

Project Update: February 2016

The second phase of the project went well despite various delays. The floods in Malawi early 2015 made it impossible to visit the park and look for nests. The team was only able to access the park around April which is the end of the breeding period. Fortunately we were still able to observe two active nests in the northern end of the park. One for the brown headed parrot and the other for the grey-headed parrots. The later was a tree that had been recorded as active in the previous phase and was still untouched by elephants. A general look at the data collected shows that the most damage to baobabs is in the southern and central parts of the park and most severe to those trees that are closer to the river. All active roost trees that were recorded in 2014 were still standing in 2015 through a few did show signs of minimal, ongoing elephant damage. Damage has been observed on both large mature trees and immature ones. No records of parrot roosts outside the park have been received from the wildlife clubs and communities that were visited and tasked to assist with records. This confirms the findings from the transects conducted outside the park in 2014 where the majority of baobabs recorded did not have any active nests. From August 2015, Liwonde national park is now under the management of African parks. They are plans to translocate some of the elephants to another park. This is expected to bring positive results for the baobab trees in the park. Fieldwork has now completed and we are now working on analysing the data.



Left: Mr Nyson Gawani and national Parks staff enroute to visit one of the baobabs with breeding pair of parrots; Middle: Active parrot roost cavity, pair was within the area during visit & Right: Elephants still taking down large baobabs close to the Shire River, November 2015