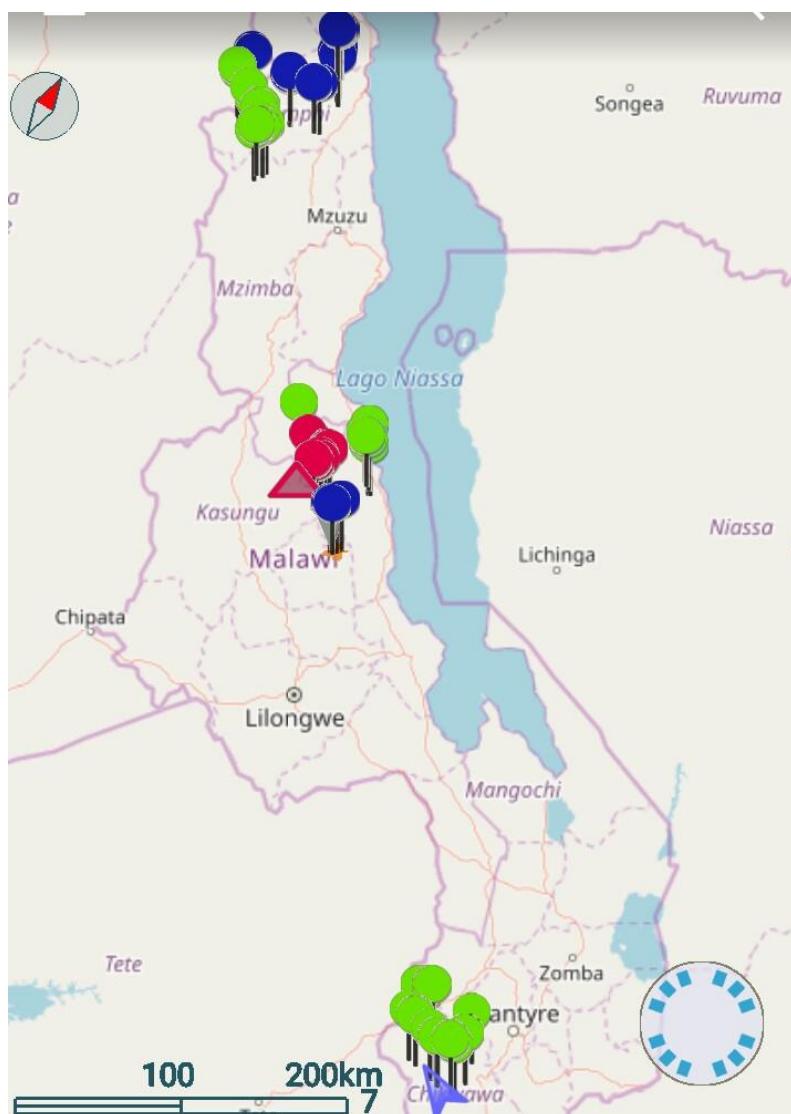


Project Update: July 2019

The first portion of the fieldwork relating this project was completed at the end of November 2018. We managed to survey over 1500 respondent households at four national parks, namely Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, Nyika National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve. We worked closely with partners African Parks and the Malawian Department of National Parks and Wildlife to complete this work. Respondents were happy to share their experiences with us, and we found that people were eager to discuss issues associated with living near protected areas, including human-wildlife conflict and the realities associated with bushmeat hunting. The results of this research are split into two sections: the first relating to understanding the prevalence of hunting and consumption at each of these parks, and the drivers behind these activities, and the second relating to perceptions of potential programmes that parks could institute to improve both development and conservation outcomes. The first section of this research is currently under peer-review at the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation*, and I am conducting the analysis for the second part of the fieldwork results. We are also planning a second trip to Malawi in October of 2019 to conduct stakeholder meetings relating to these results, to come up with action plans for each park and to inform planning on the bushmeat issue at a national level.



Map of Malawi indicating villages surveyed for this research, at four protected areas.



The floodplain at Vwaza Marsh wildlife reserve, one of the protected areas around which we surveyed households. © Julia van Velden



A young baboon killed in a snare at Vwaza Marsh wildlife reserve. © Julia van Velden



Challenging field conditions, located near Nyika National Park. © Julia van Velden



Our fieldwork vehicle, at a remote site located near the top of the Nyika Plateau. © Julia van Velden



Enumerators Sonia and Elizabeth on their way to complete surveys, near Majete Wildlife Reserve. © Julia van Velden



Team leader Julia van Velden with a local traditional leader, near Majete wildlife reserve. © Julia van Velden