

MALAWI -THUMA FOREST RESERVE (TFR) AND DEDZA- SALIMA ESCARPMENT SOS (DSFR) FENCE EXTENSION 2014

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WAG PROJECT FINANCED BY THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT FUND.

INTRODUCTION

Thuma Forest Reserve is one of the only Forest Reserves that is still home to elephants in Malawi. It is situated in the Central Region of Malawi, about 80 kilometers East of Lilongwe, the Capital City of Malawi and about 30 km from the Lake Shore of Salima. Thuma Wildlife Reserve is managed by the Wildlife Action Group (WAG). In 2015, Thuma was awarded a grant to erect a fence along the Reserve boundary to reduce the Human- elephant conflict which had gotten off hand at some point. The grant amount was US\$ The first disbursement amounted to US\$33,946.

Project Objective to which the small-scale funding contributes:

The project will contribute to priority objective (3) of the African Elephant Action Plan – Reduce Human Elephant Conflict (HEV), and priority objective (2) – Maintain Elephant Habitats and Restore Connectivity.

The Specific objectives of the project:

The main objective of the project is to reduce human elephant conflict and subsequent human and elephant injury/mortality by preventing the elephants from the leaving Thuma Forest Reserve (TFR) and Dedza-Salima



People crossing the river to work

Escarpment SOS (DSFR), by erecting a stretch of 30 km of solar – powered electric fence. This electric fence will continue from an existing 55km stretch of electric fence which was constructed in response to crop raiding elephants. While this has proven to be effective to an extent, elephants are still readily able to walk around it due to the relatively short section of existing fence. The increase of electrified perimeter would expand the fence. It will also reduce illegal poaching charcoal burning, illegal removal of bamboo and will also reduce access to the forest reducing poaching of elephants through pitfall traps and



shooting that occurs in both Reserves.

Expected outputs/results to be achieved:

Reduction in the frequency of crop raiding in areas surrounding TFR and DSFR, resulting in

- reduced human elephant conflict;

Materials arriving from SA

- Aid to reduce illegal poaching, habitat destruction and encroachment within TFR and DSFR;
- Increased positive attitude towards both Reserves;



Clearing the fence line

PROGRES MADE

November 2015 along the north boundary of Thuma FR we have built a of 12km fence. The plan was to extend to cover more areas around the Reserve. Since fences can be easily vandalised,

over 100 local people have participated in building the fence. What was really amazing was working alongside our biggest problem community in Chilombo where charcoal is made. This is a place where law enforcement staff cannot even patrol) but they have really welcomed the project and have actually stopped doing illegal activity inside for more than one month. A camp has been built in the area to safeguard the fence and claim back the area in order to have 100% presence in that area. And three full time jobs created from local people.



WAY FORWARD

The Project still needs to build a further 20kms of fence along the Dedza Salima eastern boundary. It will be completed once the balance of funds has been transferred to the account. A completion report will be compiled and sent

2015 AEF FENCE EXTENSION EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	MK	USD	exchange rate	SA Rand
Received 1st payment	14,600,658.00	33496	430	
Bank charges	- 1,500.00			
THN fencing materials	- 11,469,517.18			26705 2.8
100kg Nails	- 79,500.00			
Balance in WAG account	3,050,140.82			

