



Quarterly Newsletter



Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization
(Shirika la Wanasihi wa Uhifadhi na Mandhari ya Nchi)

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WELCOME!

LCMO is a grass root [Environmental Conservation Non-Governmental Organization](#) registered under the Non-Governmental Organization Act of 2002 with registration number ooNGO08464. LCMO's mission is to promote nature conservation and improve community livelihood through environmental conservation, conservation education, community based conservation initiatives, ecotourism, wildlife and cultural activities. It aims to mitigate human wildlife conflict and enhance nature-related research. Currently, LCMO has two main environmental programs: [Watu, Simba na Mazingira](#) (WASIMA) and [Vijana na Mazingira](#) (VIMA) operating in remote villages around Katavi National Park, and other parts of western Tanzania. Other programs that are integrated with these two foci, include A Day in the Park, Greening Mpimbwe and Student Support program among others.

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WASIMA EXPANSION

Conservation stakeholders workshop: On the Status of human-lion conflict and conservation Status within the Ugalla-Rungwa Ecosystem

On 13 August 2019, we organized a workshop on human-lion conflict and conservation status within the Ugalla-Rungwa Ecosystem in Sikonge (Tabora). It brought together 35 stakeholders from conservation-related groups including the Tanzania Wildlife Authority, Tanzania Forest Service Agency, Wildlife Management Area, Sikonge District commissioners, the District Executive Director's office and representatives from conservation agencies from the Tabora region.



Fig 1: Mr. Jonathan from LCMO taking the presentation during the workshop.

The overall objective of the workshop was to introduce the WASIMA Campaign to Conservation stakeholders in Tabora and to share the human-wildlife assessment findings of the study held around Ipole WMA in 2018 focusing on the status of traditional lion killings status in Sikonge district. The idea behind this workshop was to foster and garner community participation and leadership in regards to reducing conflict, conserving the lives of lions and other wildlife and preventing ecosystem degradation.



Fig 2: Mr. Kabanda from TAWA presenting about Ugalla Game reserve and Lion Conservation Status.

The WASIMA campaign leader, Jonathan stressed on the importance of WASIMA Campaign by introducing LCMO to the reasons for WASIMA expansion in the south-west of Tanzania addressing illegal lion killing challenges and traditional lion hunting and dancing and human-lion conflicts.

WASIMA has been raising lion and other wildlife conservation awareness since 2011 to date. As a result of WASIMA, the number of lion killers has decreased based on the survey conducted in 2017 in Southern part of Katavi National Park (KNP) particularly in Mpimbwe where; 48-61 lions were killed in KNP between 2005 and 2010, but only 14-18 lions between 2011 and 2016, after WASIMA was launched. This represents a decline of 77% (Borgerhoff Mulder et al, Paper in Bioscience press). In the Ugalla ecosystem, where we have not yet worked, the number of lion dancers is still increasing, according to Jonathan's initial surveys.

[\(Read our recent paper on Bioscience: Lions, Bylaws, and Conservation Metrics\)](#)

Participants through group discussion highlighted conservation challenges facing Ugalla Game Reserve which includes; poaching through illegal hunting of wild animals, fishing, logging, climate change, water hyacinth, low community conservation awareness,

multiple land use in Ugalla and increased incidence of poaching illegal fishing and honey harvesting.

At the workshop, WASIMA noted these challenges, and committed to addressing them by engaging different stakeholders.



Fig 3: Participants during the discussion session.

WASIMA also plans to extend the use of by-laws that protect lions. These by-laws are based on legal codes, including; Wildlife law no, 5 of 2009. Forest law no, 14 of 2002, Beekeeping law no, 15 of 2002, Environment law no, 20 of 2014 that restricts illegal lion killing and use of lion trophy to amass wealth. [More information about the WASIMA workshop report can be found the LCMO website resource page.](#)

Meeting with Lwafi Game Reserve managers and Nkasi village leaders

Landscape conservation and Mentors Organization (LCMO) through WASIMA campaign and Lwafi Game Reserve office held a meeting that led to an agreement of collaboration to promote wildlife awareness and human lion coexistence in Nkasi District of Rukwa region.

WASIMA team also held a meeting in Lyazumbi with different local government leaders (village leaders) from villages bordering Lwafi Game Reserve to introduce the WASIMA campaign at village level and garner locals'

commitment to wildlife preservation. Through the meeting, WASIMA emphasized on the importance of Lwafi GR to the surrounding communities and urged local leaders to fully play their role in ensuring the future of this important reserve.



Fig 4: Group photo of the LCMO team and Lwafi GR officials after the meeting.



Fig 5: Village leaders during the WASIMA meeting in Lyazumbi.

Strengthening the capacity of village police men and women in Mpimbwe

WASIMA held a meeting with village policemen 'Sungusungu' from Mpimbwe to discuss on the progress, challenges and way forward. WASIMA also used this platform to sensitize the use of by-laws to counter incoming lion dancers.

These by-laws give power to the Sungusungu and communities in fighting against these illegal killings and dances. The meeting was also attended by the area police officials who have been on the frontline to support WASIMA campaign.

Moreover, the village police force (Sungusungu) arrested two lion dancers in Mpimbwe District Council at different times with lion trophies: a lion's skin, tooth and nail. These lion parts were withdrawn and were fined, and lion dancers were arrested for further prosecution under the Wildlife Conservation Act No 5 of 2009.



Fig 6: A group photo of LCMO team and village police force.



Fig 7: Arrested lion dancer unfastening the lion parts from his clothes.

Awareness through film shows and Public Presentation

WASIMA reached 4300 people in nine villages through film shows and public presentations. During these events, locals are engaged in presentations and questions and correct answers are rewarded with t-shirts, caps, or reusable bags with various conservation slogans.

These events are usually accompanied by local dance that are meant to attract viewers and create a relevant platform from which to share the importance of conservation.



Fig 8: A dance before film show in Centre Amani (TOP) Winners of our public presentation displaying their gifts (BELOW).

Vijana na Mazingira – VIMA

Empowering, Inspiring Future Conservation Leaders through Environmental Education

VIMA project currently reaches eight schools with over 7129 students from six villages bordering Katavi National Park. VIMA reaches youth in schools through weekly conservation classes, outdoor learning activities and film shows.

In this quarter, we had at least nine class sessions (three per month) with each of the eight schools participating in the VIMA program.



Fig 9: Mr. Emmanuel with students during an environmental class session at Ikuba Primary School.

Environmental Clubs Teachers Meeting

VIMA held a meeting with teachers from eight schools to discuss progress, challenges and next steps needed to move forward with improving conservation-based clubs in school.

Each school had two teacher representatives who shared their experiences, successes and challenges facing their environmental clubs. The main challenges noted included low commitment from teachers, inconsistent school timetables, and minimal time allotted for environmental related activities. Teachers suggested we involve headteachers and district educational officers to discuss ways to solve these challenges. In addition, the teachers

suggested that we seek support from other district level stakeholders in order to improve participation and spread relevant environmental education among children and youths in school.

More information regarding this meeting is available on our website, [VIMA section](#).



Fig 10: Mr. Bahati presenting during teachers meeting.

Training students on Poultry Farming

We invited a group of students from Usevya and Kakuni to attend a poultry farming training held in Kibaoni. The training was attended by class seven, form four and six students who were about to finish school so as to help them identify opportunities that will keep them busy after school. So far a group of 6 students from Usevya secondary school have 65 chickens.



Fig 11: Mr. Kando from Usevya Sec. school presenting group work assignment.

Science Talk for Secondary School Students

In this quarter, we hosted Dr. Miho Saito from Japan who is currently conducting giraffe research in Katavi National Park. She visited Usevya and Mizengo Pinda secondary school to talk to teachers and students about giraffe research and conservation. This event was attended by 400 students from Usevya Secondary and 60 students from Mizengo Pinda, as this institution does not have a space to accommodate all the students.

She presented her current findings, photos and videos of giraffes in Katavi National Park. She also encouraged students and teachers to engage with potential research opportunities so they may experience what Katavi National Park and adjacent game reserves and wildlife areas have to offer.



Fig 12: Dr. Miho presenting to students and teachers from Usevya Sec. School.

Outdoor learning with students

We also had interactive outdoor activities with students from different schools. We managed to conduct 4 outdoor learning experience with students but we are currently faced with shortage of Swahili birding books and binoculars. The remaining binoculars are old and we are in need of new sets to continue effective teaching. Additionally, tight school schedules have constricted time allotted for these type of outdoor activities.

Leobach – Miller Library Project Updates

In the second quarter, Usevya Secondary school, which is a beneficiary of the library project improved in their external exams performance. It emerged second regionally in the form six national exams. We are thrilled to announce that Kakuni Primary school, which is the second beneficiary of the library project also emerged second in Mpimbwe District Council and 22 regionally out of 109 schools. Students' scores were as follow;

Gender	A	B	C	D	E
Males	2	18	11	4	1
Females	1	36	7	1	0
TOTAL	3	54	18	5	1



Fig 13: Students reading in the library at Kakuni Primary School

Composting

LCMO through Nomad Tanzania and The Guardian Project introduced a composting program to help boost green gardening in Mpimbwe and Sitalike. The first phase took place in November 2018 and it involved training and creation of compost piles. Drought interfered with the use of maximum compost in the first phase but the Guardian team will visit again in October to train farmers on dry season container farming.

In the preparation for the 2019-20 wet season, we have introduced compost creation in schools with the purpose of reaching students who can recreate such models in their own homes. Therefore, this knowledge of composting may be transferred from students to the members of their families.



Fig 14: Photos of students from Ikuba Ps schools during compost making session in school.

Health Program

1). Eye Camp Clinic in Mpimbwe

In collaboration with LCMO, Nomad Tanzania Trust supported a free eye clinic camp in Mpimbwe in July where a total of 385 patients attended. The services that were provided during this clinic included free eye exams, free eye drops, glasses and minor eye procedures.

The second phase of this program will be done in October and it will focus majorly on minor eye procedure



Fig 15: TOP and Bottom, doctors from Arusha during the eye clinic camp Usevya health centre.

2). Children screening in Mpimbwe and Nsimbo

Nomad Tanzania Trust supported the screening and identification of children with skeletal deformities (fluorosis, club foot), various facial and airway problems (cleft palate, cleft lip), and other abnormalities (burn scars, injuries) in Mpimbwe and Nsimbo. The screening took place at Usevya and Sitalike health centers and was conducted Plaster House specialists. A total of 70 were patients screened and 32 of them have been scheduled to receive treatments.

The first group of patients has been taken to Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, at the Plaster House for treatment.



Fig 16: Dr. Esapat with one of the patients during the screening activity at Usevya Health Centre (TOP). Emmanuel Stephen (RED TSHIRT) with two beneficiaries of plaster house treatment after they landed from Arusha (BELOW).

Beekeeping network

LCMO supports a network of beekeepers in Mpimbwe with equipment and training. The overall goal of this is to support sustainable livelihood projects in Mpimbwe and adjacent areas. The network started with a group of 21 farmers and it has now grown to 30 farmers.

Additionally, we are also training farmers on how to protect their farms from crop raiding elephants through our new initiative ‘People Bees and Elephants’. Trainings on this are

done through film shows and also sharing leaflets to the affected farmers.

We are thrilled to see people adopting beekeeping as a tool for conservation and source of livelihood.



Fig 17: Women from Mirumba beekeeping group preparing to harvest honey from their hives in Mirumba village.



Fig 18: Villagers watching a film on how to deter crop raiding elephants using beehive fence.



Fig 19: Mr. Emmanuel showing farmers how beehive fences protect crops from elephants

A day in the park

In this quarter, three groups of 45 people visited Katavi National Park. The first group composed of prominent livestock keepers from Mpimbwe. The purpose of the trips was to experience the park and hold a discussion with TANAPA authority on possible ways to address the ongoing conflict over land and resource use in the region.

We also led another trip with a group of 43 from four graduates for the purpose of exposing these young people to potential conservation-based careers. The group composed of youth from Mirumba, Ilalanguru, Kibaoni, Usevya, Ikuba and Kashishi village. They also received an insightful presentation from the Tanzania National Parks Authority that focused on the benefits of protected areas in regards to supporting surrounding communities and providing opportunities for youth in the fields of tourism and conservation.



Fig 20: A photo of religious leaders at Ikuu airstrip.



Fig 21: Youths at the hippo pool in Katavi National Park.

Cultural tourism

Katavi region is rich in cultural diversity from the famous Sukuma, Pimbwe and Fipa people ([History and Culture of Mpimbwe](#)). LCMO created a cultural tourism package featuring visits to the Sukuma communities dances in Mpimbwe. This initiative purposed to create an income source to communities bordering Katavi National Park. This initiative is still in its early stages and LCMO continues to build the capacity of these groups so they may effectively participate in the tourism industry. By creating and marketing packages to tourists and facilitating training in guiding and regulation compliance, LCMO is advocating for efficient and sustainable tourism practices.



Fig 22: Mpimbwe Sukuma dance with tourist from Chada camp.

Chicken Project

In mid-2019, The Guardian Project, Nomad Tanzania and LCMO launched a community backyard poultry enterprise in Usevya and Kibaoni villages of Mpimbwe District Council. The project focuses on supporting marginalized women in native chicken rearing to promote composting through utilization of chicken droppings, supplement food source and income rather than relying in seasonal farming and unsustainable natural resource such as charcoal burning.

The phase 1 of the project started with 15 households who were trained and each given nine hens and one rooster. The breed is purely native because of the harsh conditions of the area but we have improved their performance through providing better sheds, better feeds and timely health checkups.



Fig 23: Mr. Emmanuel (middle) with one of the chicken beneficiaries from Usevya village

Greening Campaign

LCMO with the support from different stakeholders continues to promote tree planting in Mpimbwe. The overall goal is to restore trees that have been cut in recent years and also provide future source of firewood and timber in order to reduce over reliance of trees from wildlife areas in south and north of Katavi National Park. We have purchased over 20 kgs of different seeds that will be sown at different tree nurseries in Mpimbwe. We are currently preparing the tree nurseries and distributing seeds to different groups that we are working with in Mpimbwe and Sitalike.



Fig 24: The LCMO team with the tree seeds and seed bags for 2019-20 tree planting season



Fig 25: Students from Usevya Primary School learning how to fill seed bags with soil and sow seeds.

Many thanks to our Interns!

In August, we officially launched our internship program that helps nurture young conservation leaders. We started the first phase with 3 interns; Mr. Lino Gilya, Ms. Prisca Luvanga and Ms. Neema Mwaja. This team has been supportive in our indoor and outdoor activities. We also appreciate the work of our remote volunteer, Danielle Maillard who assisted in reviewing this newsletter. We are so thankful for your support.



Fig 26: Gilya, Prisca and Neema on their first conservation education outreach at Mabambasi village, in Mpimbwe held on August 8, 2019.

SUPPORTING LCMO

- LCMO relies on the generosity and kindness of our supporters. We give a million thanks to our supporters and are indebted to them for back us in such achievements.
- Please donate to an aspect of LCMO's work of your choice. You can make donation online at <http://www.lcmo.or.tz/donate>
- You can also volunteer your time and skills; Email us at conservation@lcmo.or.tz to enquire about opportunities.

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