



LILONGWE  
WILDLIFE TRUST

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IMPACT REPORT 2016





# INTRODUCTION

**Malawi boasts remarkable biodiversity, including the iconic 'Big Five' but** - as one of the poorest countries in the world, with one of the fastest growing populations in Africa - wildlife and natural resources as a whole are under immense pressure.

Wildlife crimes such as the bush-meat and illegal pet trades are commonplace and not only cause suffering for individual animals but also threaten species with extinction.

**What's more, the country's poor law** enforcement, weak legislation and reputation for corruption has attracted the attention of organised wildlife crime **syndicates. Malawi is currently Southern Africa's** principal transit hub for elephant ivory and other illicit wildlife products.

Despite these challenges, 2016 has given us good **reason for optimism. The government's progressive** and collaborative approach, coupled with the all-important support from our local and international partners, has helped us drive many initiatives forward that felt almost impossible at the beginning of the year.

Outlined in this report are the key achievements for each of our three programme areas. Thanks to those who helped make this possible, and we look forward to working with you and building on these successes in 2017.

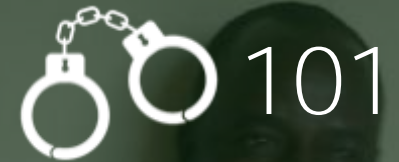




## 2016 IMPACT | Advocacy & Enforcement

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) aims to influence decision makers and help bring criminals to justice. It supports high level wildlife crime investigations, wildlife justice programmes for prosecutors and courts, and revisions to wildlife policy and legislation. In 2016, LWT was the lead local NGO on the following projects:

- The National Parks & Wildlife Act Amendment Bill was passed in record time. Penalties for serious wildlife crimes have been increased up to 30 years with modest fines no longer an option.
- The first specialised Wildlife Crime Investigation Unit was established within the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, working alongside the new Wildlife Intelligence Unit within the Malawi Police Service. These units made more wildlife trafficking arrests in the last 7 months of 2016 than the previous 7 years.
- LWT was authorised by the Directorate of Public Prosecution and Malawi Judiciary to litigate wildlife crimes and place advocates inside courtrooms. Prosecutors achieved a 94% conviction rate in 2016 and a dramatic increase in custodial sentences, including the first ever custodial sentences in Malawi for police officers, foreign traffickers and rhino horn dealing.
- **Malawi's President and 15 ambassadors**, including the Chinese Ambassador, joined the Stop Wildlife Crime campaign and featured in a film on the illegal ivory trade, designed to deter their people from entering into wildlife crime.



Traffickers arrested.  
10 x the rate  
of 2008-2015.



kg seized ivory.



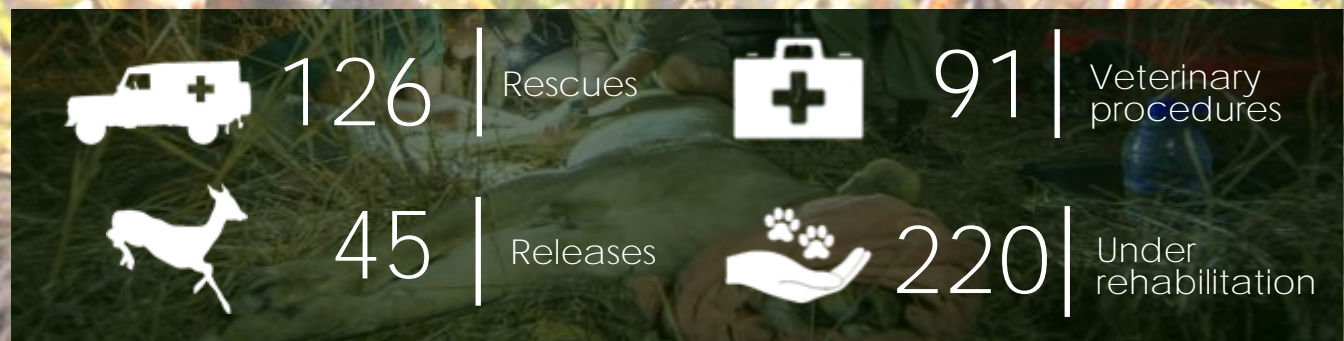
Average sentence.  
Vs. 0 yrs & \$40,  
2008-15.



## 2016 IMPACT | Wildlife Welfare & Research

LWT is committed to easing the suffering of wild animals and working for the survival and wellbeing of species. This year:

- **LWT continues to run the government's nationwide wildlife emergency response unit and the country's only sanctuary, with** record rescues this year – 45% more than in 2015.
- **Veterinary support was provided for the world's largest** wildlife translocation (an African Parks project) that included 250 elephants,
  - LWT was granted membership to the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and invited to join their Urban Biodiversity and African Elephant Specialist Groups.
  - The Wildlife Centre became one of only two sanctuaries in Africa accredited by GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries).
  - New biodiversity and conservation medicine research units were established as well as wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary courses for local and international students.





## 2016 IMPACT | Community Conservation



LWT recognises the importance of influencing Malawian people to protect their wildlife and by doing so, inspire future conservation ambassadors. This year:

- The PASA Siddie-Marsden Award was awarded to **LWT's Head of Education, Clement Manjaalera**, for his commitment to conservation.
- Tailored conservation education programmes were rolled out in communities around the protected areas of Nyika, Vwaza, Kasungu and Salima.
- TV and radio programmes were delivered through new media partnerships to reach a national audience.
- **LWT's pedal power cinema initiative increased the programme's reach to key remote audiences.**
- Small scale sustainable livelihood projects - bee keeping, adult literacy and fuel briquettes - were expanded.





# PARTNERS

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## Key Government Agency Partners

Dep't of National Parks & Wildlife, Malawi Police Service, Dep't of Public Prosecutions, Dep't of Education, Malawi Revenue Authority, and Office of President & Cabinet.



## Awards & accreditations



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 a **founding member of ICCF Malawi's Conservation Council** supporting the 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

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Mark Sprong (Chairman)  
Brighton Kumchedwa  
Bev Trataris  
Julie Saunders  
Chris Dohse  
Laurie Webb

## CEO

Jonny Vaughan

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust is a Malawian not-for-profit trust, registered under the Trustee Incorporation Act of Malawi since 2007 (No.TR/INC4209) and has been a Council of Non-Governmental Organizations of Malawi member since 2009 (No.C466).



Please get in touch if you're interested in volunteering, becoming a member or making a donation. Thanks for your support.

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