

# combating wildlife crime in the Malawi-Zambia landscape

**76%**

of African elephants living in habitats that cross national borders

**50**

estimated number of elephants in 2015, down from 1,000 over the last 20 years in Kasungu National Park

**73+**

unemployed youth now trained in vocational skills through the project

**365+**

poaching convictions with the conviction rate standing at 76.5%

**2,291+**

people arrested, and 3562.36 kg of ivory seized

► Elephant family in Kasungu National Park exploring and inspecting the Lifupa Dam and their surroundings.

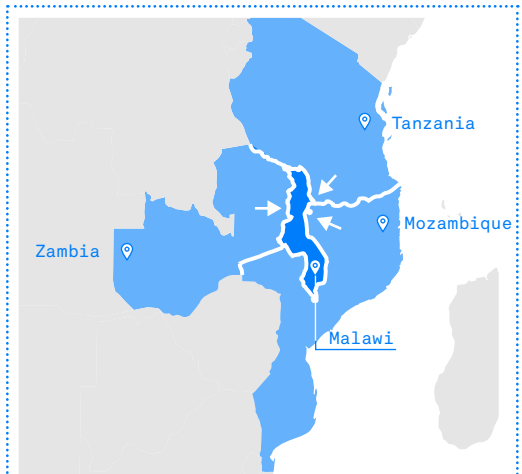


Photo: © Sharon Maisey

76% of African elephants live in habitats that cross national borders. In these areas, poachers can kill elephants for their tusks and then avoid law enforcement by escaping from one country to another.

Along the border of Malawi and Zambia—home to three stunning national parks in Southern Africa: Kasungu, Lukusuzi and Luambe—this challenge is particularly severe.

After hunting elephants in Malawi or Zambia, poachers can easily cross the border into either one of the countries, where respective government officials no longer have the authority to arrest them. In Kasungu National Park alone, the elephant population was reduced from over 1,000 to fewer than 50 during the last 20 years.



The Malawi-Zambia landscape has emerged as a major ivory transit route due to its geographic location. Ivory moves from Northern Mozambique, Southeastern Tanzania and Zambia through to Malawi where it is illegally processed for consumer markets in Southeast Asia and China.



Photo: © IFAW



Photo: Theresa Chapulapula / © IFAW

## 150 + %

increase of elephants in Kasungu National Park since 2014, thanks to the project

## 828 +

coordination meetings conducted aimed at improving collaboration between law enforcement agents in both Malawi and Zambia

## 30,000 +

learners reached with environmental education lessons

◀ Community engagement meeting.

▶ Local woman repairs the fence on the eastern border of the park as part of the IFAW's Malawi-Zambia Transboundary Landscape Project.

▶ **see how at [ifaw.org](https://www.ifaw.org)**



#KeepItWild

### IFAW project: Combating Wildlife Crime

In 2017 IFAW launched the Combating Wildlife Crime (CWC) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to protect elephant populations along the Malawi and Zambia border landscape.

The initiative targets elephant species. However, enhanced enforcement capacity developed through this activity will benefit numerous other species targeted in the landscape and caught up in illegal trade.

The project uses a number of strategies, including cross-border coordination, law enforcement capacity building, community engagement, judicial and prosecutorial capacity building. The objectives of the project include:

- ▶ Decrease elephant poaching rates to levels that will allow for the sustainability of the population by year four of the activity.
- ▶ Achieve at least a 25% decline in elephant poaching in the landscape by year two of this activity, and a 50% decline in elephant poaching by year five.
- ▶ Enhance the capacity of law enforcement officers to identify, prosecute, and disrupt illegal trafficking routes operating across the Malawi-Zambia landscape by year five of the activity.

We do this through the following activities:

- ▶ Work with the various agencies such as the police, the courts and government bodies in the region to improve cooperation and coordination across boundaries, as well as build innovative deterrent approaches to poaching and the illegal wildlife trade.

Innovative deterrent approaches include having local community agents—Community Enforcement Networks (CEN)—who both act as a deterrent for poachers and alert armed official Rapid Response Units (RRUs) when there is poaching in the parks.

- ▶ Provide technical and logistical support to wildlife enforcement agencies tasked with managing protected areas and disrupting trafficking routes in the wider region.
- ▶ Improve engagement of communities in law enforcement and wildlife management through education and training programmes, so they can help spot and report wildlife crime activity.