



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

LCMO's Quarterly Newsletter !

*January-March 2022*

## *Who are we?*

LCMO is a grass root [Environmental Conservation Non-Governmental Organization](#) operating in Western Tanzania. LCMO's mission is to promote conservation with all means and improve community livelihoods. By aiming to mitigate human wildlife conflict and enhance nature-related research LCMO aims to explore innovative pathways to develop community-based conservation initiatives with ecotourism, wildlife and cultural activities. 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 Campaign and Student Support program.

## **Promoting Biodiversity Conservation through Radio Program**

Radio program has become one of ideal tool for LCMO to further enhance environmental education across most remote areas bordering protected areas of Katavi and parts of Tabora region. This landscape is large and hardly accessible especially by a grassroots organization with limited resources like LCMO but through radio, we've been able to reach over all our target villages. In the last year, we hosted 10 live sessions which involved our staffs and experts from Katavi National Park, Nsimbo District Game Officer and Regional Land and Natural Resources Officer.

In this quarter, LCMO held seven radio sessions, Topics covered include: "How the government conduct lion harvesting and lion hunting-lion value chain" by TAWA Zonal Commander Mr. Bilamungu Kagoma A, and Putting a stop to poaching of both flora and fauna' by Lwafi Game reserve ant-poaching commander Mr. Amos William and The Southern Western Tanzania Protected areas and their importance and attractions by Katavi Region Game Officer Mrs. Josephine Rupia. Other topics presented by LCMO team included the Youth in conservation, managing conflicts between people and lions (by Jonathan Kwiyege), endangered species wildlife species in western Tanzania (by Happiness Jackson and Jonathan Kwiyege), and Role of women in conservation (by Neema Mwaja). Our radio conservation awareness raising program has reached over 68000 audiences in Katavi and Tabora region.



*Mr. Amos William from Lwafi Game Reserve during covering a live session at Mpanda radio FM*

## **Health Program**

In their effort to generously support communities around protected areas, Nomad Tanzania has continued support treatment of children under 18 with physical disabilities at the Plaster House Center. LCMO identified and organized 6 children's treatment trips to The Plaster House Center which has continued to address health issues in communities bordering wildlife areas and who cannot access or afford medical services in their respective areas.



*A photo of a young boy from Mpimbwe before and after treatment*

## Meeting with Lion Conservation Ambassadors

In this quarter, LCMO held a new year kick off meeting and a short training with Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs) based in Katavi and Rukwa. During the short training we highlighted on duties and responsibilities of LCA's as stipulated in our guidelines, data collection through photography and video recording, use of GPS and how to accurately take GPS coordinates where wildlife activity has been observed or reported. More cameras, smartphones and GPS sensors are needed to meet our current WASIMA geographical expansion.



*LCAs and LCMO team during the short training conducted at LCMO office in Mpimbwe*

## Greening Campaign

In this season which ended in March 2022, LCMO produced 20,664 tree seedlings from the following species of trees: *Gliricidia sepium*, *Tectona grandis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Papaya spp*, *Azadirachta indica* (neem tree), *Melia azedarach spp*, *lemon spp*, *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius*, *cashew spp* and *Albizia spp*.

In this quarter, together with the district government and the community, we planted trees at different key areas; 5,090 tree saplings planted during around water catchment areas and village open areas. We also engaged 10 schools in tree planting events and 13 different tree planting events where a total 6,468 tree saplings were planted. At household level, we have been able to engage 35 people in individual tree planting where a total of 9191 trees were planted.



*Students from Usevya primary school who visited LCMO tree nursery to learn about tree planting and collect seedlings to plant round their school field.*

## *Updates on Maliasili Partnership and ACLN Leadership Program*

Early this year, LCMO management team held a workshop in Mpanda to review the outcomes of the *organizational assessment* and *situation analysis* conducted in 2021. During the workshop, we also started developing a 3-year strategic plan.



*Lino Gilya from LCMO presenting his post cards while Emmanuel sticking them on the wall during LCMO and Maliasili. During this meeting, Maliasili presented the drafts of the situation analysis and organizational assessment which paved way for discussing development of strategic plan for LCMO.*

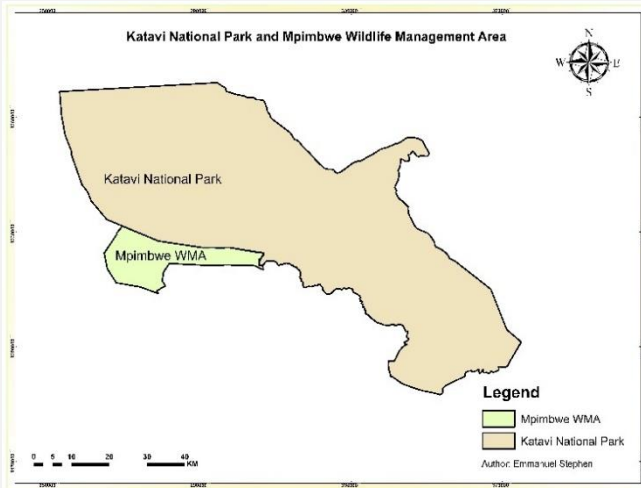
In addition to this, LCMO leaders joined the 9 African grassroots conservation organizations leaders, members of *African Conservation Leadership Network (ACLN)* on the second leadership training workshop under Maliasili and The Nature Conservancy. ACLN works to support dynamic, creative, and influential African conservation leaders. Emmanuel joined 8 other organization in South Africa for a week training.



A photo of the ACLN 4<sup>th</sup> cohort meeting South Africa. Photo by Dr. Gladys Zikusoka.

## Updates on Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area

On supporting conservation and protection of core Katavi National Park buffer zones, LCMO began supporting Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area efforts to protect the wildlife her area (207.6 km<sup>2</sup>). In this quarter, we partly supported two ground patrols, which involved use of VGS, TANAPA, Mpimbwe District Council office and the District Commissioner office, the patrol was conducted for 6 days. Among notable issues observed include; human encroachment both agricultural and grazing activities, but also noticed removal of boundary beacons. A few groups of Impala, Elephants, Buffaro, Lesser Kudu and lion scats and footprints were observed during patrols.



*A map showing Mpimbwe WMA and its close proximity Katavi NP (left) and Part of the patrol team early this year (right)*

## Youth education program

In this quarter, LCMO reached 13 schools and held both indoors and outdoors learning sessions with environmental club students. We reached a total of 605 students both in Mpimbwe, Nkasi and Sikonge district. We conducted a number of engaging activities including lion masking, film shows, wildlife species identification, characteristics of the big five and learning about the school surrounding. We are currently developing a manual for environmental clubs that will be used both in primary and secondary schools. This guide will help LCMO team and teachers to use a participatory, holistic and youth friendly approach to build knowledge among youth on environmental issues.



*Ms. Neema Mwaja with parts of students watching a wildlife documentary (left) and Mr. Christopher, Sikonge LCA leading an environmental session with students (right)*

## Trialing Pasture grazing farming

Most areas of Mpimbwe and neighboring districts faces seasonal pasture shortage due to prolonged drought. This caused encroachment into wildlife areas as people seek for alternative source of forage for livestock. With the assistance of District Livestock Officer from Nkasi and Mpimbwe, we selected four sites to establish trial farms in villages. We distributed 5 kg of seeds (*Desmodium* and *Rhodes sp*) to volunteer farmers for each one acre farm in each of four villages. The germination rate of seeds is very high in Tupindo and Kashishi farms. The seeds performed poorly in Usevya due to waterlogged soil. On this pilot farms we intend to raise and collect more seeds to provide more farmers with opportunity to raise their own livestock forages.



*Ms. Neema showing the progress of the pasture in Tupindo farm.*

### **SUPPORTING LCMO**

Thank you to our wonderful partners and supporters for helping make our work possible.

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LCMO relies on generosity and kindness of our supporters. We give a million thanks for your backing of us and our activities. Even a \$10 donation can make a huge difference for our community, especially at this early time of post COVID-19 crisis. You can make donation online at <http://www.lcmo.or.tz/donate>

If you would like to be a volunteer and work with us to improve your skills you can send us an email via [conservation@lcmo.or.tz](mailto:conservation@lcmo.or.tz) to enquire about opportunities.

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