



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

LCMO's Semi Annual Newsletter !

January-June 2022

Who are we?

LCMO is a grassroots 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.



This is the main view of River Ikuu on the dry season, the lifeline of Katavi National Park and adjacent villages in the south of the park. The river is well known as a paradise for hosting thousands of crocodiles and hippopotamuses. Some years back, the river used to dry up during the dry season and created hard times for water dwelling and other wildlife species. Of course it was a sight that no one will enjoy looking at. Recently the trend has changed, efforts by the Tanzania National Parks Authority and in collaboration with the Katavi regional government have helped revive the Katuma River Basin and Ikuu supply water throughout the season. A game drive along this river always guarantee a fulfilling experience of witnessing different magnificent wildlife but the most striking is witnessing herds of elephants having a mud bath along the river bank.

GREENING CAMPAIGN

In the season which ended in early April 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* at our own tree nursery in Mpimbwe. Part of these seedlings produced were used to commission the regional tree planting campaign in Mpimbwe.

Most of our tree seedlings were shared to the communities around Mpimbwe, with a small number shared to farmers in Nkasi and Mlele Districts. Schools have also been great partners in this program and 10 schools in Mpimbwe have improved their compounds through this program.



Top photo: Mr. Emmanuel showing students how to prepare a seedling for planting.

OUTREACH AND FILM SHOW



A night film show in Idekamiso village in Sikonge District. This is one of the six village bordering Ipole Wildlife Management Area

In this half, we have been able to conduct 11 public outreach education and night film shows in 11 villages; two from Nkasi District, four from Sikonge District and five from Mpimbwe District Council. We have also reached a significant number of people in all the villages; about 3025 people.

Beside interactive talks, questions and answers LCMO also shared 1800 Swahili brochures with interesting topics on WASIMA campaign, the concept of Living Walls as a carnivore deterrent measure and another on wildlife trophies (with a legal context on management of wildlife trophies).

We also provided 52 LCMO designed calendars as promotional materials especially to the most interactive people during our outreach as rewards. But LCMO also ensured the far end villages not easily accessible were reached through radio program by which in this first half, LCMO had seven live session on Mpanda FM that also brought in ‘*conservation conversations*’ from our close stakeholders at regional level, TANAPA and TAWA.

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Since January, we successful conducted three ecological study trip with a group of 98 students from Usevya, Mamba and Chamalendi Secondary School to ecologically significant sites such as community forests, water catchment areas, Wildlife Management Areas and eco-friendly livelihood projects to give students real-world experience and improve their awareness on environmental conservation.

Through our ongoing environmental clubs program in schools, we have been able to engage 1093 students from 11 schools who are active members of environment clubs in their respective schools. These groups participated in different indoor activities such as discussions, presentations, wildlife film shows, animal matching games, wildlife identification, crafting and painting while outdoor activities entailed recycling plastic bottles, developing wildlife sculptures, outdoor learning – mainly bird watching and tree planting.

We are also working to improve our environmental education teaching guide that aligns with news goals of our strategic plan which is under the review stage. The new teaching guide focuses on empowering teachers to be able to deliver environmental education and related activities on their own.



(Top) A group of students from Chamalendi Secondary school during their ecological field study trip. (Middle) Some students from Ikuba primary school creating a map on the ground using recycled plastic bottles.

PARK TRIP TO KATAVI NATIONAL PARK

In this half, we organized for a single park visit by the Sitalike, Igongwe and Matandalani Community to Katavi National Park in collaboration with Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA). The trip involved community members who have been victims of human wildlife conflict but also played a role in reporting problem animal to the LCMO early warning system operators.

A total of 41 people visited the park and in the evening we had an insightful presentation and discussion session. Each trip participant was also given an educative brochures on ‘Living Walls’ that shows how to design a lion proof livestock shed but also another one on human elephant conflict mitigation.



A group photo of the park trip participants together with Katavi National Park CCS wardens

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM



Ms. Happiness from LCMO (Middle) with selected children with different body deformities from various areas of Katavi region who are on preparation to travel to Arusha for treatment.

This is a program initiated in 2019 through the support of Nomad Tanzania. Since its inception, we provided a free eye clinic to over 200 people and the ongoing initiative is a rehabilitative surgery program that focus on children with treatable disabilities. LCMO works to identify them during our outreach activities and facilitate their transfer to Arusha for treatment. Since January to June, 16 children have been taken to Plaster House Centre for treatment and the list is still long and waiting for appointment in the coming months.

UPDATES ON MALIASILI INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP AND ACLN

Early this year, LCMO started developing a strategic plan under the support of Maliasili Initiative. The team held a workshop in Mpanda to review the outcomes of the *organizational assessment* and *situation analysis* conducted in 2021 and develop LCMO strategy. The document is under development and a first strategic plan draft validation meeting will be held in September together with board members.

In addition to this, LCMO leaders; Jonathan and Emmanuel finished their leadership training under *African Conservation Leadership Network (ACLN)* which is supported by Maliasili Initiative and The Nature Conservancy. ACLN works to support dynamic, creative, and influential African conservation leaders.



(Right) 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. (Left) A group photo of ACLN cohort 4 members in Namibia during the week three training.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION

LCMO works closely with community owned Wildlife Management Areas in aspect of capacity building through Sungusungu and Village Game Scout training and equipment support, village council committees' seminars and supporting rural alternative livelihood projects and human wildlife coexistence education.

In this half, LCMO has been active in co-supporting patrol activities in Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area, facilitated meetings with the newly elected officials of Ipole Wildlife Management Area and stakeholders to discuss challenges and ways we can foster collaboration.

Also in prospect for expansion to remotely potential areas for lion existence, LCMO also visited Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area in Urambo district to assess the its situation and ways LCMO can engage in the future.

LCMO through WASIMA also visited villages bordering Ugalla River National Park to assess the potential of expanding to those villages where records of human lion conflict recorded recently.



Mr. Jonathan (Middle) demonstrating importance of empowering and growing our inner circle in leadership during his presentation to the newly elected Ipole WMA management and stakeholders in Sikonge District. In recent years, LCMO has committedly invested in capacity building and resource facilitation to community protected areas with an aim of making them continue to thrive and create value to the communities bordering these areas.





This is what 'A Day in the Park' looks like, giving opportunities to agropastoral communities bordering Katavi National Park a chance to visit the park and learn about wildlife conservation, and most importantly bringing the community and the park authority in the same table to discuss on ways to promote community based conservation. In this picture is a group of young agropastoral from Ikuba village who recently visited the park to learn and discuss with LCMO and the park authority on the issues of livestock encroachment which is currently a major issue in the area. Educational park trips are part of our continuous program and this has been successful because of our committed friends and donors. You can also be part of the change makers by making a generous contribution to support a park trip or any of your [favorite program at LCMO](#). You can make donation online at <http://www.lcmo.or.tz/donate>.

Kindly keep in touch with us through our social media platforms for more exciting news from the field. 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.



Lion
Recovery
Fund

