major renovations in 2020 as part of an exciting new initiative known as Project GreenHeart. The project, which aims to redevelop the Centre and surrounding nature reserve, represents the first phase of an ambitious plan by the Lilongwe City Council to create a larger 'ecological corridor' through the heart of the capital city.

Central to Project GreenHeart are substantial upgrades to our wildlife rehabilitation facilities, including a brand new veterinary clinic and animal enclosures, which have been generously funded by the Olsen Animal Trust and the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Thanks to further funding and technical support from the UNDP, GIZ, USAID / US Forest Service and Stichting Amfortas, we also began work on a new visitor hub, education centre, training facilities, exhibitions and signage, and a range of visitor attractions including an arboretum, forest trails, a canopy walk, playground and picnic areas. This investment will ultimately help LWC to fulfil its potential as a leading ecotourism destination, in turn creating nature-based jobs for local communities, which will be a critical part of Lilongwe's 'green recovery' from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As well as housing Malawi's only wildlife rescue and welfare facility, the site also hosts the last remaining stand of the nationally endangered Piliostigma-Acacia-Combretum woodland, and is home to diverse wildlife, from hyenas, bushpigs and crocodiles to over 200 species of birds. A critical part of Project GreenHeart is a new forest management plan that will phase out an exotic and invasive tree species that was planted prior to the allocation of the site as a nature sanctuary. The protection of this valuable ecosystem is critical and we are grateful to the donors and partners that are enabling us to restore and protect urban biodiversity in one of the city's most important green spaces.

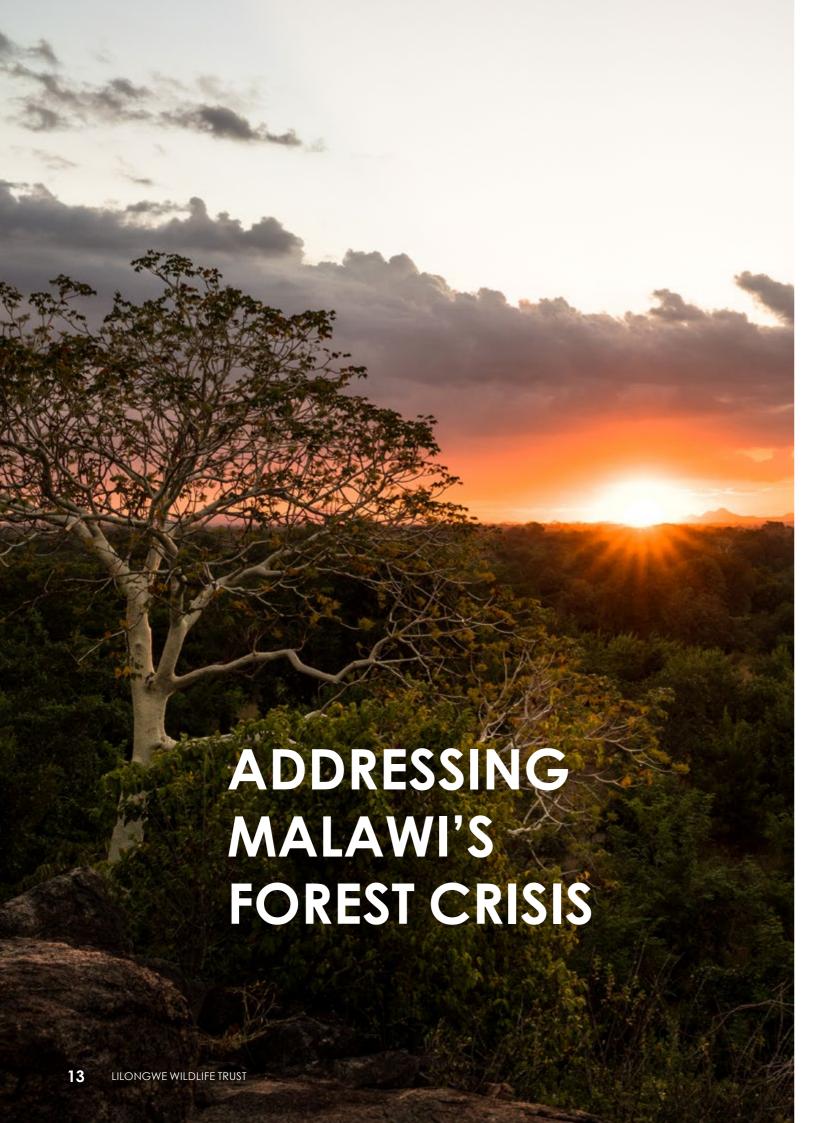








Indicative images of some of the Project GreenHed redevelopments.



Malawi's fast-growing population, extreme reliance on woodfuel for energy, poor forest management and weak law enforcement have all driven deforestation to unsustainable levels. Over the last year LWT continued work on a large-scale project, co-funded by the British and US Governments, that aims to reduce demand for wood fuel, promote alternative energy sources, improve management of forest resources and reduce land-based emissions.

Our role is to help strengthen the Government's capacity to combat forest crime, raise public awareness and secure high-level political will for the associated justice initiatives, including new legislation and deterrent sentencing.

LWT will support the Government to apply the same progressive approach it has developed to tackle wildlife crime to perpetrators of forest crime. This approach is underpinned by a focus







Members of the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus host a press conference to call on agencies to bring corrupt forestry and police officers to justice.

Building the capacity of investigative journalism on the issue of forest crime is a key focus of our work.

on bold, collaborative, intelligence-led investigations and prosecutions that focus on disrupting critical 'pinch points' within the trafficking chain. With LWT's support, the Forestry Amendment Act was passed in 2020, which critically increases maximum deterrent sentences to 20 years and expands the definition of forest crime to include the transportation of products such as charcoal.

Legal reform has been supported with initiatives to position forest crime as a serious offence with the accompanying hallmarks of intimidation, violence and corruption. Over the last year we have developed a strong programme of PR and advocacy designed to harness high level political support, sensitise the public to the new legal penalties and drive greater public understanding of the risks associated with continued devastation of Malawi's forest reserves. Whilst statistical analysis is currently in progress, recent court case results are already showing a step change away from small fines towards forfeitures and custodial sentences.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

Lilongwe Wildlife Centre

During the year our Wildlife Centre was successfully re-accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, once again reflecting our commitment to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare, governance, safety and sustainability. Demand for our rescue and welfare services remained high throughout the year: in fact, November 2020 registered the highest number of monthly intakes our team has ever seen (22 animals vs our monthly average of 8-12). Last year we also rescued more primates from the illegal pet trade than ever before - a total of 17 baboons and vervets.

Project GreenHeart upgrades to our sanctuary facilities will increase our capacity to support up to 300 animals at any given time (from 200).











LWT's Wildlife Technician Laston Chimaliro on a WERU operation to locate and re-collar a lioness from the Chinguni Pride in Liwonde National Park. The collar will enable park managemen to monitor the lion's movements, pride dynamics and breeding success.

Wildlife Emergency Response

In 2020 our Wildlife Emergency Response Unit responded to an increase in requests for support with placing tracking collars and transmitters on wild animals in national parks, as park management teams increased their monitoring of iconic species due to an uptick in poaching, likely due to economic hardship as a result of the pandemic. We supported park management with transmitters and collaring operations for elephants, cheetahs and rhinos in four different parks across two months.

Malawi Wildlife Rescue returns

Filming for the second series of the six-part documentary about our wildlife rescue work got underway in early 2021, with episodes set to air on TV screens worldwide in 2022! Shot both at the Wildlife Centre and out in the field, the second instalment will continue to follow our vets and wildlife specialists as they rescue injured, orphaned and abused animals and give them another chance at life back in the wild.



The second series will continue to follow the work of LWT's Head Vet Dr. Amanda Salb and her team.





Conserving Malawi's vultures

Our new research project aims to fill critical knowledge gaps on vultures and develop Malawi's first-ever vulturefocused conservation initiatives, using a combination of research, monitoring and public engagement. Run in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Hawk Conservancy Trust, African Parks and the Department of National Parks & Wildlife, our team tagged 16 critically endangered vultures in Majete Wildlife Reserve and Nyika National Park. Sightings of these tagged birds are shedding light on how vultures are using the network of protected areas in Malawi and beyond, with one bird spotted in Phongolo Nature Reserve, South Africa, 1,327km from where it was initially tagged. Understanding vulture movements within the larger region is critical to developing conservation strategies to halt their continued decline.



△ Vultures are critical to healthy ecosystems, and yet across the world vulture populations are in rapid decline, with three of the five species in Malawi listed as critically endangered.

Biodiversity monitoring in Liwonde National Park

Working in partnership with African Parks, we launched a new monitoring programme for iconic species such as lions, cheetahs and vultures in Liwonde National Park. The programme, which is open to volunteers, collects valuable data on wildlife through monitoring activities such as camera trapping, telemetry tracking and behavioural observations, which is used by park management to inform conservation initiatives. In one month alone, the project provided over 60 reports on species of special concern to park management. In one instance, we helped to locate and re-collar a lioness from a pride that had recently been spotted with young cubs. The collar will enable us to monitor the lion's movements, pride dynamics and breeding success.

We are recruiting volunteers, students and researchers to support our monitoring work in Liwonde National Park – find out more: www.lilongwewildlife.org/volunteer





Aerial survey

LWT also supported African Parks with the bi-annual aerial surveys of Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve, which aim to develop an estimate of wildlife populations and enable park management to make critical decisions on conservation action. Survey data is especially important for maintaining stable predator-prey dynamics as carnivore populations increase within the parks as a result of wildlife reintroductions. It also helps monitor elephant population growth after over 500 elephants were removed from the parks in 2016-2017 as part of a national translocation.

The 2020 Majete and Liwonde surveys counted all mammals, vulture nests, ground hornbills and crocodiles seen using a transect method that took over 61 hours.

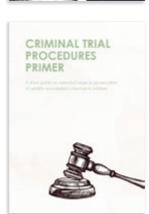
Elephant research

Our research programme also investigated the movements of two of Malawi's transboundary elephant populations in order to better understand the poaching risks to these elephants and inform cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries. The team analysed movement data from three GPS-collared elephants over a oneyear period in Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and Namizimu Forest Reserve. The data showed that none of the movements were migratory and that although all individuals demonstrated cross-border movement, they spent the majority of their time in Malawi. Collar data also revealed a high potential for human-elephant conflict around both protected areas. We have recently secured a grant to help us investigate this further in Vwaza.



An article on the transboundary movements of Malawi's elephants is currently under review with the African Journal of Ecology.





Building capacity to deliver justice

LWT's legal team developed Malawi's first national wildlife crime database, the Wildlife Crime Information System (WiCIS). Accessible by government partners, WiCIS contains all arrest and prosecution data, alongside copies of relevant legislation and domestic case law. It allows for ongoing analysis of the judicial process through regional Case Review Meetings which identify solutions for consistent application of the law as well as training needs for key stakeholders. WiCIS data is also available for transnational analysis, reporting and dissemination with regional partners.

In addition, we have continued to develop tools to empower partners to more effectively enforce conservation law, including a model charges guide for prosecutors and a Criminal Trial Procedures Primer on procedural issues central to wildlife cases, which draws on national law and international best practices to offer guidance for prosecutors, magistrates, and judges.

IMPACT REPORT 18

\triangle A consultative workshop with the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus on corruption within the wildlife and forestry sectors.

Tackling corruption in wildlife and forestry sectors

LWT supported the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (MPCC) - for which we are Secretariat - to produce a review of current anti-corruption practices within the wildlife and forestry sectors. The report reflects on national, regional and international research and best practice to outline the scale and impact of corruption in Malawi's governance structures, and provide recommendations to reduce such practices. It will ultimately help MPCC push for tailored policy, legal and social changes geared towards reducing corruption and wildlife and forestry offences.

Reporting on court outcomes

Last year we compiled our inaugural Court Case Outcomes Report, a new initiative designed to assess the effectiveness of two interventions that were introduced by LWT in partnership with the Government in 2016: a court monitoring programme that tracks the progress of wildlife crime investigations and prosecutions until the point of conclusion; and a public-private prosecution model in which a government prosecutor is paired with a private lawyer to litigate the most serious crimes. Key findings from the study, which analyses data related to wildlife crimes between 2017-2020, show that: pangolin court cases have increased over time; the conviction rate has remained stable, at around 90%; and the severity of sentencing for offences involving listed species has increased by c.12%.





Some of the wildlife offenders apprehended, along with seized products.







Detection dogs trained on threatened tree species

In 2020 Malawi's Wildlife Detection Dog Unit underwent training to add Mulanje Cedar to the repertoire of contraband they are able to detect (in addition to ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, hippo teeth, leopard skin, elephant tail, firearms and ammunition). Mulanje Cedar is one of the country's most threatened tree species which was placed under greater protection by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in 2019. In March 2021 one of the dogs successfully located a number of illegal cedar wood boxes on a passenger at Kamuzu International Airport. Over the course of the year, the unit carried out a total of 151 operations: 116 at Kamuzu International Airport, 30 roadblock operations and five intelligenceled operations in the Central and Northern regions of Malawi.



△
Detection dog Max with
the illegal cedar wood
boxes he detected on a
passenger at Malawi's
international airport.

Integrating environmental education into the primary school curriculum

LWT has worked with the Malawi Institute of Education (MIE) to integrate environmental education into the country's official primary level curriculum. We have been invited to collaborate on the production of two key resources: a guide book for teachers and a manual for students on key environmental issues. These two resources will help bring together crucial information on cross-cutting environmental issues, which MIE has identified as a gap in the current education system. We are also working with Mzuzu University to develop three additional educational modules on conservation agriculture, climate change and natural forests.



 \triangle In 2019 the World Bank stated that 'boosting environmental communication and education strategies' is essential to stemming Malawi's cycle of environmental decline.

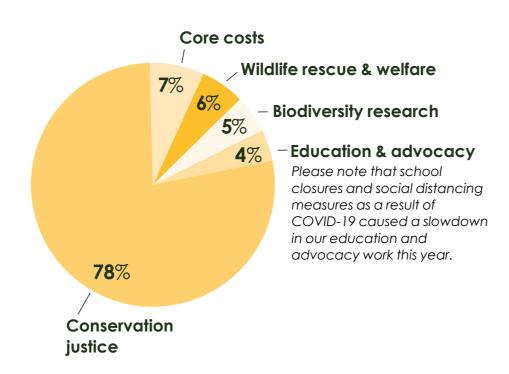
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In our last financial year, \$3,774,064 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: Born Free Foundation, DEFRA Rapid Response, Elephant Crisis Fund, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, Green Safaris Conservation Foundation, Humane Society International, ICCF, IFAW, INL, International Primate Society, IWT Challenge Fund, The Latitude Hotels Group, Lion Recovery Fund, Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, The Mrs DM France Hayhurst Foundation, Nyika-Vwaza Trust, Oak Foundation, Olsen Animal Trust, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, Paul Allen Family Foundation, Perivoli Trust, Rosemarie Nathanson Charitable Trust, Stichting Amfortas, Tusk Trust, UNDP, USAID, USFWS, US Forest Service, Votch, World Bank Global Environment Fund, Wildcat Foundation.

Individuals: Liz and Jeremy Venable, Paul Young.

Partners: African Parks, Biosphere Expeditions, Blue Ant Media, Conservation South Luangwa, Environmental Investigation Agency, ESPA, GIZ, Icon Films, International Environmental Law Project, Kuti Wildlife Reserve, Lilongwe City Council, Maisha, North Luangwa Conservation Programme, PAMS Foundation, RSPCA International, Tikki Hywood Foundation, Wildlife Action Group, WCP.

Government partners: Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Forestry, Department of Education, Department of Public Prosecutions, Financial Intelligence Agency, Malawi Police Service, Office of President & Cabinet.

Photography credits: Blue Ant Media, Amanda Harwood, Pádraic MacOireachtaigh, Olivia Sievert.

ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS













Lilongwe Wildlife Trust is a member of the IUCN (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 (GFAS), Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) and Born Free Foundation's PAW initiative.

PATRONS

HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester Virginia McKenna, OBE

TRUSTEES

Mark Sprong (Chair)
Rod Hagger (Vice Chair)
Brighton Kumchedwa
Ton de Rooy
Ron Ngwira
Simon Cousins
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).

