



MALAWI'S NATIONAL IVORY ACTION PLAN



PRODUCED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

BY

**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE, LILONGWE,
MALAWI**

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1.0 BACKGROUND

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) is designated as both, the CITES Management Authority as well as the Scientific Authority for Malawi. The DNPW is the government agency responsible for the management and conservation of wildlife. Its core duties include enforcement of wildlife laws, Policy implementation and taking the lead in wildlife conservation efforts. For a considerable period of time, law enforcement efforts focused on dealing with largely subsistence poaching for bush meat and elephants had ceased to be targets for poaching after the ivory trade ban in 1989. However, the situation just changed drastically in the post 2010 period whereby Liwonde national Park which rarely registered elephant killing, started to lose around five elephants at a time.

The Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) Report submitted to the 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), identified Malawi as a Party that serve as entrepôt and exporter for illegal ivory in southern Africa. It was stated in the report that Malawi's prioritization in the analysis prepared for CoP17 is primarily based on a single large-scale ivory seizure that links with Tanzania, but that Malawi has a history of being an ivory entrepôt and exporter in southern Africa. The report states that for example, the largest ivory seizure ever made and reported to ETIS, involving over seven tonnes of ivory, was exported from Malawi in 2002, and that Asian criminal syndicates were identified in the case, but none were ever arrested and prosecuted.

This observation is corroborated by the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Study Review done by Lilongwe Wildlife Trust in 2015 with support from GIZ. In short, the findings in this study revealed that IWT is a thriving industry in Malawi as the country is being used as a major transit hub for illegal wildlife products, which are being easily imported, processed, packaged, sold and exported through its porous borders. The troubling example of a Chinese national who was arrested and prosecuted for an ivory trafficking offence under one name, deported under a second name, and reported by the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) to INTERPOL

Headquarters under a third name, has provided an important example of the ease with which criminals are circumventing the weak systems currently in place and an impetus to improve law enforcement efforts.

In addition to being a transit hub, the study results point to the fact that Malawi's own wildlife is also under threat. It points out that *'although data and population surveys may be lacking, the stark reality is clear – unless immediate action is taken to combat the trade, Malawi will have very little wildlife left in just a few short years'*. Poachers and traffickers have apparently been taking advantage of corrupt practices, weak legislation and an acute lack of resources.

While that may be the case, all actors have realised that not all is lost, and reversing the trend may be hard but not impossible. DNPW and other national level players in combating IWT fully recognizes that the problem is global, criminal gangs are well organised and well networked and that national and regional strategies will help combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade. So far, Malawi has already made some steps in the right direction. This includes the establishment of the 'Inter-agency Committee on Combating Wildlife Crime' (IACCWC) in 2014, which has become a model multi-agency forum in the region. The enactment of the National Parks and Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2017), with some of the toughest penalties for wildlife crime on the continent is a turning point and will lead to more consistent, commensurate and deterrent sentences for wildlife crime.

Other recent developments that are worth mentioning include the signing of the Trans Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) Agreements between Zambia and Malawi, the promotion of Private, Public Partnerships (PPPs) to help manage wildlife in Malawi, while the DNPW reviewed the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWA) with the aim of strengthening the Act to ensure that it is fully compliant with CITES, more protection to endangered species and ensures that penalty provisions are stiffened and enforceable.

2.0 CURRENT EFFORTS TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME

3.0 DNPW is cognisant of the challenges Malawi faces in combating the illegal trafficking of ivory and other wildlife products in the country, and has established several initiatives in recent years with significant achievements as follows;

a) Ban of domestic ivory trade

The Government of Malawi introduced a moratorium on domestic ivory trade in September 2013. Prior to that, some limited domestic trade mainly in the carving industry was permitted through licenced trophy dealers who could buy ivory from the Government stockpile. The ivory traded was the only legally obtained source, collected through managed killing of elephants in mitigating human wildlife conflict and through natural mortality.

b) Establishment of an Inter-Agency forum on Combating Wildlife Crime

The DNPW has had a long working relationship with Malawi Police Service and the Judiciary, however the collaboration was mainly focussed on poachers arrested within Protected Areas (PAs). This collaboration was formalised in 2014 when Malawi established the Inter-Agency Committee for Combating Wildlife Crime with support from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) of the United Kingdom.

The IACCWC is comprised of all the State Law Enforcement Agencies which include: Police, Defence Force, Malawi Revenue Authority, Immigration, Financial Intelligence Authority, Anti-Corruption Bureau, National Intelligence Bureau, NGO representatives, Judiciary and other relevant departments such as Forestry and Environmental Affairs. This Committee has been a game changer as it has fostered better collaboration amongst law enforcement agencies and promoted joint operations. Alongside other benefits of this forum has been the promotion of the use of multiple pieces of relevant legislation when dealing with wildlife crime and has so far worked very well to an extent that one case was even co-prosecuted by various agencies.

c) Illegal Wildlife Trade Review

While it has been a well-known fact that trafficking in wildlife products is rampant in Malawi, the extent to which this illegal wildlife trade is taking place was not well known and documented. The Illegal Wildlife Trade Review conducted by Lilongwe Wildlife Trust with support from GIZ revealed the true exploitation of Malawi as a regional IWT hub. Although an Inter-Agency Committee on

Combating Wildlife Crime had been established, more interventions were required to start reversing the trends. Most of the actions that have followed are recommendations from the IWT Review.

d) Review of the National Parks and Wildlife Act and regulations to make wildlife crime a serious crime

One of the weak areas identified from the time the DNPW started making efforts to deal with IWT was the weak legislation at that time. The IWT study succinctly identified the weak areas in the legislation that must, as a matter of priority, be subjected to prompt review. With support from GIZ and Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, the review of the NPWA started in 2016 and was finalised in the same year with the amendment Act coming into effect in January 2017. Of great significance is the review of penalties and fines providing a clear categorisation of species with their attendant fines and penalties. The minimum penalties were removed for the highest level of protected species and the new penalties include a maximum of 30 years custody which categorises wildlife crime as “Serious Crimes”.

e) Formation of a specialised Wildlife Crimes Investigations and Intelligence Unit (WCIIU)

The formation of a specialised Wildlife Crimes Investigation and Intelligence Unit in 2014 meant that wildlife crime could be better tackled. A long desired establishment and also coming as a recommendation from the IWT, the WCIIU has made tremendous progress with an exponential increase in arrests and successful prosecutions. The Unit is jointly manned by Wildlife and Police Officers and leverages its operations on the good cooperation that has come with the creation of the IACCWC. The joint training of operatives from Malawi and Zambia, courtesy of IFAW, helped to establish cross border cooperation. Since establishment of the Unit, more prosecutions have been taken to court in the past year than in the previous seven years and the average sentence has increased from a fine of \$40 to an average of four years in custody with several sentences of seven years and a maximum sentence to date of ten years.

The next challenge for the Unit is to reach out to the other areas of the country and also to improve on cross border collaboration in the areas of intelligence sharing, joint investigations and counter trafficking operations.

f) Placement of officers at the main entry and exit points

The DNPW has placed law enforcement officers at the two main international airport and four land border posts with approval from Chief Secretary of government. This is slowly proving to be effective as there is combined effort with other border enforcement agencies. The main challenge, however, is the porous borders.

g) Awareness programmes on the Seriousness of Wildlife Crime

A number of awareness campaigns have been undertaken targeting members of the Judiciary, Police, other law enforcement agencies and the general public. The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund through Defra, UK through RSPCA has assisted very much in this regard alongside Lilongwe Wildlife Trust who have done vigorous and protracted anti-trafficking campaigns using different types of media; electronic, radio and print. This comes over and above the existing DNPW outreach efforts. One of the most outstanding awareness raising events was a Judiciary Symposium held in April this year, which was even attended by Judges of the Supreme Court.

h) Capacity Building of Operatives

A number of capacity building initiatives have been conducted for law enforcement frontline staff from various agencies, which have included Customs officials and Police. The trainings have been done with support from the following organisations: DEFRA through RSPCA, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, ILEA facilitated by US Embassy, IFAW among others. The areas covered in these trainings mainly focussed on crime detection, undertaking investigations that lead to successful prosecutions among others. One notable training was that of the first ever training of wildlife officers as Prosecutors who have been given consent to prosecute wildlife cases by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

i) Ivory stockpile management

With support from Stop Ivory, the national ivory and rhino horn stockpile has been inventoried and this is now updated annually since 2015. The establishment of an ivory and rhino horn stockpile management system to ensure a digitised record of the national stockpile in real time and to assist in

annual ivory stockpile reporting requirements to CITES. Efforts are underway to reinforce the security of the stockpile to prevent situations where it ends on the illegal market through break ins or pilferage.

j) Development of the National Elephant Action Plan

Another remarkable effort is the completion and endorsement of a ten-year National Elephant Action Plan which is an official blueprint for actions that need to be taken by all stakeholders to help protect and manage sustainable elephant populations within the country. The biggest threat identified to the conservation of elephants in Malawi is the illegal ivory trade.

k) Public Private Partnerships in wildlife management and conservation

The further engagement in Private, Public Partnerships (PPPs) with African Parks Network in 2015 to manage two additional protected areas also aims at improving elephant conservation. One of the major weaknesses identified is weak law enforcement systems in areas where elephants occur in Malawi and these are Protected Areas. To that effect, 520 elephants have been relocated to a new PA with the aim of providing them with bigger home ranges alongside improved protection. This has already led to an increase in elephant births in Liwonde National Park, where some elephants were relocated from, and is part of the strategy for achieving sustainable elephant populations in Malawi.

Also very beneficial is the partnerships with National and International Non-Governmental Organisations such as Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, International Fund for Animal Welfare and Stop Ivory. The current efforts and achievements are largely due to their support and participation in almost all the areas of achievement highlighted here. They have been in the forefront of mobilising resources.

l) Regional and International cooperation

Criminal gangs involved in illegal wildlife trade are usually well organised and networked even across borders. They exploit to their benefit, poor collaboration, weak legislation, corrupt officials and porous borders. Realising that only collaborative efforts both at national and international level will yield significant impact in combating illegal wildlife trade, Malawi Government, through the

DNPW, has partnered and signed up to a number of regional and international initiatives involved in the fight against trafficking of wildlife products of which ivory is one such illegally traded item of high value. The signing of the Trans Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) Agreement between Zambia and Malawi in 2015 is just one example. It also signed up to the Clinton Global Initiative, while it has been active in supporting other international interventions aimed to protect wildlife, including elephants). Additionally, Malawi joined the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) in March 2015 thereby committing to a) closing domestic ivory markets b) observe a moratorium on any consideration of future international trade for a minimum of 10 years and thereafter until African elephant populations are no longer threatened; and agree to put all stockpiles beyond economic use and c) to implement the African Elephant Action Plan.

4.0 A SYNOPSIS OF CURRENT CHALLENGES AND THREATS

5.0 Although a lot of effort has been put into combating illegal wildlife, Malawi continues to face several challenges. The challenges stem from the fact that the demand for ivory has not waned and that despite the increased risks for traffickers through the amended Act, the high returns remain a strong driver in a low-income country. It is evident from the ETIS report that in-country seizures are generally smaller consignments and some large quantity seizures are still being seized outside of Malawi and usually in consumer countries.

Additionally, the level of awareness of the seriousness of wildlife crime is still not adequate across both the public and law-enforcement agencies, despite good efforts in this regard. The Inter Agency Committee plans to establish sub-committees at the regional level to ensure that the successes achieved by the national Committee are matched at a regional level. Resources are largely insufficient in Protected Areas managed by DNPW which results in poor protection of elephants and other wildlife species.

6.0 OBJECTIVES AND PILLARS OF THE NIAP

The Objective of the NIAP is to provide a time bound national framework for combating trafficking of ivory by targeted actions towards all drivers and actors in the illegal trade.

The NIAP has been structured along the five pillars as required by the CITES Secretariat with clear actions, milestones, timelines and indicators. The five pillars are;

- i) Legislation and regulations;
- ii) National level enforcement action and inter-agency collaboration;
- iii) International and regional enforcement collaboration;
- iv) Outreach, public awareness and education; and
- v) Reporting;

Malawi's NIAP is building on significant existing efforts contained in the National Elephant Action Plan, the IACCWC and other programmes developed by DNPW and its partners.

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Pillar	Action (Add or delete rows as necessary)	Baselines (B) and indicators (I) (for each action)	Milestones (Indicate milestones (M) in month and year)	Responsible national agency (for each action)	Cost, funding availability and needs (for each action)
Legislation and regulations	1. Revise the National Parks and Wildlife Act to deter ivory trafficking and illegal wildlife trade through strong penalties, including custodial sentences.	B: Penalty for possession and trafficking of ivory was a fine of not more than \$1400 or imprisonment for about 1 year.	M1: 12/2016 National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Bill passed by Malawi Parliament M2: 02/2017 National Parks and Wildlife Amendment Bill assented to by the President. Amended Act now in use and custodial sentences of up to 15 years are being imposed on convicts as prescribe by Legislation.	Ministry of Justice, National Assembly, Department of National Parks and Wildlife; Ministry of Justice	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - [supported by GIZ through LWT
	2. Formulate new regulations and review existing ones to operationalize the revised National Parks and Wildlife Act	B: Existing regulations are amended to operationalize the amended National Parks and Wildlife Act	M1: 07/ 2017 First Draft of New Regulations drafted and completed M2: 30/09/17 Consultations with key stakeholders conducted M3: 31/10/17 Final draft of regulations submitted for approval M4: 31/11/2017 New regulations enter into force	Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Ministry of Justice	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - supported by LWT

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	<p>3. Conduct a review of wildlife crime cases before court to identify measures to improve successful prosecution rate.</p>	<p>B: 30% of wildlife crime cases successfully prosecuted</p>	<p>M1: 11/2017 Review completed</p> <p>M2: 03/2018 Consultations with relevant stakeholders on the review results completed</p> <p>M3: Periodic Recommendations to address gaps and improve successful prosecution rate drafted</p> <p>M4: Recommendations to address gaps and improve successful prosecution rate agreed and being implemented</p> <p>M5:11/2016 Periodic inter-agency meetings to strategize on prosecution of key wildlife crime cases.</p> <p>M5: 09/2017 Legislation Handbook for wildlife crime produced,endorsed by Chief Justice and distributed to Judiciary and Police.</p> <p>M6: 31/10/2017 Sentencing guidelines produced, endorsed by Chief Justice distributed and users sensitised.</p>	<p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Ministry of Justice and Police</p>	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>National level enforcement action and inter-agency</p>	<p>1. Establish a formal collaboration mechanism to facilitate national inter-agency cooperation to combat wildlife crime, in particular ivory trafficking</p>	<p>B: Inter-agency cooperation to combat wildlife crime is in place</p>	<p>M1: 31/03/2014 Inter-agency committee (almost equivalent of NEST) formed and is functional but mostly without binding agreements (MOUs) (except one with</p>	<p>Department of National parks and Wildlife (as Secretariat)</p>	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/></p>

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<p>collaboration</p>		<p>I: Cooperation among agencies routinely occurs and is supported by a formal collaboration mechanism.</p>	<p>MDF) between agencies and the Wildlife Department.</p> <p>M2: 30/10/2016 Law enforcers placed at 5 border posts inclusive of two International Airports.</p> <p>30/04/2018 MOUs signed with MRA, Department, Anticorruption Bureau, Financial Intelligence Authority & Police Central Intelligence Unit</p> <p>M3: 30/04/2015 Interpol and other international agencies working with the Interagency committee</p>		
	<p>2. Plan and initiate at least four joint national intelligence driven wildlife crime operations targeting places most affected by or used for wildlife crime, e.g. protected areas, border points or markets for wildlife specimens.</p>	<p>B: Places most affected by or used for wildlife crime are not adequately targeted through active or scaled-up law enforcement presence.</p>	<p>M1: 30/04//2016 Wildlife Crimes Intelligence and Investigations Unit formed, jointly manned and operated by DNPW and Police, is functional and taking a lead role in investigations, coordination & planning</p> <p>M2: 30/11/2017 Meeting between relevant national agencies to identify places at national level that are most affected by or used for wildlife crime and to plan operations as appropriate.</p> <p>M3:30 /06/2018 At least three joint national operations initiated and completed.</p>	<p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife and Malawi Police Service,</p>	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>I: Law enforcement activities are strategically targeted towards the places at national level that are most affected by or used for wildlife crime.</p>				

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			M4:		
	3. Develop country specific national level risk profiles and indicators to combat wildlife trafficking, in particular ivory trafficking.	B: No country specific wildlife crime risk profiles and indicators to combat wildlife crime and ivory trafficking exist.	M1: 30/11/2017 Formal request submitted to the World Customs Organization (WCO) to support the development of a set of national level risk profiles and indicators focusing on wildlife trafficking, in particular, illegal ivory trafficking.	Malawi Revenue Authority (Customs Administration) and Department of National Parks and Wildlife	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
		I: A set of country specific risk profiles and indicators to combat wildlife crime and ivory trafficking are in place and regularly updated as needed.	M2: 31/03/2018 Draft set of national level risk profiles and indicators ready. M3: 30/06/2018 National level risk profiles and indicators ready and used.		
International and regional enforcement collaboration	1. Strengthen law enforcement collaboration and cooperation with Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia to combat elephant poaching and illegal trafficking of ivory	B: No joint cross border operation with Tanzania and Mozambique initiated to date (except with Zambia)	M1: 31/12/2017 First meeting with Tanzania and Mozambique on opportunities for joint action and initiate information and wildlife crime intelligence sharing completed M2: 31/05/2018 At least one joint cross border intelligence led operation with Tanzania and Mozambique initiated and completed M3: 30/06/2018 Cross border collaboration and cooperation with Zambia on wildlife crime intelligence and information sharing formalised through an MOU	Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Malawi Police Service with support from [INTERPOL & Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF)]	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/>
		I: At least 4 cross border operations undertaken with Zambia, Tanzania & Mozambique to reduce poaching of elephants and trafficking of ivory			

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			<p>M4: 30/09/2018 Sub Regional forum network of investigators involving Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique established</p>		
	<p>2. Review mechanisms in place to support collaboration with countries of source, transit or destination to combat wildlife crime and, in particular, ivory trafficking, to ensure timely exchange of information and intelligence and promote follow-up investigations across the entire illegal trade chain.</p>	<p>B: Engagement in support of follow-up investigations in countries of source, transit or destination rarely occurs at international level.</p>	<p>M1: 11/2017 Engage with LWT and RSPCA to initiate a review of national mechanisms in place to support collaboration with countries of source, transit or destination.</p>	<p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Malawi Police Service, FIA</p>	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input type="checkbox"/></p>
		<p>Engagement in support of follow-up investigations in countries of source, transit or destination routinely occur in cases of wildlife crime that involves criminal activities beyond national borders.</p>	<p>M2: 01/2018 Terms of reference for review completed.</p> <p>M3: 05/2018 Meeting between all relevant stakeholders to consider the results of the review and agree remedial measures.</p> <p>M4: 05/2018 New mechanism to support collaboration with countries of source, transit or destination submitted for approval</p> <p>M5: 06/2018 Revised mechanisms approved and being implemented.</p>		

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<p>Outreach, public awareness and education</p>	<p>1. Initiate research on demand for illegally traded ivory to identify the drivers and dynamics of the demand and to provide solid information for use in demand-reduction campaigns.</p>	<p>B: Information on the drivers and dynamics of demand for illegally trade ivory is available.</p>	<p>M1: 31/03/2014 Engage with LWT to develop terms of reference for research on demand for illegally traded ivory.</p> <p>M2: 30/04/2014 Reached out to donors to secure funding for research.</p> <p>M3: 30/04/2015 Conducted research, analysed results and formulated reduction campaign. Report on status, extent and impact of ivory trade compiled, released and available.</p>	<p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife</p>	<p>Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Accomplished with support from GIZ through LWT)</p>
	<p>2. Develop and implement a well-targeted and evidence-based national awareness raising campaign by engaging key stakeholders, would be consumer groups and targeting the motivations for the demand for illegally traded ivory, using specific messaging approaches and methods for target audiences.</p>	<p>B: National campaigns largely evidence based and delivered through specific messaging approaches and Some methods for target audiences.</p>	<p>I: Good quality information is available and used for the design of targeted demand-reduction campaigns.</p>	<p>M1: 12/2016 At least one Foreign Mission (Chinese Embassy) reached and a messaging system operationalised</p> <p>M2: 12/2015 Launch reduction campaign that included participation of the public.</p> <p>M3: 20/04/2017 Judicial symposium conducted to sensitize them on wildlife crimes</p> <p>M4: 04/2018 Distribute information materials in all strategic areas / hot spots and conduct public road shows to disseminate elephant conservation messages in partnership with popular media outlets, the Wildlife Law.</p>	<p>Department of National Parks and Wildlife</p>

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			M5: 30/06/2018 Analysis of activities and success of the campaign		
Reporting	1. Initiate a process to audit and complete an inventory of national ivory stockpiles using an appropriate inventory protocol, to facilitate reporting of ivory stockpile in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) (Para. 6e).	B: Comprehensive inventory of national ivory stockpiles is available	M1: 31/12/2015 Engage with Stop Ivory for support to audit and complete an inventory of national ivory stockpiles.	Department of National Parks & Wildlife (supported by Stop Ivory)	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		I: Ivory stockpile inventory and management practices in place and reporting in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) para. 6 e) promptly done on an annual basis.	M2: 28/02/2017 Update, Audit and inventory process undertaken		
	2. Develop and put in place a mechanism to ensure prompt reporting of all ivory seizures to ETIS as required by Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17 Annex 1, para. 4.	B: Between 2012 and 2017, about 90% of seizures were reported to ETIS.	M1: 20/12/2017 Meeting between relevant national agencies to discuss the establishment of a national mechanism to record ivory seizures conducted	Department of National Parks and Wildlife; Malawi Police Service; Malawi Revenue Authority	Costs: Funding to be secured: <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		I: 100% reporting to ETIS on ivory seizures.	M2: 31/01/2018 A national mechanism to record ivory seizures developed, operationalized and rolled out to the four regions		

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Consultations with relevant actors

The NIAP was drafted by a Task Team composed of DNPW staff. The task was made easier due to the already existing strategies which complement the CITES Pillars for the NIAP. We also acknowledge that the current national strategies in place resulted from broad consultations of all relevant stakeholders and many activities within the strategies are receiving generous support from NGOs including Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and INTERPOL and other cooperating partners.

The draft document was reviewed by the DNPW Management for input. DNPW organised a workshop for all stakeholders represented on the Inter Agency Committee on 4th September, 2017 to solicit their input into the document. The agencies that participated in the review of the draft were Malawi Police Service, Financial Intelligence Authority, Anti Corruption Bureau, Director of Public Prosecutions, Department of Environmental Affairs, Malawi Defence Force, Immigration Department, Malawi Revenue Authority, Association of Environmental Journalists, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (which was funded the workshop). All stakeholders approved the draft in principle, with agreed amendments following the workshop discussions.

NIAP approval

This NIAP is approved in accordance with the provisions of Step 2, paragraph a) 3. iii) of the *Guidelines to the National Ivory Action Plans Process*, contained in Annex 3 to Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP17) on *Trade in elephant specimens*, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Patrick C. Matanda, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources & Mining

(Signature)

