



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.

With all excitements and progresses made in the first half of the year, let's see how far we went in the second half of 2021!

Village Leaders' Capacity Building!

In this second half of the year, WASIMA mostly focused on building capacity of the village leadership after Mpimbwe District Council approved by-laws that prohibit non retaliatory killing of lions among the agropastoral communities. Sungusungu seminar involves village council, Sungusungu, village environmental committee, influential leaders and village land committee, a total of **404** village Sungusungu leaders (traditional policemen) were reached during Sungusungu seminars.

WASIMA conducted the seminars in four villages of Mirumba, Ilalanguru, Mwamatiga and Kabunde which borders Katavi National Park and Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area. Stakeholders from Rukwa Game Reserve (*representing Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority*), Mpimbwe District Council Game Officer and Police Force also did facilitations. The seminars aimed at *empowering Sungusungu to implement village bylaws in their respective villages that prohibit non retaliatory killings of lion practiced by agro pastoralist living adjacent to protected areas*. 633 agro-pastoralists were also reached during our ant-trophy and ant-wildlife reserves encroachment public campaign meetings.



LEFT PHOTO: LCMO team and facilitators handling over approved village bylaws that prohibit non retaliatory killings of lions to VEO and village chairman of Mirumba. RIGHT PHOTO: Mpimbwe District Game Officer Mr. Richard Maige presenting during seminar sessions at Mwamatiga village.

Park Visits, Public outreach education and night film shows by the numbers!

LCMO also actively promote conservation around protected areas through public outreach education and conservation based film viewing. From July to December, we've summarized our activities as shown below.

64

In collaboration with Tanzania National Parks through our 'Day in the Park' program, we conducted two park trips, in July and August: 50 Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Leaders and their Village Game Scouts and 13 students and teachers visited Katavi National Park. These trips were part of long term commitment to enhance human wildlife coexistence and maintain good relationships with people and park authority.



The Mpimbwe WMA board, VGS and LCMO team at Chada Camp during their visit to Katavi National Park

8509

Public outreach on conservation issues underpin all conservation actions. In this second half, LCMO reached 19 villages in Sikonge, Mpimbwe, Mlele and Nkasi District reaching **8509** people. Public outreach entails evening conservation public presentations by LCMO team, lively discussions and quiz where active participants win T-shirts, caps and brochures. The last day event is conservation film screening which takes about 2-3 hours. In these areas, film screening is still a novelty and attract a broad audience. In 2021, over 12000 people were reached through public outreaches made in collaboration with TAWA.



Mr. Christopher from TAWA distributing brochures at Kashishi-Itula sub-village



Community group from Minyoso village watching a lion series. The event was attended by 303 people of different ages.

In the past few months, WASIMA expanded to new areas of within and outside Katavi region after the lion survey which indicated continued human lion conflict and illegal lion dancing practices. There was a huge need to reach these new areas and in addition to the recently introduced lion early warning systems, we've also started **live radio programs** with Mpanda Radio FM, a prominent local Swahili radio based in Mpanda town with coverage in most villages of Katavi, Rukwa and Tabora regions. Through the radio program sessions, WASIMA has been able to involve remote communities in conservation education and dialogues.



TOP: Mr. Jonathan during radio session presentation in Mpanda FM, BELOW: Facilitators from TANAPA and LCMO during a similar radio session.

From July, LCMO held 10 biweekly live sessions and the impression was huge. During the sessions, the team covered topics related to; LCMO and its programs, human encroachment issues across our project areas, conservation status in Western Tanzania, characteristics and behaviors of lions (*Panthera leo*) lion conservation status in Western Tanzania, human wildlife conflict and consolation, ways/approach used to reduce human lion conflict, human wildlife interaction and call for action, importance of wildlife conservation and tourism and trophy ownership and management.

In some sessions, we invited practitioners from wildlife management authorities: Katavi National Park Tourism Officer who presented on the importance of wildlife conservation and tourism, Nsimbo District Game Officer who shared on trophy ownership and management, and Regional Land and Natural Resources Officer presented on human wildlife conflict and dangerous animal damage consolation. We look forward to continue using community radios to raise wildlife conservation awareness and participation and promote human-lion co-existence in western Tanzania.

Updates From Youth Education Program

Education is a critical part of saving the remaining biodiversity in remote western Tanzania. People especially youth must see the beauty and understand the importance of these forests so they will want to protect them. This is why LCMO through its programs VIMA and WASIMA work actively with schools around our project area to empower the young generation with skills necessary for a sustainable future.

LCMO engages schools in all its three project areas; Rukwa Katavi and Tabora. In this half, in addition to our normal indoor and outdoor learning activities, we conducted ecological study trips that focused on giving students practical exposure to environmental issues in their respective villages. A total of 184 students from five schools took part in this new program and some of the sites selected for this program include the Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area, water catchment areas, sustainable land use practices in the area and degraded land areas. From this trips, students get chance to learn about their surrounding environment which inspire them to learn more and be part of the solution in their home surroundings.

In addition to this, we also hosted 63 students from three secondary schools who had field studies on pollution, land degradation, water and forestry and VIMA team hosted them in office for presentations and also guided site visits.

We have also established a tree nursery to support our ongoing greening campaign. Our target for this season is 30,000 tree saplings. We were also selected to provide tree saplings to support the annual regional tree planting campaign which will be officiated by the regional commissioner, district commissioner, district executive director and other regional stakeholders. The event will happen in January 2022 and tree planting will continue throughout the wet season.



Top: *Lion mask colouring winners after receiving exercise books awards from LCMO.*

Middle: *Ms. Happyness in discussion with Vilolo Primary Schools pupils during an ecological study trip.*

Below: *one of our tree nursery which is situated in the head office in Mpimbwe.*



Mr. Emmanuel with Usevya Secondary school students during their field study

The Health Program



Ms. Happyness (with a white T-shirt) from LCMO with children and their parents before their trip to Arusha for treatment

This program helps to support children from agropastoral communities that we are working with to halt lion killing and lion dancing practices. In 2020, the program was stopped for a while due to the outbreak of COVID-19 but we have resumed again and in the first half of the year 16 identified children with different physical body deformities were sent to The Plaster House Center in Arusha for treatment. In the second half, 19 children from different villages were sent for further treatment. This is an ongoing program and we are thankful to Nomad Tanzania for their continued support and The Plaster House Center for continued commitment to take care and treatment of our children from western Tanzania.

LCMO forms partnership with Maliasili

The year 2021 has been a moment of growing strong as an organization and its leadership. LCMO is among 6 African local conservation organizations selected for partnership with Maliasili Initiatives which include facilitating and supporting 'organization's growth, development and performance. Emmanuel just completed his leadership training in public management under the *Mandela Washington Fellowship*. In addition to this, LCMO was among the 9 African grassroots conservation organizations selected to join *African Conservation Leadership Network (ACLN)* and undergo the leadership training program under Maliasili and The Nature Conservancy. ACLN works to support dynamic, creative, and influential African conservation leaders. Jonathan (*top photo, Maliasili*) and Emmanuel (*photo below*) are part of the 18 African conservation leaders taking part in the fourth cohort of the ongoing leadership development and training program.



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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 to enquire about opportunities.



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