



LCMO'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

THE LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Throughout January and March, LCMO has been undertaking a number of internal developments. We have been reorganizing, planning, and equipping ourselves to best fit the requirements for us to implement our new and first five-year strategy. Unlike our previous focus; to halt traditional lion killings through the engagement of local institutions and public awareness. Our new LCMO strategic plan focuses on addressing human-lion conflict and habitat loss around protected areas in western Tanzania. While our partner Maliasili has been working to refine our organization management tools and finalize the design and layout of strategy, we have been empowering ourselves as a team by developing annual work plans ensuring that our plans are prepared with a well-informed, empowered, and equipped program management team. We have also established a new partnership with Lion Landscapes in the process to empower our team on matters of data collection and management. Our Program Management team got Training of Trainers offered by the Honeyguide team. And since the first quarter is always the wet season in our landscape, the main field activity is always tree planting. We then visited and held one-on-one meetings with our key collaborators and local stakeholder to share our new organization focuses with village, district, and protected area managers based on our landscape. LCMO donated almost 23000 trees which were planted by community members in the villages around the Katavi-Rukwa ecosystem. It is during this quarter that LCMO received a Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund large grant commitment of \$300k over three years to support the execution of our new strategy. The LRF grant focuses on building stronger LCMO and reducing human-lion conflict and promoting human-lion coexistence within our complex Rukwa-Katavi-Ugalla-Mahale-Kigosi ecosystem. In all the progress, we thankfully appreciate our partners and supporters for your generous commitment and to keep supporting LCMO conservation initiatives. We promise to do our best to promote human-lion coexistence; recovering and maintaining the hope for lions in southern western Tanzania.

FOCAL VILLAGES FIELD SURVEY

In March 2023, LCMO staff surveyed the focal villages which will be working with them this year. By meeting and doing discussions with conservation stakeholders such as district authorities, district game officers, representatives from TAWA and TANAPA, WMA leaders and village leaders in each district, which were in two districts within Katavi Region (Mlele and Nsimbo), One district within Rukwa Region (Nkasi district) and three districts in Tabora Region (Sikonge, Urambo, and Kaliua districts). The survey aimed to introduce our organization's staff activities, assess the situation of human-wildlife conflicts, especially human-lion conflicts and identify other challenging activities in the villages concerned with habitat destruction and other activities that can be conducted to improve the livelihood of the communities.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

For the aim of improving skills and increasing work efficiency to meet Organizational expected goals, LCMO organized training led by our organization's partner facilitator, Honeyguide Foundation for the aim of equipping the LCMO staff with the application of three conservation tools; Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE), Management Assessment and Tool (MAT) and Spatial Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Tool (SMART). Therefore, training impacted staff to general skills and knowledge on SMART application on monitoring and evaluating both the ecological and social aspect parameters in the conservation field and how to use SAGE and MAT on assessing the governance of the Wildlife Management areas based on the principles of governance and essential or legal tool and documents for managing the WMA.



Mr. Lino and Jonathan at the Lumbe gate, Ugalla River National Park in Kaliua District during the village survey and the second photo is Max and Daudi from the Honeyguide Foundation presenting to LCMO Staff regarding the use of SAGE. Photos by Emmanuel Stephens



GREENING CAMPAIGN

In promoting environmental conservation and improving livelihoods, we have managed to distribute and plant about 22,888 trees to schools, institutions, and village members who are committed to tree planting for continuing conserving the environment to stay healthy, fresh air, and pollution-free environment. These species of trees have multiple value to the community. Some trees are a good source of timber, firewood, windbreakers, shade, and nitrogen-fixing capability in farms.



One of our champions of the environment from Ikuba village packing tree seedlings collected from our tree nursery. Photo; Emmanuel Stephens

HEALTH PROGRAMS

We always work with Society, and we appreciate their contribution toward us, to return to society, LCMO in collaboration with Nomad Tanzania and the Plaster House Center, has managed to support 5 children from Mpimbwe and Nsimbo District Councils with physical disabilities (club foot) to attend the treatment at the Plaster house center in Arusha Region.



A child with club foot leg and. Photo by Happyness Jackson

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Special thanks to Maliasili Initiative, Lion Recovery Fund, Wildlife Conservation Network, Nomad Tanzania, The Rufford Foundation, and International Tree Foundation for their endless support our organization and special projects.