

Human Elephant Conflict is directly linked to poaching and is largely the reason that communities do not accept conservation efforts.

When your food is being trampled or eaten by an animal as large as an elephant, most communities feel powerless to protect their crops.

Since 2013, after the erection of a solar powered electric fence most communities around Thuma and Dedza Salima Forest Reserves in Malawi have been living in peace with their wild neighbours.

However, in late 2017, we started seeing one bull coming out each night to eat maize, pumpkin, mangoes and ground nuts while trampling tobacco. Something had to be done.

On 28th February 2018, Wildlife Action Group(WAG) with the assistance and support from conservation partners African Parks helicopter and DNPW WERU vet, placed a collar on an elephant bull who had been identified as the culprit for breaking through the solar powered fence line and raiding crops.



This really charismatic, rather large bull called Chakuse (meaning "of the elephant clan"), is huge, with what looks like one blind eye, very ragged ears and his left tusk broken. He looks like he has been around a long time.

Chakuse had been out eating community crops the previous night, so he was tracked on foot by WAG scouts who then called in the air support. Chakuse was then darted from the air and an Iridium collar from Savannah Tracking placed on him.

He has since been seen walking across Linthipe River towards our main camp, with his new collar firmly in place. We are monitoring his movements.

With funding from Save the Elephant, and Wildlife Conservation Network, through Elephant Crisis Fund this operation was made possible, and 'Rettet die Elefanten e.V.' and Wildlife Action Group International friends donated funding to purchase satellite collars which would assist us to tackle this problem by tracking the movement of the elephant and then deterring him from leaving the Reserve, bringing security to the area again.



This procedure will not only protect our local communities but this collar will also enable us to ensure Chakuse is protected and around for many more years.

Great team work by all involved.