

DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

The third quarter of the year has been a busy time of the year as it is among the last months of the dry season which are our most active months.

We indeed had a wonderful time connecting and engaging with the community and stakeholders through different activities; park trips, Lion Proof-Bomas, outreach, different capacity building, and exchange events. We also had a great time connecting with our Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs), most of whom are new to our team.

We have also initiated the participatory Village Natural Resources Management and Governance Assessment (NRM & G) project which has also taken us to another level of experience in local NRM. We have completed the first phase in two villages which is an assessment and embarking on working on the recommended action plans. Interestingly, we look forward to reaching more villages across the landscape. We also appreciate the commitment of the Great Plains Conservation Foundation for the generous support to promote lion conservation initiatives through the Big Cats Initiatives grant.

I would also like to thank all our friends, partners, and supporters who tirelessly kept us active since the start of the year. Indeed, we value your staying connected to us and I hope this is just another means for you to keep in touch with the latest LCMO news. Asanteni!

Jonathan Kwiyege, LCMO Executive Director.

EMPOWERING THE NEW BEEKEEPING GROUPS

Earlier this year, LCMO supported the formation and registration of two beekeeping groups in Kizi and Kibaoni villages which are Mpimbwe WMA members. LCMO facilitated intensive training to empower 41 beneficiaries with skills to improve and transform their beekeeping practice into a profitable venture. The new skills not only focused on the profitability aspect but also on supporting environmental conservation in this heavily impacted landscape. LCMO, through its new strategy, supports sustainable livelihood practices and has attracted new interest and support from partners. TANAPA through the CCS department pledged to contribute 20 beehives and other tools to the Kibaoni group.



Elders from Kizi village describe the situation of Kizi village about 30 years ago using a map (Photo by Abiud Mpsa)



Mr. Obadia Magazi facilitating beekeeping training at Kizi village (Photo by Abiud Mpsa)

VILLAGE NRM & GOV ASSESSMENT TRAINING

LCMO recently developed a village natural resource management and governance assessment activity. The activity aimed at improving village-level capacity and competence to manage local natural resources within the village. The training brings together a diverse group of village members to visualize all existing village natural resources and discuss their status, threats, and threat drivers. They also participate in identifying key players in village NRM and, in the last stage, develop a

strategic village action plan that will highlight key areas of improvement.

We have so far been able to conduct this activity in two villages, Kizi and Mirumba. We are working to develop a strategic village action document that will be presented to all key players for action.

As we proceed with the training across 25 villages of strategic focus, we will start implementing restoration activities in collaboration with the village government and schools in Mirumba village through the new support from the *International Tree Foundation*. We will focus on key water catchment areas, schools, and some farms for agroforestry.

TOT FOR WILDLIFE CLUB TEACHERS

During this quarter, LCMO through its Youth and Environment Engagement Program facilitated a Training Of Trainers (TOT) training for 17 teachers leading wildlife clubs in 16 primary and secondary schools from Rukwa and Katavi Region. This training is a step toward creating a pool of skilled trainers who will play a pivotal role in developing self-sustaining wildlife clubs across learning institutions in this landscape.

LCMO has also developed a student activity manual to be used as a guiding tool and we commit to equip them with necessary tools and equipment for effective implementation of the recommended activities.



Wildlife club teachers during the two-day training.

A DAY IN THE PARK

In quarter, which falls under the dry season in our landscape, is the best time for a game drive in Katavi National Park. We have recently embarked on routine educational park visits with three pastoral groups from Tumaini, Matandalani, and Ukingwamizi villages which border the Katavi National Park and hence close partners in the conservation of KANAPA.

We are also impressed to announce that some groups are willingly buying into the idea of park visit cost sharing for instance the Ukingwamizi group. The park visit costs

were initially on TANAPA and LCMO, but trends are changing. We have received so far three requests from students and community members willing to partly offset some part visit cost so they can have a chance to access the park through the right doors.

We are also seeking the potential to extend this activity to the Lumbe and Ukumbisiganga people who border the new Ugalla River National Park.



LION CONSERVATION AMBASSADOR TRAINING

With the increase in the area of geographical focus, LCMO saw the need to have a direct representation from each of the 25 villages across Katavi, Rukwa, and Tabora. We recently gathered them for a two-day training on different duties and roles in their areas of representation.

We also introduced them to data collection using smartphones – which is our new transition. We are currently collecting field data using the Kobo toolbox as we are building our experience on SMART which was initially introduced to us by the Honeyguide Foundation. Some LCAs have been equipped with mobile phones and they have smoothly adapted to digital data collection and management.



Benson Mremi from LCMO describing to LCAs how to use GPS during the training.

VILLAGE GAME SCOUTS CAPACITY BUILDING

In the second quarter of this year, LCMO conducted a need assessment meeting with the Uyumbu WMA Village Game Scouts (VGS). Among key areas of improvement were data collection and management of which they rarely used paperwork. This called for an urgent intervention by supporting training on different approaches to data management. LCMO team trained 26 VGS on GPS, KOBO Collect toolbox, and supported the WMA one GPS device and mobile phone; CAT® S42 SMARTPHONE.

Uyumbu is a WMA of our primary focus in the early stages of implementing our five-year strategic plan and as we build our experience in working with WMAs, we will later expand to support Mpimbwe and Ipole which are key areas for wildlife conservation and tourism.



Mr. Lino Gilya leading the VGS Training at the Uyumbu office.

PROTECTING LIVESTOCK THROUGH LION-PROOF BOMAS

With our continuous efforts towards reducing human-lion conflicts, we have installed three more lion-proof bomas around Sitalike and Igongwe villages which are hotspots of human-wildlife conflict around the Katavi National Park and Msaginia Forest Reserve. These bomas are installed by using strong chain-link and wooden poles. We currently have six bomas in Sitalike.

in Lumbe and Ukumbisiganga villages around Ugalla River National Park, two lion-proof bomas were also built as an immediate intervention. We thus have managed to secure a total of 190 cattle and 121 shoats altogether worth \$64,494.2.



Ms. Belinda Mligo and Mashaka Kija with their fellow field assistant Moses Abdallah posing with one of the beneficial family of lion-proof boma at Sitalike village (Situbwike sub-village)

OUTREACH AND EXTENSION

Village conservation education Outreach is an ongoing activity in our programs, and we have built our strength in this over the years. Our message is in line with the two focal problems addressed under our new strategic plan which are habitat degradation and human-lion conflict. We had a successful quarter of the year, over this period, we have reached about 1465 people in 7 villages in the Katavi Region and 675 people in 3 villages located in the Urambo District in the Tabora Region located near



protected areas.

On the extension part, LCMO trained LCA in collaboration with the village-based extension officers to provide first aid assistance to injured livestock but also train communities on environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

Contact Us:

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