



BridgIT
Water Foundation

2025 BOREWELL RESTORATION PROGRAM FUNDING PROPOSAL

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Malawi

Water, Conservation & Biodiversity around Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve

Implementing Partner: Wildlife &
Environmental Society Malawi
(WESM Dwangwa Branch)

Brief Background & Rationale

Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The economy heavily depends on agriculture, employing nearly 80% of the population.

In Malawi, about 4 million people lack access to safe water. In addition, poor sanitation practices and improper drinking water storage commonly lead to water-borne illnesses such as cholera.

BridgIT Water partners with **Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)**. WESM is a registered not-for-profit organisation with a mandate to support the wise use of natural resources in Nkhosakota District through practical projects or environmental education implementation.

Nkhosakota Wildlife Reserve covers 180,000 hectares and is the largest wildlife reserve in Malawi supporting most of Malawi's wildlife species, including elephants. Unfortunately, wildlife and natural resources are being depleted at an alarming rate resulting in massive environmental degradation.

This development has prompted WESM to design and implement measures to address the problem. **Top of the agenda has been creating awareness and support to communities involved.**

African Parks has transferred five hundred elephants to Nkhosakota Wildlife Reserve from other national parks in Malawi to increase numbers. Communities around the reserve say that bringing elephants back into the reserve will increase conflict between people and animals. Recently, elephants have killed 3 people in the Traditional Authority Chilowoko in Ntchisi, bringing fear to the surrounding communities. The situation is precarious, as communities now consider the Reserve and elephants a threat.

WESM believes that access to clean drinking water is one of the core requirements to support the sustainable development of people surrounding the wildlife reserve



There are acute shortages of drinking water in the project area. Many communities draw their water from unprotected sources, and some communities get water from rivers that dry up during the summer.

Without access to reliable water resources, people spend a lot of time collecting water every day, and water-borne diseases remain prevalent. This significantly restricts an individual's ability to gain an education, contribute to household income or escape poverty. This has a particularly damaging impact on women and girls because of their traditional household role in Malawi culture. Women are currently walking up to 5 kilometres searching for drinking water, as communities are not empowered to claim their rights to water. In some cases, people share their drinking water source with animals. In addition, children often fail to attend classes because their mothers must fetch water instead of preparing them to go to school.

This project will have a water supply component to the adjacent communities. 51% live below the poverty line and 37% of the borewells in the area are not functioning. [Nkhosakota District Council Investment Plan].

Conservation, Biodiversity & Links to Poverty

Many magnificent animals across the world have been pushed to the brink of extinction due to poaching. Following population declines over several decades due to poaching for ivory and loss of habitat, the African forest elephant is now listed as critically endangered. Loss of habitat, human-elephant conflict, and political instability provide significant long-term challenges to their survival.

With the right approach, this can be reduced.

One solution to reduce poaching is to support local communities. Due to ever-expanding drain on natural resources, human populations all over the world are expanding further into wild territories. This expansion creates opportunities for poaching as access increases to previously remote natural spaces. Local communities need support to develop practices that help people and wildlife thrive together. In rural communities where poaching occurs, people should be offered other economic opportunities that could remove their motivation to engage in poaching.

Enhance conservation efforts by mobilizing public-private partnerships. Strengthening conservation efforts takes a concerted effort from many stakeholders, governments, NGOs, private landowners and sanctuaries and reserves.

Mobilise public-private partnerships. National parks, forests and other natural areas often do not have the budget and resources necessary to properly patrol and enforce poaching. Private businesses, contractors, and NGOs should work with various government agencies to fill in the gaps as needed in environmental protection efforts.

When stakeholders work together, these partnerships can be effective ways to stop poaching.

A recent study in Uganda on the links between poverty and wildlife crime indicated that one of the most effective ways to reduce illegal wildlife hunting is poverty reduction. Similarly, more effective involvement of the rural poor in both development and conservation projects is also advocated. For example, a study of Bwindi National Park in Uganda showed that those arrested for unauthorized activities in the national park were significantly poorer and more likely to live closer to the national park and farther from trading centres than others.

The first step out of poverty starts with clean water.

Project Outline

The project aims to refurbish existing borewells that have failed in the rural communities surrounding the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and restore them to as new condition.

Many of the borewells are in non-working order, most commonly due to broken hand pumps. This is because in the past, many government and non-government organisations have simply come in with a drill team, drilled a well, and left. Community members were not given any ownership or guidance on water management strategies or how to responsibly maintain the borewells. Therefore, when the hand pump eventually needs repair, the communities are unable to do so because they have no knowledge or resources on how to maintain the borewell.

In most cases, the repair requires a basic overhaul of the hand pump system, but this cost is too high for the poverty-stricken communities to fund if they have not been contributing to a common maintenance fund.

The project also aims to build community understanding of the importance of protecting wildlife by introducing awareness programmes to help the people understand how important it is to reduce wildlife trafficking, particularly elephants. A principal goal of this programme is to show people the social and economic benefits derived from working with healthy animal populations rather than conflicting with them.

- All communities are located adjacent to the Reserve boundary in Nkhotakota District.
- The existing boreholes were originally installed by the government or aid organisations at least 10 years ago.
- Some of the borewells have been out of service for over 3 years.
- The communities could not repair failed equipment due to a lack of training on how to fund or maintain the operation of the installed equipment.

Project Activity

This program will provide sustainable, community-managed water points by completely restoring existing borewells back to new condition. This is achieved by repairing or replacing the broken Afridev hand pumps and the reconstruction of the cement apron.

The borewell will be restored by a trained site repair team. Mechanical repairs to Afridev hand pumps typically involve replacing the pump cylinder, rods, pipes and pump head. After repairs are completed, local mechanics are trained to carry out any future maintenance. The mechanics will work hand in hand with community borehole committees and official government water officers will assist if a problem is beyond their capacity.



Project Budget

Activity	Amount US\$	Amount in AUD\$
Mobilisation & demobilisation	\$100.00	\$160.00
Replacement of hand pump materials & apron reconstruction including labour	\$800.00	\$1,240.00
Training - WUC, maintenance, WASH & wildlife sustainability	\$200.00	\$300.00
Partner project management, supervision, administration, transportation, reporting and monitoring	\$300.00	\$500.00
BWF project management, reporting and monitoring and evaluation (includes a site visit)	\$200.00	\$300.00
Total Refurbished Well Cost	\$1,600.00	\$2,500.00

- Currency unit based on US\$1 = AUD\$0.64 as an indication. To be recalculated at time of donation.



Communities through structures such as Natural Resource Committees, Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve Association and others, will be fully empowered so that they are able to manage the Reserve at the community level.

51% of the communities surrounding Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve live in extreme poverty. Pictured is a typical Malawian rural dwelling.



Project Beneficiaries & Summary

- After receiving formal requests from communities and reviewing with the local water department, 42 broken borewells are targeted for repair.
- Each of the 42 beneficiary villages listed urgently require a refurbished well to restore safe water in their community.
- The table below indicates the village boreholes that have been prioritized for restoration in Nkhotakota and Ntchisi Districts (Districts bordering Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve).

Approximately 36,952 people and 12,665 school children listed in the table require urgent support and will directly benefit from this refurbished water well program.

No.	Village Name	Traditional Authority (TA)	Group Village Head (GVH)	H/ Holds	Population	Students
1	Chiwaula	Malengachanzi	Chiwaula	189	1,134	
2	Kamkuwazi	Malengachanzi	Kamkuwazu	197	1,182	
3	Chimbuto	Malengachanzi	Chimbuto	201	1,206	
4	Thele 2 Primary School	Malengachanzi	Sasani			1,056
5	Kasumbudzula 1	Nkhanga	Kasumbudzula	191	1,146	
6	Kalungama	Nkhanga	Kalungama	185	1,110	
7	Kanama	Nkhanga	Chaunga	167	1,002	
8	Chalunda 2	Nkhanga	Chipelera	194	1,164	
9	Chamalile Primary School	Mphonde	Mphonde			1,030
10	Nkuwo	Nkhanga	Nkhanga	180	1,080	
11	Chithumbwe Mosque	Malengachanzi	Chithumbwe	190	1,140	
12	Chisimba	Nkhanga	Kalungama	178	1,068	
13	Maliwa Primary School	Kanyenda	Kanyenda			1,120
14	Chimvumo Primary	Kanyenda	Kanyenda			700
15	Mpamantha Primary	Kalimanjira	Kalimanjira			802
16	Mtanga 2	Mtanga	Kalimanjira	184	1,104	
174	Chizongwe Primary	Mwadzama	Chizongwe			1,045
18	Mazengera	Malengachanzi	Chota	198	1,188	
19	Tandwe 1	Malengachanzi	Tandwe	210	1,260	
20	Mpongopita Primary	Kafuzila	Kafuzila			812
21	Mgombe 1	Kalimanjira	Mgombe	194	1,164	
22	Kaswaya	Kafuzira	Kaswaya	189	1,134	
23	Bumphula Trading Centre	Chilooko	Bumphula		2,200	
24	Sani Primary School	Malengachanzi	Malengachanzi			900
25	Mazengera 2	Kafuzira	Mazengra	178	1,068	
26	Matumbi	Kanyenda	Matumbi	201	1,206	
27	Mbewa	Malengachanzi	Mbewa	201	1,206	
28	Chiondo Primary School	Kajaliza	Mwansambo			1,200
29	Chaola Primary School	Kajaliza	Mwansambo			1,200
30	Kawelama	Malengachazi	Kawelama	196	1,176	
31	Chimbuto	Chimbuto	Malengachanzi	220	1,320	
32	Bango	Mwanso	Bango	187	1,122	
33	Kayadzi Primary School	Kalimanjira	Kalimanjira			950
34	Indota	Vwamba	Kafuzira	210	1,260	
35	Dwambazi CCAP	Mpeta	Kafuzira		3,000	
36	Dwambazi Primary	Kamphambale	Kafuzira	194	1,164	
37	Kasamuka	Tinkhani	Kafuzira	176	1,056	
38	Mwambilapo	Mwansambo	Chaola	250	1,500	
39	Mphonde	Mphonde	Mphonde	212	1,272	
40	Chipwato Primary School			275		750
41	Mulala Primary School	Kanyenda	Nkhongo			1,100
42	Old Mbandila	Malengachanzi	Tambala 2	220	1,320	
		Totals		5,567	36,952	12,665

- Population figures are based on approx. 6 people per household.

Impacts

Expected impacts from this program are:

- Increased access to safe and affordable water for 5,567 households and 36,952 underserved impoverished people in the target water scarcity communities surrounding the reserve.
- 13 rural schools and 12,665 students will have a safe water supply in their schools.
- Relieve the need to travel long distances (up to 5km) to fetch water from unprotected water sources.
- Improved health, hygiene and personal cleanliness in the target communities.
- Reduced incidence of water-borne diseases, particularly cholera, in the target communities.
- Improved economic integration allows people more time to focus on regular work and livelihood improvement.
- Time and drudgery saved collecting water for household use.
- Women and girls will save up to 3 hours per day previously spent on water collection and this time can be redirected to more productive activities.
- Strengthen the capacity of communities to manage their own water facilities.
- Training to the communities to increase understanding and the importance of protecting wildlife in the reserve, particularly elephants, and how they can take part in conservation activities.
- Reduces potentially dangerous encounters between village residents and Reserve animals and the wildlife will be less threatened by human interaction.
- Support of Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in conservation of wildlife, particularly elephants.

Sustainability

It is crucial that community ownership is established for the sustainability of the borewell restoration.

BridgIT Water and our partners are committed to working with communities to provide sustainable water infrastructure. Sustainability ensures the enduring value of the invested funds and the achievement of intended impacts of the program.

The formation and training of borewell Water User Committees (WUCs) will build the communities' capacity to maintain the facility so they can independently manage all borewell activities. Every household contributes a monthly fee to a community fund to sustain the water facility. WESM field officers will conduct regular field monitoring visits, allowing them to work collaboratively to rectify any challenges that communities may encounter. The regional government has committed to supporting the project once it is handed over to the community.

WESM's relationship with various stakeholders such as community leaders, government specialists, particularly in the Parks and Wildlife Department, will enable continued support and expertise to be available to the communities. In addition, other government departments with operations and personnel in the target area are willing to participate with WESM to ensure the program is an enduring success.

Communities are assisted with technical training on aspects of the project. Partners and contractors train teams of energetic young men and women to equip them with necessary skills to perform preventative maintenance and minor repairs.

Conclusion

On behalf of all the beneficiary communities, we are very grateful to all donors and sponsors. We look forward to receiving support so that these rural communities and thousands of people in this proposal can receive clean water.



Your donation helps the global water crisis one rural village at a time





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