

GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

PROJECT: Strengthening Landscape Connectivity and Management to Improve Livelihoods and Conserve Key Biodiversity Areas in Malawi



Image by DJ Cockburn / Flickr

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Lengwe National Park, Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, Majete Wildlife Reserve, Matandwe Forest Reserve, Elephant Marshes Proposed Sustainable Use Wetland Reserve, Thyolo Escarpment Reforestation, Thambani FR

Species Focus: Elephants, Nyala, hippo, buffalo, and big cats

Total Project Cost: US\$5.6 million

Executing Partners: Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy, and Mining; Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development and African Parks Network.

GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank

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CONTEXT

Malawi has a diverse natural resource base, including inland waters and forest reserves. These areas support high levels of biodiversity including populations of African Elephants, lions, and leopards. Malawi's elephant population has declined from 4,000 to 2,000 in the last 15 years, due to poaching for the ivory trade, and retaliatory killings due to human-elephant conflict. In addition, overharvesting of forest resources and the conversion of land for agricultural purposes has reduced the species' habitats. Malawi is also a wildlife trafficking transit point.

The Government of Malawi has demonstrated its commitment to develop an integrated approach to combat wildlife reduction and develop community based conservation initiatives. Particularly, the Government established a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) that includes the promotion of efforts to combat the poaching crisis and wildlife trafficking. Also, the Parliament passed amendments to its Wildlife and National Parks Act to deter poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking, setting tougher penalties for poachers and traffickers, removing judicial discretion to impose monetary penalties for such offenses and raising the maximum jail term for offenders to 30 years. The country is a member of the Elephant Protection Initiative.

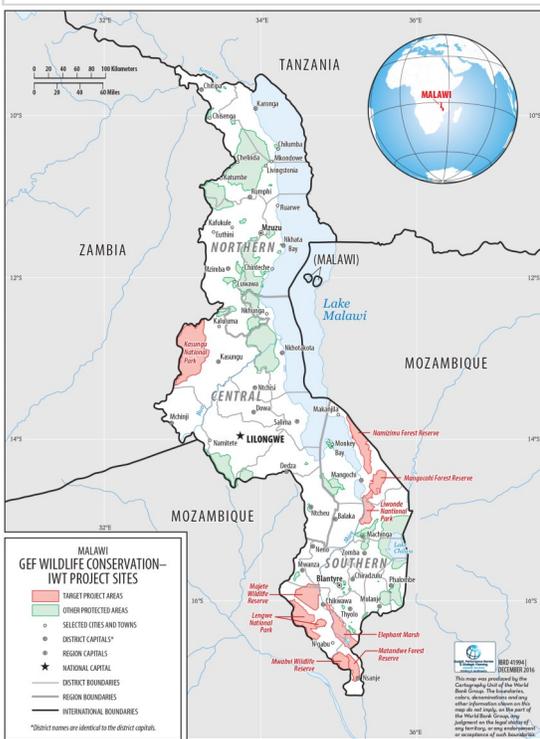
PROJECT COMPONENTS

The GWP Malawi project aims to strengthen landscape connectivity and management in order to improve livelihoods and conserve key biodiversity areas. The project's main components are:

- National level strengthening of frameworks for Biodiversity Conservation
- Sustainable Landscape Management

PROJECT FOCUS

- Mitigation measures to reduce Human Wildlife Conflicts
- Develop and implement management plans for protected areas and a wetland community conservation area, and forest co-management plans; Identify elephant corridors and protection plan
- Remote sensing monitoring of illegal hunting and logging and wetland management
- Institutional strengthening for management and monitoring landscape level interventions; strengthen transboundary parks surveillance effort
- Strengthening legal capacity for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- Increasing capacity for implementation of actions and cooperation among law enforcement agencies and relevant international organizations to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking
- Update the IUCN Red Data list for Malawi; Creation and training for Elephant (natural resource) database development
- Operationalize the Mayumba-Conkouati cooperation agreement
- Training for judiciary



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