

LANDSCAPE AND CONSERVATION MENTORS ORGANIZATION (LCMO)

A WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON THE STATUS OF HUMAN-LION CONFLICT AND LION CONSERVATION STATUS WITHIN THE UGALLA-RUNGWA ECOSYSTEM. NDAWVUKILO HOTEL, SIKONGE, TABORA-TANZANIA

WORKSHOP REPORT



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8/13/2019

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
The People, Lions and Environment- WASIMA Campaign.....	2
Aim of the Workshop.....	3
Participants	3
The Workshop Schedule	4
PHASE ONE: PRESENTATIONS	4
Figure 2: Conservation stakeholders listening a presentation from Mr. Gilya as he presented about WASIMA Campaign during the workshop(Photo by Jonathan Kwiyege)	5
Figure 3: Mr.Saidi A. Kabanda, GR Manager presenting about Ugalla Game reserve and Lion Conservation Status. <i>Photo by Gilya Lino</i>	6
Figure 4: The Ipole WMA’s secretary (Timothy Andrew) sharing the short report with stakeholders during the workshop. <i>Photo by Gilya Lino.</i>	7
PHASE TWO: PARTICIPANTS GROUP DISCUSSIONS	9
<i>Question 1: What bylaws should be adopted/prepared and enforced to conserve and protect lion, natural resource and our environments? And who should be involved and how?.....</i>	10
Figure4: Participant discussing questions during group discussion. <i>Photo by Gilya Lino</i>	10
<i>Question 2: What approaches should be applied to mitigate conservation issues (Human- Wildlife Conflicts (resource use conflicts), Climate Changes, Poaching and Species Extinction/Biodiversity loss) within the Ugalla-Rungwa ecosystem?</i>	11
<i>Question 3: What conservation strategies or actions, stakeholders’ roles and places should they play to reduce human- wildlife Conflicts and Improve Human- Lion Coexistence within communities around Ugalla-Rungwa ecosystem?.....</i>	11
<i>Question 4: What Social-Cultural and economic practices influence nature conservation around Ugalla-Rungwa ecosystem. How can they be addressed within the communities?</i>	12
WAY FORWARD.....	12
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	14
Appendix 1: A list of workshop participants.....	15
Appendix 2 : Some More Workshop Photos.....	18

INTRODUCTION

LCMO is an environmental non-profit organization that operates in the western part of Tanzania. The mission of LCMO is *to promote nature conservation and improve community livelihoods through environmental conservation, conservation education, and community based conservation initiatives, ecotourism wildlife and cultural activities there by mitigating human wildlife conflicts and enhancing nature related researches*. The LCMO vision is *to becoming the leading model in promoting nature conservation and livelihood improvement through sustainable natural resources management practices in Tanzania*

The Organization is currently is expanding its Stop Illegal Lion Killing Project Campaign operations in different other areas of Sikonge district in Tabora, Nsimbo district in Katavi and Nkasi district in Rukwa region from the former Mpimbwe district in Katavi region. This is after its research which was conducted in Sikonge and Nsimbo district; whose findings indicates the need to extend the WASIMA Campaign in those areas. Due to that reasons LCMO decided to call a workshop for Wildlife Conservation Stakeholders on the status of human-lion conservation status within the Ugalla-Rungwa Ecosystem which was held at Ndawvukilo Hotel in Sikonge district, Tabora bringing in the officers, decision makers and government representatives and expertise from the zonal, region, district and ward levels.

The People, Lions and Environment- WASIMA Campaign

WASIMA is an environmental campaign launched in 2011 in response to research showing that lion killing was still widespread amongst the agro-pastoral Sukumas living around protected areas mainly Katavi National park in Katavi region. Unlike other East Africans pastoralists, Sukuma people maintain a tradition of richly rewarding lion killers, who come to proclaim their bravery through a lion-dance at your house. In recent years some young men have been hunting lions inside the protected areas rather than lions threatening homesteads, since there are few lions outside protected areas nowadays. This manipulation of traditional custom has sparked a grassroots protest movement that WASIMA supports. Our principal success lies in establishing village by-laws that outlaw illegal lion killing and lion dancing. Such laws now exist in almost every village but formally ratified in 20 villages in Mpimbwe. We spread conservation

awareness among community members living adjacent to the park of major changes relating to lion killing in traditional Sukuma customs and to secure community commitment towards halting lion killings. Our campaign also develops a culture of strong local environmental stewardship by harnessing the power of traditional policing institutions, recognizing the need to link environmental education, local development and environmental conservation. WASIMA campaign has successfully reduced illegal traditional lion hunting by 77% in Mpimbwe. With such a success WASIMA is now expanding operations to other remote areas adjacent protected areas where lion facing high risks and uncertain future in the landscape.

Aim of the Workshop

The aim of this workshop was to introduce WASIMA Campaign to Conservation stakeholders in Tabora, to share the human-wildlife assessment findings of the study held around Ipole Wildlife Mnaagement Area (WMA)which buffers Ugalla Game Reserve in 2018 focusing on the status of traditional lion killings status in Sikonge district. Foster and garner community participation and leadership in reducing conflict, conserving lions and other wildlife, reducing and preventing ecosystem degradation, in support of human-lion coexistence and improved community livelihoods.

Participants

About 35 participants from Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Ant poaching Unity (KDU), Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS), Wildlife management Area (WMA), of the Region Administration Secretary, District commissioners (DC) and District Executive Directorate Office: Department of Natural resource Office, Agriculture and irrigation Livestock and fisheries and representative politicians and ward councilors (including Sikonge Member of Parliament) and executive officers from ward office were participated at Ndawvukilo Hotel major lobby in Sikonge, Tabora.



Figure 1: The Sikonge District Commissioner giving a workshop inaugural talk to Ugalla Ecosystem conservation stakeholders after the Sikonge Member of Parliament (Joseph G. Kakunda) (right) and Mr. Peter Nzalalila (Sikonge District Council Chairman) (Left). Photo by Gilya Lino.

The Workshop Schedule

The workshop was conducted in two phases. Phase one involved presentations from different stakeholders: LCMO, Ugalla Game Reserve office and WMA office. Phase involved participants' group discussions, recommendations and way forward.

PHASE ONE: PRESENTATIONS

1.1 About The Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization (LCMO), by Jonathan Kwiyege.

This presentation was aimed to introduce LCMO scope, programs and projects under LCMO, key stakeholders to let the stakeholders understand LCMO and its intentions for expanding WASIMA operations in western of Tanzania. The history of the foundation of LCMO and its

legitimacy was also stated. The LCMO idea began as the result of Prof. Monique Borgerhoff Mulder and Prof Timothy Caro's researches and conservation efforts at Kibaoni, in Mpimbwe, south of Katavi National Park. Their dream came arrive in 2016, when LCMO was formally registered to operation at National level but beginning her operations in Mpimbwe district council which was Mlele district by then. LCMO is a field based and the grass-roots organization with the slogan of leading and learning from the local communities. Its headquarter is therefore based in Usevya (or Usevia- in google map) village, Mpimbwe district, in Katavi region.

1.2. *The WASIMA Campaign, By Gilya Lino.*

The brief of LCMO was followed by the presentation about WASIMA Campaign (See Figure 2) on which the presenter elaborated why the Campaign was initiated in 2011 in the southern part of Katavi National Park, in Mpimbwe after the research by Emily Fitzherbert in 2019, which was published in 2014 (*"From avengers to hunters"*). The WASIMA presentation stated that traditional lion killings and lion dancing contribute to the decline of lion populations in the landscape and how the campaign has managed to halt lion killings in Mpimbwe.



Figure 2: Conservation stakeholders listening a presentation from Mr. Gilya as he presented about WASIMA Campaign during the workshop (Photo by Jonathan Kwiyege)

In responding to the participants' queries, Mr Jonathan Kwiyege the interm Acting Executive Director of LCMO went further on his presentations on the WASIMA efforts against Human Lion conflicts by mentioning the success of WASIMA Campaign. Since 2011 when WASIMA started, the community awareness on the conservation of lion and wildlife in general have increased. The number of lion killers has decreased based on the survey conducted in 2017 in Southern part of Katavi National Park (KNP) particular in Mpimbwe district council in which 48-61 lions were killed in KNP between 2005 and 2010, but only 14-18 lions between 2011 and 2016, after WASIMA was launched. This represents a decline of 77%. This is contrary to the research conducted in Ugalla ecosystems which show that there is the increase of lion dancers in

Ugalla ecosystems. He finally concluded his presentations by calling stakeholders to collaborate with LCMO through its Campaign of to take over the lion kills and human lion conflict at large in Sikonge and mainly in the areas around Ugalla –Rungwa ecosystem.

2.3. *The Ugalla Game Reserve, by Saidi Kibanda.*

Mr. Kabanda (The TAWA Game Reserve Manager) presented about the Ugalla Game Reserve (5000km² area within Katavi and Tabora region): establishment, uniqueness, activities, conservation challenges and plans on conserving the wildlife resources. During this presentation he highlighted the activities

being conducted in the reserve; patrols, hunting tourism, community based conservation (fishing and beekeeping harvesting). Furthermore he shared the conservation challenges facing Ugalla game reserve; poaching through illegal hunting of wild animals, fishing, logging, climate change, water loss, low awareness of the community about conservation, multiple land use in Ugalla and increased incidence of poaching due to fishing and beekeeping. To put more effort in intelligence Unity, cooperating with different security and defense departments, involving different conservations stakeholders, communities through community based conservation organizations, conservation education to the local communities and initiating the alternative income generating activities which is friendly to the environments. He finalized by calling different stakeholders to participate in conservation while involving the communities.



Figure 3: Mr.Saidi A. Kabanda, GR Manager presenting about Ugalla Game reserve and Lion Conservation Status. Photo by Gilya Lino

1.4 *The Jumuiya ya Hifadhi ya Wanyamapori Ipole (JUHIWAI): (Ipole Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Society, By Mz Timothy Andrew.*

During this secession representative from Ipole WMA (2400km² (Also Ugunda Forest Reserve/Game controlled area) shared with other stakeholders on the conservation status of Ipole WMA, by starting with history of the WMA, activities involved with, and benefits to the

surrounding

community,

conservation



Figure 4: The Ipole WMA's secretary (Timothy Andrew) sharing the short report with stakeholders during the workshop. Photo by Gilya Lino.

challenges and their mitigation measures. However, this reserve buffers Ugalla GR and is highly faced by a number conservation challenges. Poaching (illegal hunting, logging), invasion by large herd of cattle from the neighbor regions were mentioned the measure challenges in the area. Nevertheless, he said on overcoming such challenges they cooperate with different stakeholders like TAWA and TFS to conduct patrol in both reserves and WMA, they do that to strengthen the patrols and to have a cohesive collaborations with those institutions as they have one role of conserving natural resources, although they have inadequate resources in term of facilities and personnel.

1.4. The status of human-Lion conflicts around Ugalla ecosystem. a case of villages around in Sikonge District. By Jonathan Kwiyege.



Figure 5: Stakeholders following Jonathan as he presents on the status of human-lion Conflict status around Ugalla Ecosystem. Photo By Gilya Lino.

Jonathan presented the findings of the study that was done in five villages, in Sikonge villages around Ugalla ecosystem.

Amongst many observations, the study shows that:

- Livestock loss by diseases is four times carnivores induced losses per year per household. Again, livestock losses by carnivores were three times higher than crop losses by herbivores. The mean crop loss per household was \$250.35(TZS582, 209.3) whereas; the livestock losses were \$744.7 (1,731,876.74). Each household has incurred a total average loss of \$995.05((TZS2, 314, 069.77) over the average residence period of 28 years.
- Losses by lions constitute almost 50% of all livestock losses by Hyena, leopard and wild dogs combined. Crop loss by herbivores. The mean total livestock loss by lions was about \$340 where as the total livestock loss by carnivores was \$744.7 per household over their resident period in the area. The average household residence period was 28.28 years, with 13.7 standard deviation. The average household size was 11 individuals with an average of 69.28 cattle and 12 shoats per household.
- The community attitude towards lions is somehow uncertain as they regard lions as protected by law but willing to allow their close family members to kill lions in revenge for livestock predation.

- Although about 53.3% respondents said there are nowadays no lion dancers, more than 40% said lion dancers are sought a few times and this is equivalent response to that for the past observations.
- The number of lion killers or lion dancers was noted to be increasing from 6 in 2012 to 16 in 2017, with the average of new 8 lion kills per year.
- On the other hand, the number traditionally respected gifts (cattle and shoats) seem to be higher than cash. This is associated with the increasing number of lion dancers in the area between 2012-2017 despite the presence of WASIMA operations in other areas of western Tanzania.
- Moreover, the study recommends possibility for more lion killers' occurrence in future due to locals' perception of the increasing lion population in the area. This means increasing risks and uncertainty for lion population within Ugalla ecosystem.

PHASE TWO: PARTICIPANTS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The presentations phase led into an intermediate phase that involved participants asking questions that were responded by presenters. The District Commissioner led discussion and groups discussion sessions, whereas the way forwards were made and approved by all the participants and Jonathan wrote and presented them to the participants after the discussions. Jonathan presented the guiding questions for the participants to clearly understand them. This



Figure 6): The Sikonge District Commissioner (Mr. Peres B.Magiri (on the left) leading the discussion as he chaired the workshop, the District Administration Secretary (Mr. Renatus Mahimbali) is on the right).

was the right approach for these conservation stakeholders and leaders to come up with ideas to lead and guide the conservation stakeholders to collectively participate as collaborators into the WASIMA campaign by playing the right and own roles and also for getting the feedbacks from them based on what has been presented also know what should be done in order to overcome the conservation challenges in Ugalla ecosystem.

Question 1: What bylaws should be adopted/prepared and enforced to conserve and protect lion, natural resource and our environments? And who should be involved and how?



Figure4: Participant discussing questions during group discussion. Photo by Gilya Lino

Bylaws that protect wildlife resources should be established, adopted and enforced based on mother (National) laws like the Tanzania Wildlife Conservation Law No. 5 of 2009. Forest Law No. 14 of 2002, Beekeeping Law No. 15 of 2002, Environment Law No. 20 of 2014 that will restrict human activities within the protected areas and the use of wildlife product like the lion skin in cultural dance. However, this should be conducted by involving different stakeholders including the villagers, village governments, conservation agencies, Natural resource, game and environmental officers, lawyers, development partners in place (like LCMO, WCS, ADAP, AWF and WWF), natural resource and environment officers, lawyers and development institutions. Stakeholders should be involved at different stages through village meetings, workshops and private consultations.

Without contradicting the national laws, bylaws should restrict human activities within reserves, guide livestock keepers with at least 5 lives tocks to have/ own pastures farms and dams for their

live stocks and to prohibit the use of animal skins (trophies) such as those from lions for traditional dances and ceremonies to discourage illegal poaching.

Question 2: What approaches should be applied to mitigate conservation issues (Human-Wildlife Conflicts (resource use conflicts), Climate Changes, Poaching and Species Extinction/Biodiversity loss) within the Ugalla-Rungwa ecosystem?

In order to minimize the human wildlife conflict in Ugalla ecosystem, education should be provided to the community on the importance of protected areas and environment protection in both ways; advantages and disadvantages, to have villages with land use plans and review the land plans for split old and new villages, to impose and supervise bylaws that are dealing with natural resources and environment protections in general, and to give high priority the community based conservation in natural resources and environment with strengthening the protected areas boundaries so as to be recognized in simple way.

To provide education to different stakeholders on conservation of lion and environment, to restrict any destruction within the protected areas, to do more research in order to know the exact number of lions within and outside the protected areas and to know the lion population distribution drivers within and outside the ecosystem and effect that can be caused by lion to community.

In order to mitigate/ reduce the human wildlife conflict like livestock predation then more education should be given to community especially the livestock keepers who are living adjacent to the protected areas, about the construction of good livestock enclosures/bomas, adopt modern animal husbandly and keeping livestock far from protected areas. For crop raiding and destruction of habitat for the wild animal farmers should practice sustainable agriculture or modern one that will require a small piece of land, also the community should communicate with the responsible authorities/stakeholders like wildlife officers, TAWA team, WMA office to rescue the wild animals.

Question 3: What conservation strategies or actions, stakeholders' roles and places should they play to reduce human- wildlife Conflicts and Improve Human- Lion Coexistence within communities around Ugalla-Rungwa ecosystem?

To have land use plan, it seems most of the area in Tanzania lack the proper land use plan and this has been a reason for the community and livestock to encroach and settle in any areas for grazing and agriculture. Therefore there is need for any village to have the land use plan that will direct the sustainable use of resources and should be reviewed to strengthen the protected areas boundaries making them recognized in simple way.

To provide education to the community about the importance of protected areas and environment protection based on its advantages and disadvantages while enhancing community based conservation in natural resources and environment.

Question 4: What Social-Cultural and economic practices influence nature conservation around Ugalla-Rungwa ecosystem. How can they be addressed within the communities?

Within Ugalla ecosystem both social cultural and economic activities were mentioned to be the activities practiced by the communities which also act as the threats to the ecosystem and affects conservation of natural resources; Mining, illegal logging, unsustainable agricultural practices like shifting cultivation and livestock keeping were economic activities, where killing lion for brave and superstitious beliefs were cultural practices in Ugalla; also social activities like construction of residence within the protected area, searching local medicines and fire burning were highlighted as activities in the area.

On controlling such threats conservation education and environment protection should be emphasized in the area, and every stakeholder should corporate or be responsible on conserving this crucial ecosystems. Nevertheless bylaws should be established and implemented and on this stakeholders should build capacity to local leaders on how to implement bylaws, however the community potential part during the implementation of this bylaws as they are the one where the laws is going to be enforced. Also involvement of the communities in conservation; establish participatory protection and to have reviewable land use plans to make sure they comply with the need of the specific time.

WAY FORWARD

S/N	Action	Where	Stakeholder	Stakeholders' roles
1	To conduct a survey on lion within and outside the protected area for updating its data base.	Within and outside the protected areas	TAWA,WMA, LCMO, TAWIRI, Sikonge DC	TAWIRI-Permit for research , personnel LCMO-To support research activities and personnel TAWA, WMA –personnel and facilities
2	The protected areas which have lost the criteria of being area for wildlife or conservation status should be ungazetted and change their use to ranch for cattle to reduce the pressures on the protected area	Protected areas	Government-under its ministries, and Sikonge DC	To degazette the protected area which has lost its criteria for conservation, to plan land uses for degazetted land and land use management and supervision
3	To provide education on good herding and conservation to children and to inspire their parents to reduce the number of livestock.	Around the protected areas	LCMO,TAWA,WMA,TF S and TANAPA	To facilitate the conservation education activities both financial ,items and personnel
4	Engaging the community in sustainable agricultural practice by establishing demo grass farms, encourage private grass farming, livestock feeders harvesting and storage and rehabilitating the dips for livestock	Around and away from the protected areas	LCMO, TANAPA, WMA, TAWA, Government: Ministry of agriculture, Ministry of livestock, and Ministry of water and irrigation through its departments. Local government and the locals(livestock keepers).	Facilitating by providing education, equipment and personnel
5	To restrict the use of trophy without license and clearance of ownership	At the community level	LCMO,TAWA,TANAPA,WMA, WCS, Central and local governments officers	Educating the communities, facilitating the bylaw establishment and its enforcement through building capacities of leaders and communities
6	Stakeholders to cooperate in solving the problems related to human wildlife	Within and outside the protected area	LCMO,KDU,TAWA, WCS, TFS,TANAPA, Police, WMA and officers from ministry	Facilitation of activities, financial, facilities and or personnel support

	conflict.		agriculture and irrigations	
7	To strengthen the protected areas boundaries so as to be recognized in simple way, and to be protected	Around the protected areas	TAWA,WMA, WCS, ADAP., Village council, TANAPA, District council and other related stakeholders	Educating the community and involving them in demarcating the boundaries and placing beacons, protecting boundaries
8	Each village should have land use plan which will be subject to change in accordance to the need over the time.	Within the village	Communities, Village council, TAWA, WMA, LCMO, TANAPA and the responsible ministries	Educating the communities on land use plan and assisting them on preparing the plan
9	Community to be trained on sustainable agricultural practices eg commercial livestock keeping and agribusiness (Livestock reduction campaign).	Around and away from the protected areas	Ministry of agriculture and irrigation, ministry of livestock and fisheries, livestock keepers, farmers and other stakeholders.	Facilitating both technically, financially and personnel
10	Building capacity to Institutions like KDU , VGS, and Lion Observation Ambassadors (LCAs) on cooperation strengthens to other institutions in patrol activities, materials provision and team work performance.	Within and around the protected areas	TAWA,KDU,TFS,WMA , LCMO, WCS and TANAPA	Facilitating through both financial, materials, personnel and other related requirements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge National Geographic Society for supporting Wildlife Conservation stakeholder's workshop on the status of human-lion conflict and conservation status within the Ugalla-Rungwa Ecosystem which was held on 13rd August 2019 at Ndawvukilo Hotel, Sikonge. We also thank the support from our partners and supporters Rufford Small Grant, Crowder Messersmith Conservation Fund, Experiment.com, Brevard Zoo Conservation Fund and Greenville Zoo for generously supporting the stop illegal lion killing campaign research and outreach works and other LCMO programs. We highly appreciate the cooperation of Sikonge District Commissioner (Mr Peres B. Magiri) with his committee of security and defense, and for warmly welcoming the WASIMA team from LCMO. Many appreciations to the Sikonge District Executive Director (Martha D. Luleka) and her team for cooperation and commitment to collaborate with LCMO through WASIMA campaign. We had amazing great representation, positive and exciting welcome remarks from the Tabora RAS office, TAWA, WMA, and TFS. We believe in you and together we can reduce human-lion and other wildlife conflicts, halt illegal lion killings, promote Human-wildlife coexistence and improve community livelihoods around Ugalla ecosystem around support. Many appreciations to the Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organizations (LCMO) team making this workshop come to pass.

Appendix 1: A list of workshop participants

S/n	Name	Position	Institute & Place	Phone number	Email
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Appendix 2 : Some More Workshop Photos



Figure 7: The Sikonge MP giving a talk on the history of wildlife conservation phases in Sikonge district to the participants as he welcomes the Guest of Honor to officially open the workshop.



Figure 8: The District livestock Officer contributing an idea during the one on one discussion after presentation. Photo by Gilya Lino.



Figure 9: The TAWA Manager from The Zonal Ant poaching Unit Centre of Tabora (Mr. Peter Maiga) elaborating an idea during the question and answer session, when the participants discussed the presentations. Photo by Gilya Lino.



Figure 10: Participants doing group discussion



Figure 11: Group discussion on progress, Photo by Gilya Lino



Figure 12: Jonathan following the discussion as the group discuss the guiding group questions (photo by Gilya Lino).



Figure 13: Participants taking lunch as they were led by the Sikonge DC and DAS on a queue. Photo by Gilya Lino



Figure 14: The Sikonge District Forest Officer presenting his group discussed work. Photo by Gilya Lino.



Figure 15: Workshop Participants following as Jonathan reads the workshop way forward before the chairperson calls off the workshop. Photo by Gilya Lino.