



2023 REFURBISHED WELL PROGRAM FUNDING PROPOSAL



Malawi **Water and Elephant Conservation** **around Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve**

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

Brief Background & Rationale

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

In Malawi, 80% of the population has access to an improved source of drinking water, but that leaves about 4 million people who still lack access to safe water. Poor sanitation practices and improper storage of drinking water commonly leads to water-borne illnesses such as cholera.

BridgIT Water partners with **Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM)**. WESM is an officially registered non-profit, non-government organisation with a mandate of supporting the wise use of natural resources in Nkhotakota District either through practical projects or environmental education implementation.

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

This worrisome development is what prompted WESM to implement an environmental gap analysis and to design intervention measures to address the problem. **Top of the agenda was the creation of community awareness and support to communities involved.**

African Parks have transferred five hundred elephants to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve from other national parks in Malawi in an effort to increase numbers. Communities around the reserve say that bringing elephants back into the reserve will bring a lot of human animal conflict. Over the past few years, elephants have killed 3 people in the Traditional Authority Chilowoko in Ntchisi, which has brought fear among surrounding communities and others. The relationship is not good as communities are looking at the reserve and elephants unfavourably.

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 which dry up during the summer.

Without access to a basic resource such as water, people spend a huge amount of time every day collecting water, whilst water-borne diseases remain prevalent. This is significantly restricting 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 5kms in search of drinking water and communities are not empowered to claim their rights to water. In some cases, people share their drinking water source with animals. Children also fail to attend classes because their mothers had to fetch water and had not prepared their children 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 boreholes in the area are not functioning. [Nkhotakota District Council Investment Plan].

Project Outline

The aim of the project is to: refurbish existing wells in the communities surrounding the Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve; make them understand the importance of protecting wildlife in the reserve, particularly elephants; and how they can take part in conservation activities. This project will provide quality drinking water and also build communities capacity by providing awareness programs to understand the importance of protecting wildlife and reducing wildlife trafficking.

There has never been a project around the reserve aimed at improving the participation of communities and this project will fill the knowledge gap currently seen among communities. The provision of water wells in this project will be a gift to the communities in return for their effort in wildlife conservation.

Malawi environmental decentralised policy encourages participation of communities in managing natural resources. 53% of the people of Nkhotakota are illiterate hence it becomes difficult for them to understand some of the conservation messages. The district water, education, health and forest offices are in support of this project as there is a lot of demand and requests received from the community leaders.

The training of user groups will help improve reserve governance to ensure that communities themselves are policing each other hence reducing cases of poaching. Most poachers come from adjacent communities, hence the approach to involve communities will help to curb malpractices employing a 'send a thief to catch the thief' type of approach.

- All communities are located in Nkhotakota District in a radius of the Reserve boundary.
- The existing boreholes were installed by the government or aid organisations at least 10 years ago.
- All boreholes have been out of service ranging from 3 years to a few months.
- The communities could not afford to fund the repairs because there was no ownership or active Water Point Committee (WPC) in place.



Project Activity

This program aims to create sustainable, community-managed water points to make safe drinking water available by refurbishing existing borehole water supply points fitted with Afridev hand pumps.

The bore pump is repaired by a trained site repair team. Mechanical repairs for the Afridev hand pumps typically involve replacing the pump cylinder, rods, pipes and pump head.

When the repairs are complete, area mechanics are trained to carry out future repairs. Area mechanics will work hand in hand with community borehole committees and if the problem is more technical an official government water officer can assist.

Project Budget

Activity	Amount US\$	Amount in AUD\$
Replacement of hand pump materials	\$600.00	\$900.00
Labour	\$115.00	\$200.00
WPC, maintenance & WASH training & supervision	\$215.00	\$300.00
Partner administration, transportation, project management and monitoring	\$300.00	\$450.00
BWF project management and administration costs	\$270.00	\$400.00
Total Refurbished Well Cost	\$1,500.00	\$2,250.00

- Currency unit based on US\$1 = AUD\$0.67 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 community level.

Project Beneficiaries & Summary

After receiving formal requests from communities, 30 broken hand pumps are targeted for repair.

Each of the 30 beneficiary villages listed urgently require a refurbished well in their community.

The table below indicates the community names, households and population, location and budget.

No.	Traditional Authority	Village / Community Name	Group Village Head (GVH)	H/ Holds	Population	Budget US\$
1	Mphonde	Fowo	Bulumuti	29	165	\$1,500.00
2		Bua & Tandira Primary School	Bua	78 / 600	978	\$1,500.00
3		Makhenjera	Makhenjera	31	143	\$1,500.00
4		Kabululu	Kabululu	33	152	\$1,500.00
5		Chizuma 2	Chizuma	46	201	\$1,500.00
6		Chipala	Mphonde	41	193	\$1,500.00
7		Pendwe	Pendwe	27	113	\$1,500.00
8		Chiboko	Chiboko	28	154	\$1,500.00
9		Khonde 1	Khonde	35	181	\$1,500.00
10		Mtumbula 1	Mtumbula	32	149	\$1,500.00
11	Kalimanjira	Chamtondo	Nkhongo 3	25	122	\$1,500.00
12		Mthira	Bamba	32	158	\$1,500.00
13		Kalimanjira	Kalimanjira	36	177	\$1,500.00
14	Malengachanzi	Ngoma	Ngoma	33	136	\$1,500.00
15		Chiputa	Mbaluku	44	193	\$1,500.00
16		Mphozongo	Makuta	27	148	\$1,500.00
17		Chiwaula	Chiwaula	41	186	\$1,500.00
18		Mazengela	Chota	36	182	\$1,500.00
19		Phangwa	Phangwa	50	221	\$1,500.00
20		Malenga	Malenga	42	162	\$1,500.00
21		Mbaluku	Mbaluku	30	146	\$1,500.00
22		Chamba	Chamba	34	154	\$1,500.00
23		Liwewe	Chota	47	204	\$1,500.00
24		Kamange	Kamange	41	191	\$1,500.00
25		Malasa	Malasa	23	109	\$1,500.00
26		Makuta 2	Makuta	34	173	\$1,500.00
27		Tambala 1	Tambala	46	162	\$1,500.00
28		Tambala 2	Tambala	29	145	\$1,500.00
29		Kamange	Kamange	35	180	\$1,500.00
30		Mchemela	Mchemela	24	111	\$1,500.00
		Totals		1,089	5,089	\$45,000.00

- Pricing is in USD.
- Population figures are based on 6 people per household.

Approximately 5,089 people and 600 school children require urgent support and will directly benefit from this refurbished water well program.

Impacts

Expected impacts from this program are:

- Increased access to safe and affordable water for 5,089 underserved impoverished people in the target water scarcity communities surrounding the reserve.
- 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 allowing people more time to focus on regular work and livelihood improvement.
- Time and drudgery saved collecting water for household use.
- Relieved burden on women and girls. Women and girls will save up to 3 hours per day previously spent on water collection and this time can be used on productive activities.
- Strengthened capacity of communities to manage their own water point 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.
- Support to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in conservation of wildlife, particularly elephants.

Sustainability

BridgIT Water and our partners are very much concerned about the sustainability of the water systems we put into the communities. Sustainability gives value to the invested funds, and above all results in the intended impact.

The formation and training of borehole Water Point Committees (WPCs) helps to build the capacity of communities in maintaining the facility so that they can take over all borehole management activities on their own. Every household contributes an agreed amount monthly which goes into a community borehole fund to sustain the water facility. WESM field officers conduct regular field monitoring and they are able to notice any challenges that communities encounter.

The government will continue to support the project after it handed over to the community. The inclusion of government staff and structure means that it will continue to assist with the maintenance of boreholes in consultation with the targeted communities.

WESM's collaboration with various stakeholders such as community leaders, government extension workers especially in the department of parks and wildlife and other government departments will enable continued support and expertise to the communities. These government departments already have operations and personnel in the target area therefore they will be able to continue to assimilate key aspects of the project.

Communities are assisted with technical training on some aspects of the project. Partners and contractors train a group of energetic young men and women to equip them with necessary skills in minor equipment maintenance and repair.

It is crucial that community ownership is established for the sustainability of the refurbished well

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.



There is no better investment than to give clean water to those who urgently need it





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