



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

LCMO's Quarterly Newsletter!

June-September 2022

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.

A Day in the Park

In this quarter, LCMO in collaboration with Tanzania National Parks Authority supported three park trips and 97 people visited the park. The three groups include; 34 locally influential women groups villages that forms Mpimbwe WMA, 36 agropastoral youth from Ikuba and Chamalendi village and 24 ward and village leaders from Nsimbo District Council. The photo below is a group of youth from the Sukuma agropastoral community who visited Katavi park in September.



Sungusungu Seminar and training

In August, we facilitated two seminars with Sungusungu (village level law enforcement institution) from Kizi and Ipanda villages which border Lwafi Game Reserve. The seminar brought together 212 participants: village council leaders, villages security chiefs, commanders, rangers and religious leaders and influential elders, and village natural resource committee members.

The aim of the seminar was to empower the Sungusungu leaders and village leaders into implementing the village bylaws which were developed and credibly passed by the district council *barazas* to reduce the non-retaliatory lion killings and to provide education and awareness on environmental conservation.



Mrs. Harriet Kivuyo presenting about the history of LCMO during the seminar.

These seminars are usually designed to provide all participants with knowledge on wildlife conservation laws, concepts of lion conservation and the better and professional means of implementing bylaws against any form of illegal lion killings or lion hunting plots. They also develop confidence of stakeholders support –including legally acceptable wildlife crimes investigation and prosecution procedures awareness.

Additionally, different conservation stakeholders were invited to present in the seminar but also continue promoting a *safe space* for constructive conservation dialogues between the community and wildlife authorities. The seminar was attended and also co-facilitated by Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority, area police officer, land and environment officers from Nkasi District Council.



Mr. Amos William from TAWA presenting on wildlife trophy ownership, punishment for unlawful wildlife activities in accordance to the existing wildlife laws and regulations.

Updates from the Student Support Program

In this quarter, LCMO selected a total number of 66 students from two schools; Vilolo and Usevya Primary School and supported them with school materials that will enhance their learning in schools. Initially, a total of 100 students were identified through an interview and follow up on the students records in the respective schools. A group of 66 students identified with critical needs and LCMO supported them. Some received full school uniforms while others partial support based on the identified need. Materials that LCMO provides include; school uniforms, shoes, exercise books and pens. This is an ongoing program and has massively contributed to school attendance by children from most communities bordering protected areas and especially the agro and pastoral groups that initially supported or participated in traditional non retaliatory lion killing and lion dancing.



Ms. Happyness in a group photo with Vilolo primary pupils who received the school items donated by LCMO.

Staff Capacity Building

Over the years, LCMO has been on a growth and structuring process and to this far, almost all departments are occupied by the new team. In order to accelerate this growth, education and training are essentials for developing sustainable programs and also inspiring the team. Last year, our leadership team was accepted for the African Conservation Leadership Network (ACLN) training which was finalized this year on July. Jonathan and Emmanuel have been on a yearlong course on leadership which entailed training on understanding and leading one's self, leading teams and organizations and leading change within the systems within which our work occurs.

In this quarter, our team camped for one week in one of the remote yet beautiful Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for a week to learn from Jonathan and Emmanuel on lessons gained from ACLN and other programs such as Mandela Washington Fellowship in which Emmanuel participated in 2021 and 2022. The team also had a chance to meet the WMA authority and VGS and learn about community based conservation. It was a thrilling and learning experience especially for the new team that has never been exposed to the wild.



The LCMO team during morning checking in session. The water body behind is River Walla which is main source of water within Uyumbu WMA. The river is also suitable for boat riding and offers one of the best unobstructed views of the untouched forest.

Mlele District Council Anti-encroachment Campaign

In July, LCMO team from Ipole station teamed up with Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority to conduct an anti-encroachment campaign in seven villages; Ilunde, Kamsisi, Kamalampaka, Nsenkwa, Ipwaga, Mapili and Utende which borders a number of protected areas in Mlele District. These villages border Ugalla, Rukwa and Inyonga GR, Inyonga, Rungwa and Mlele Forest Reserve.

Activities conducted during this outreach include *community meetings* which are attended by Village Council Committees and members of the respective villages and *conservation film screening* which entails showcasing wildlife documentaries.



The team also shared *informational brochures* with different topics; construction of living walls which are environmentally friendly predator proof that prevent retaliatory lion and other cats killing by keeping livestock safe, wildlife trophy management (in accordance to the wildlife law and regulation), and one on lion ecology and behavior. A total number of **3613** were reached in all the seven villages.

Also through these meetings, communities begin to establish trusting relationship with the law enforcement team from TAWA which is usually avoided due to their strictness in protecting wildlife areas.



Ipole station team, Lino Gilya (holding a calendar) and Aziz Msese (holding brochure) during the evening preparation for a film screening in Kamalampaka village.

Supporting LCMO

Thank you to our wonderful partners and supporters for helping make our work possible. Kindly follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#) for weekly news. You can also check our website for updates, and share our work.

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 to enquire about opportunities.

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