



Project Proposal to the African Elephant Fund (AEF)

COVID 19 related evaluation criteria:

1. The project should address priority objectives 1, 2 or 3 as set out in the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP);
2. The project should start its activities within 3 months of its approval by the steering committee and completed in no more than 12 months from its inception;
3. The project should be subject to at least one or many of the following criteria:
 - a) Secure small / vulnerable populations that are faced with an immediate threat;
 - b) Address prosecution and criminal investigations;
 - c) Prevent immediate human-elephant conflicts;
 - d) Address a site that is experiencing an escalation in poaching;
 - e) Address a site that is experiencing a decline in law enforcement capacity.
4. Funding request should not exceed 50,000 USD.

1.1: Country: Malawi

1.2: Project title: Strengthen Law Enforcement and Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict in and around Kasungu National Park

1.3: Project location: Kasungu National Park, Central Region

1.4: Overall project cost (USD):

Amount Requested from African Elephant Fund (USD):

Co-funding source and amount (if applicable) in USD:

1.5: Project duration: 12 months

1.6: Project proponent: Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW)

Other project partners (if any) (please submit or attach an endorsement letter from national government entity responsible for wildlife):

1.7: Name and institution of project supervisor: Brighton K Kumchedwa, Director DNPW

1.8: Address of project supervisor: Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Matamando House, City Centre, PO Box 30131, Lilongwe 3, Malawi

1.9: Telephone number: Mobile: +265 999915411 ; **+265 888915411**

1.10: Email: brightkumchedwa@wildlifemw.net; bright.kumchedwa@gmail.com

1.11: Date of submission: 3 July 2020



2.0: Project summary (overall rationale, objectives of the project, expected outputs and expected results maximum 1 page) (*How is this project addressing COVID 19 related challenges that are hampering elephant conservation?*)

The Kasungu National Park covers an area of 2,316 km² with primarily 'miombo' woodland in western central Malawi. Primarily due to illegal hunting, the elephant population declined from about 1,300 in the early 1970s to 58 in 2005. In 2015, the DNPW signed a Joint Operations Agreement with its counterpart in Zambia, and since then number of poachers entering the park from the Zambian side has been declining, while elephant numbers have gradually increased to 131 in 2020. However, poaching from the Malawian side continues unabated, and with the loss of the buffer zone that was sold to agriculturalists by the local chiefs, agricultural expansion and encroachment of the park form a serious problem. Next to the buffer zone, encroachment is most pronounced in the North and along the border with Zambia. Moreover, because most of the electric fence that was constructed in the 1980s was vandalized in the past, high densities of agriculturalists along the eastern boundary of the park have resulted in a sharp relative increase in Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) incidences. Furthermore, due to high human densities on the Zambian side of the border, connectivity with the Lukusuki National Park and therefore the Luangwa Valley in general has been severed.

Currently, the effectiveness of the law-enforcement program at Kasungu is severely hampered by financial constraints with DNPW, with low operational budgets and thus resources. This is further exacerbated under the current pandemic circumstances (COVID-19), with income from tourism evaporated and a further reduction in the operational budget for the park. The result is a drastic shortage of resources to even carry out the most basic patrol activities, with elephants lost to poaching and HEC.

3.0: Which priority objectives, strategies and activities of the project (there may be more than one) are related to the African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP)?

AEAP Objectives/Strategies:

Objective 1: Reduce illegal killing of elephants and illegal trade in elephant products;

Strategy 1.1: Strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities/agencies to combat poaching and illegal trade in ivory and other elephant products.

Strategy 1.4: Strengthen the enforcement of laws relevant to conservation and management of African elephants.

Project Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 & 2.4

Objective 2: Maintain elephant habitats and restore connectivity;

Strategy 2.1: Ensure connectivity, where possible, between elephant ranges within and among range states.

Strategy 2.4: Ensure adequate maintenance of current elephant habitat within and between elephant range states.

Project Activities 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3

Objective 3: Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEC);

Strategy 3.1: Apply adaptive management approaches in addressing HEC mitigation, focusing on capacity building of managers and local communities.

Strategy 3.2: Establish participatory processes for mitigation of HEC.



Project Activity 3.1

Malawi has a National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP), which is closely aligned to the AEAP. All activities described in this submission closely align with the NEAP as well.

4.0: Project Rationale – why is this project necessary? What threats face this elephant population (for example, what information you have regarding population details, trends in population (downward or upward), ivory seizure information, details about levels of poaching, human/elephant conflict, habitat loss etc.) (2 pages maximum)

The Kasungu National Park covers an area of 2,316 km² of primarily 'miombo' woodland in western central Malawi, adjacent to the border with Zambia in the west. In 1923, the area that now comprises the park was declared a forest reserve on account of sleeping sickness, and people moved away from the reserve. At the same time the first elephants arrived from the Luangwa Valley in Zambia, crossing an area that is now known as Lukusuzi National Park, only 30 km away from Kasungu. In 1970, the park contained 769 elephants, increasing to 1,296 in 1973, declining to 1,189 in 1978. Due to the upsurge in illegal hunting starting in the late 1970s, the population started declining to 738 in 1981, 672 in 1992, 391 in 1995, and 58 in 2005. Although there are no confidence limits for these population estimates, this is nevertheless a significant downward trend over a period of 35 years. Between 1989 and 1998 (10 years), 116 elephants were found killed illegally, with 7 elephants killed illegally between 1999 and 2008, and 8 elephants killed illegally for the period 2009 to 2018. As a proportion of the total population, poaching may appear to have declined over the past 30 years, but this is primarily due to sharply lower elephant densities, which makes them harder to find in the miombo woodlands, resulting in a higher risk and lower profit profile for the illegal hunter.

In 2015, the DNPW signed a Joint Operations Agreement with its counterpart in Zambia, and since then number of poachers entering the park from the Zambian side has been declining, while elephant numbers have gradually increased to 131 in 2020. However, poaching from the Malawian side continues unabated, and with the loss of the buffer zone that was sold to agriculturalists by the local chiefs, agricultural expansion and encroachment of the park form a serious problem. Next to the buffer zone, encroachment is most pronounced in the North and along the border with Zambia. Moreover, because most of the electric fence that was constructed in the 1980s was vandalized in the past, high densities of agriculturalists along the eastern boundary of the park have resulted in a sharp relative increase in Human-Elephant Conflict incidences, with 11 elephants killed by problem animal control (PAC) and community members between 1999 and 2008, and 9 elephants killed between 2009 and 2018. Considering the sharp decline in elephant numbers during these 20 years, this constitutes a significant increase in problem animal control, whether legal or in self-defence. Furthermore, due to high human densities on the Zambian side of the border, connectivity with the Lukusuzi National Park and therefore the Luangwa Valley in general has been severed.

Fortunately, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is currently replacing the electric fence, hopefully resulting in a declining rate of HEC incidents in the near future, while DNPW needs to deal with the encroachment issue and the problem of illegal hunting from the Malawi side.

DNPW has 64 patrol staff in the park, which, under normal circumstances, would be a sufficient staff density (1/36.2 km²) to contain the situation. However, the effectiveness of



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the law-enforcement program at Kasungu National Park is severely hampered by financial constraints with DNPW, with low operational budgets and thus resources. This is further exacerbated under the current pandemic circumstances (COVID-19), with income from tourism evaporated and a further reduction in the operational budget for the park. The result is a drastic shortage of resources to even carry out the most basic patrol activities, with elephants lost to poaching and HEC. While having direct negative impact on the resources at the disposal of DNPW, as the result of the COVID 19 pandemic we expect an upsurge in criminal activities in the protected areas as COVID 19 has negative impacts on livelihoods whereby the communities look at the park for their survival.

5.0: Detailed Proposal – including activities to be carried out, anticipated milestones), timelines, reporting channels and procedures, etc. (3 pages maximum).
In responding to this section, it would be helpful if you could divide it into five phases (see below tables):

5.1.1: Planning

Statement of the objectives	Activities	Timeframe	Anticipated milestones	Indicators	Channels or process Consultation with stakeholders/partners
1.Strengthen law enforcement and prosecution to reduce poaching and the illegal trade in ivory	1.1 Refresher course for DNPW prosecutors, investigators and field staff	Jan 2021	1 training done	# staff present	DNPW protocols
	1.2 IWT workshop for enforcement agencies	Feb 2021	Workshop held	# people present, proceedings	DNPW protocols
	1.3 Provide logistical support for law enforcement (fuel, subsistence allowance, rations)	2021	Increased patrol effort	Encounters with illegal activity # elephants poached/year	DNPW protocols
2.Strengthen law enforcement along the Zambian border and raise awareness with agricultural communities	2.1 Strengthen surveillance of park boundary	2021	Increased patrol effort	# elephants poached/year	DNPW protocols
	2.2 Conduct joint border patrols with Zambian DNPW	2021	12 joint patrols/year	Improved connectivity	DNPW protocols
	2.3 Raise awareness with local	2021 (meeting one community per month)	Series of community meetings held	# people moved out of PA	DNPW protocols



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<p>to restore connectivity</p> <p>3. Raise awareness on coexisting with elephants and train local communities in the use of deterrents to lower HEC incidence</p>	<p>communities on encroachment, to have them voluntarily move out of the PA</p> <p>2.4 Face-to-face meetings with traditional leadership on encroachment</p> <p>3.1 Awareness meetings on the importance of the fence, link between encroachment and HEC, and how to protect oneself against elephants</p>	<p>2021 (series of meetings with traditional leadership)</p> <p>2021 (Series of awareness and training meetings with fringe communities)</p>	<p>Meetings with traditional leadership held</p> <p>Meetings and training sessions held</p>	<p># of HEC incidences/unit time</p> <p># of HEC incidences/unit time</p>	<p>DNPW protocols</p> <p>DNPW protocols</p>
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5.1.2: Procurement (goods, services, equipment, travel, workshop, accommodation etc)
(Please explain what goods and services you will be procuring and for what purpose)

Fuel: Transportation for patrols, other law-enforcement activities, community meetings, workshop, training sessions, etc.
Rations: For patrol staff during field activities
HEC mitigating materials: Posters, Brochures, Jingles & Firecrackers
IWT Workshop for enforcement agencies: Meals, beverages, accommodation

5.1.3: Implementation: activity plan, timeline

Activities	Outputs	Delivery Date
Activity 1.1. Refresher Course	Improved performance of DNWP prosecutors, investigators and key patrol staff	1 Feb 2021
Activity 1.2. IWT workshop	Improved collaboration between all enforcement agencies	1 March 2021



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Activity 1.3. Logistical support for law enforcement	Increased patrol effort	1 Jan 2022 (throughout the year)
Activity 2.1. Strengthened surveillance of park boundary	Increased patrol effort	1 Jan 2022 (throughout the year)
Activity 2.2. Joint border patrols with Zambian counterpart	Increased patrol effort on both sides of the border	1 Jan 2022 (throughout the year)
Activity 2.3 Raise awareness with local communities	People voluntarily leaving the park to resettle elsewhere	1 Jan 2022 (throughout the year)
Activity 2.4. Face-to-face meetings with traditional leadership on encroachment	People voluntarily leaving the park to resettle elsewhere	1 Jan 2022 (throughout the year)
Activity 3.1. Awareness meetings on the importance of the fence, link between encroachment and HEC, and how to protect oneself against elephants	Communities more aware of the causes of HEC and better equipped to mitigate this	1 Jan 2022 (throughout the year)

5.1.4: Monitoring and evaluation measures of the project

(Please explain how the monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted)

Monitoring and evaluation will follow the framework developed for NEAPs, while at park level information on law-enforcement effort, encounters with illegal activity, HEC incidences and other data are collected by default, locally analysed by park management and forwarded to DNPW HQ as negative feedback for the adaptive management system.



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5.1.5: Technical and financial reporting

(You will be expected to submit interim and final reports for this project in the UN standard template: Please provide details of the responsible officer/entity who will be responsible for preparing these reports and please confirm your capacity to comply with these requirements)

The ultimate responsibility for reporting lies with the Director DNPW, who will delegate some of the tasks to other staff members.

6.0: Please explain long term measures to ensure sustainability of the project.

Depending upon the availability of funds, refresher courses for DNPW staff (field management, patrol staff, prosecutors & investigators), awareness raising meetings, stakeholder meetings and face-to-face meetings will continue as required, while law-enforcement operations, joint cross-border as well as regular patrols, will continue as usual, with effectiveness depending on the operational budget and external funding.

7.0: Will this project receive any other funding other than AEF? Give all relevant details (for example, amount in USD, source of funds, any restrictions? Please specify.

NO

7.1: Please provide a detailed proposed activity-based budget for this project (in USD) as per table below:

(N/B: Expenses that fall under incidental procurement which amounts to 20,000\$ or above, or 15% of the total budget (whichever is lower), will require that the implementing partner be subject to the UN procurement assessment.)*

**Incidental procurement: equipment, vehicles, travel, furniture, supplies, commodities and materials.*

Budget						
Activity	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)	AEF budget (USD)	Co-funding (DNPW) (USD)
Activity 1.1:						
Facilitation fees	3 days	6	55.56	1,000.08	0	1,000.08
Transport costs	-	8	111,11	888.89	888.89	0
Lodging & meals	5 days	35	55.56	9,723.00	9,723.00	0
Incidentals	5 days	35	10.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	0
Hire of Hall	3 days	1	111.11	333.33	333.33	0
Stationery	-	30	2.78	83.33	83.33	0
Sub-total 1.1:				13,779	12,779	1,000
Activity 1.2:						



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Facilitation fees	4 days	6	55.56	1,333.33	0	1,333.33
Transport costs	-	6	55.56	333.33	333.33	0
Lodging & meals	4 days	30	55.56	6,667.20	6,667.20	0
Incidentals	4 days	30	10.00	1,200.00	0	1,200.00
Hire of Hall	4 days	1	111.11	444.44	444.44	0
Stationary	-	30	2.78	83.33	83.33	0
Sub-total 1.2:				10,062	7,528	2,533
Activity 1.3:						
Fuel	4 days/m	12	208.33	2,500.00	2,500.00	0
Incentives	4 days/m	48	55.56	2,666.88	2,666.88	0
Rations and PPEs	4 days/m	12	347.22	4,166.64	4,166.64	0
Sub-total 1.3:				9,334	9,334	0
Activity 2.1:						
Fuel	1 day/m	12	208.33	2,499.96	2,499.96	0
Incentives	5	60	27.78	1,666.80	1,666.80	0
Rations and PPEs	1	1	347.22	347.22	347.22	0
Sub-total 2.1:				4,514	4,514	0
Activity 2.2:						
Fuel	3 days	1	208.33	625.00	625.00	0
Incentives	3 days	10	27.78	833.33	833.33	0
Stationary	-	-	2.78	2.78	2.78	0
Sub-total 2.2:				1,461	1,461	0
Activity 2.3:						
Fuel	-	1	694.44	694.44	694.44	0
Lodging & meals	-	5	55.56	277.80	277.80	0
Refreshments	-	1	347.22	347.22	374.22	0
Sub-total 2.3:				1,320	1,320	0
Activity 2.4:						
Fuel	-	3	208.33	625.00	625.00	0
Lodging & meals	-	4	55.56	222.22	222.22	0
Refreshments	-	1	27.78	27.78	27.78	0
Sub-total 2.4:				875	875	0
Activity 3.1:						
Fuel	-	4	347.22	1,388.89	1,388.89	0
Lodging & meals	-	4	55.56	222.22	222.22	0
Refreshments	-	4	233.33	933.33	933.33	0
Purchase Firecrackers HEC	12 months	12	300.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	0
Posters	-	200	10.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0
Brochures	-	200	2.00	400.00	400.00	0
Radio jingles	-	12	50.00	600.00	600.00	0
Sub-total 3.1:				9,144	9,144	0
Total Cost US\$				50,489	46,956	

The following budget items are not funded by the AEF, as agreed by the rules of procedures of the AEF Steering Committee:

1. Salaries, excluding experts/consultants hired for specific activities related to project implementation;
2. Daily subsistence allowances and accommodation, unless it is part of training or activities in remote/rural areas;



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3. Flights, purchase of vehicles, excluding bicycles and motorbikes;
4. Educational programmes including bursaries & interns.

Please submit the completed project proposal to: mamadou.kane@un.org and dorris.chepkoech@un.org; with a copy to: unep-africanelephantfund@un.org

You should receive acknowledgement of receipt of your proposal within 14 days. If you do not receive such an acknowledgement, please call: +254 719744186 / +254 710602646.

Additional information on the project proposal may be requested by the Steering Committee of the African Elephant Fund.

N/B: The full project proposal should be translated into a two-page executive summary in the other working languages of the AEFSC (English/French and vice-versa).
For more information, please visit our website: www.africanelephantfund.org