



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

Welcome to LCMO's newsletter!
January-December 2020

Regarding the Landscape and Conservation Mentors

We are a grassroots [Environmental Conservation Non-Governmental Organization](#) operating in Western Tanzania. Our mission is to promote conservation and improve community livelihoods. We mitigate human-wildlife conflict and enhance nature-related research and learning, always exploring innovative pathways to develop community-based conservation initiatives with ecotourism, environmental conservation and cultural activities. Our two main programs, [Watu, Simba na Mazingira](#) (WASIMA) and [Vijana na Mazingira](#) (VIMA), are closely integrated with three campaigns: A Day in the Park, Greening Mpimbwe, and the Student Support program. Currently we are EXPANDING into other parts of Western Tanzania.



Conservation laws enforcement stakeholders' workshop participants from Nsimbo District

- 1) 480 stakeholders attended 7 districts conservation laws enforcement workshops*
- 2) 3 Human-lion interactions Loudspeaker early warning systems installed*
- 3) 17 villages approved by-laws banning illegal lion killings, over 1666 village leaders engaged and involved.*
- 4) 5 new households benefits from pay forward chicken project*
- 5) 85 beehives donated to farmers*
- 6) 100 locals visit Katavi National Park*
- 7) 16 children with physical disabilities treated at The Plaster House*
- 8) 40 students supported*
- 9) Over 5000 locals reached via film shows*
- 10) Over 18000 tree planted and over 30000 trees seedlings raised*

The year 2020 was like no other. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across the planet, impacting humankind, we are reminded at LCMO of the crucial interlinkages between a healthy planet and a healthy people, and the critical importance of human-wildlife coexistence and nature conservation.

Tackling COVID-19 adversely affected our programs. We would not have achieved our 2020 success stories without the collaboration of our generous supporters and participation of local communities who willingly collaborated with us. Our landscape conservation leaders spent long hours on the ground for delivering new information about disease, conservation and the environment. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone who participated in all of our different activities.

Despite all the challenges we are managing to expand our activities and campaigns to larger groups of people across 39 villages (in 7 districts) where human-wildlife conflicts are common. With just a team of 5 staff, and 15 Lion Conservation Ambassadors, we have managed to substantially reduce human-lion and elephant conflict in different locations in Western Tanzania. Although our human-elephant conflict mitigation program is still in its early stage we believe that it will soon gain considerable traction around Katavi National Park.

We are looking forward to our 2021 adventure now. It is important to remember that our success stories depend on our generous supporters. The LCMO family offers our condolences to all our friends who have lost loved ones, or who are still under lockdown. We pray that COVID-19 passes, and we also promise to keep focused on the conservation of natural resources in the western Tanzania landscape and beyond.



*Mr. Jonathan Lucas Kwiyege,
LCMO Director*



Mr. Lino and the Lion Conservation Ambassador (LCA) collecting human-lion conflict cases in Ipole, Sikonge District (above) and a conservation film show in Mpimbwe (below)

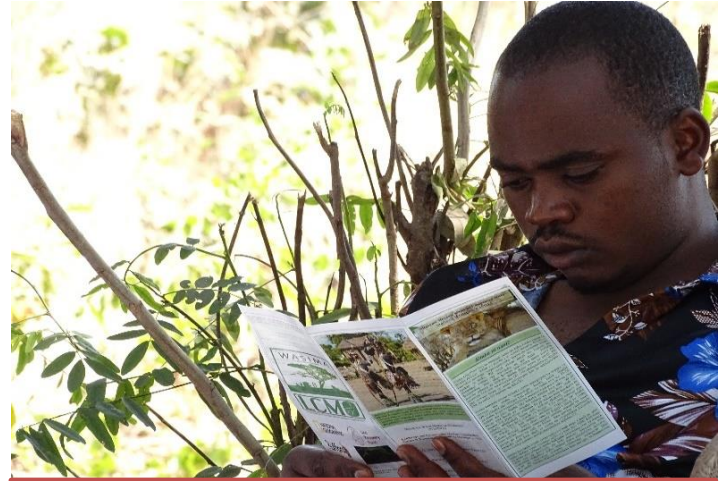
Generously supported in 2020 by the following donors:



STOP ILLEGAL LION CAMPAIGN: WASIMA

In the year 2020, WASIMA campaign extended its activities to five villages of Nkasi District and bordering Lwafi Game Reserve and also opened a new office in Sikonge District.

Taking all key COVID-19 precautions, we hosted seven workshops with 480 wildlife conservation stakeholders from both government and non-governmental institutions. In addition, two Sungusungu seminar were held, and 13 new Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs) recruited and trained. To prohibit non-retaliatory lion killing, 17 Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) meetings with village councils (VCs) were ratified in 11 new villages. By installing 3 early monitoring and warning systems LCMO is helping communities prevent wildlife attacks in their villages. Lastly, WASIMA supported 40 students from marginalized families and those that previously affected by lions.



The monitoring and warning systems are used to spread conservation education messages, announce social related issues, and warn of imminent wildlife danger. Through these systems, 23 lion warning were issued and people took early precaution. Additionally, WASIMA reached 4504 people through film shows and public educational presentations, 42 households trained on compost manure to improve soil fertility.



Mr. Kagurukila fitting horn speakers for the Early Warning System in Ipole village

OUR GREENING CAMPAIGN



Lyazumbi (Nkasi) farmers receiving trees donated by LCMO

The Greening Campaign in Mpimbwe aims at environmental restoration through active tree planting, and nursery development. We protect remnant natural forests within village lands, and promote environmental awareness in villages in Mpimbwe District.

Between November 2019 and March 2020, we produced and planted 18704 tree seedlings from 13 species which have been trialed and proven to perform well in Mpimbwe. Under our VIMA program 13 schools in Mpimbwe District received over tree seedlings.

Toward the end 2020 and early 2021, LCMO produced over 30,000 trees from 10 species and we are currently distributing these to farmers groups, and to further schools in Mpimbwe and Nkasi Districts

HOW DO WE IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS?

In 2020, five new women with least household income from Kibaoni and Usevya received 10 chickens each. The beneficiaries were first trained by a livestock officer in a seminar that attracted over 30 other local chicken farmers. Each woman received nine hens and one cockerel. The previously supported 5 chicken beneficiaries donated (paid forward) four chicken to this second group and LCMO purchased the remaining six. In addition, each new beneficiary received start up feed and vaccination for the first three months.

By the end of 2020, most chickens have started reproducing and by March 2021, we will support another group of 5 women which will be partially supported by the second group of beneficiaries.



A chicken beneficiary in Kibaoni, Mama Panduzi.



A farmer in Kibaoni with part of the hives donated to the network

Beekeeping is one of alternative livelihood projects that LCMO supports to help raise the standard of living of communities bordering Mpimbwe WMA and Katavi National Park.

A total of 85 hives were donated to farmers in Sitalike (35) and Kibaoni (50) villages. By implementing beekeeping programs we create a network of beekeepers that can influence the rest of the community to practice beekeeping as a way to improve livelihood, secure forest remnants in village lands, and use the hives as a deterrent for crop raiding elephants

We also held beekeeping training in Sitalike with its farmers group, and Lyazumbi with Juhudi Women group.

VIJANA NA MAZINGIRA -VIMA

Educational activities in schools form an effective and cheaper channel for communicating environmental conservation with students. This is vital for LCMO because nearly all households are represented in schools. Changing the behavior of students has the ability to change households' views hence, as LCMO, we set out to sensitize students to environmental issues in our project areas so as to ensure that the information trickles down to their families and friends for the preservation of areas around the Katavi National Park.

COVID-19 interrupted this year's education program, with school closures in March. In the first three months of the year students collaborated with their LCMO mentors in tree planting, park trips and indoor class sessions. A group of 50 students from 5 different secondary schools who did well in a specially-designed "lion and elephant conservation challenge" visited Katavi National Park together with our team.



Students from Ikuba Primary school with LCMO calendars and T-shirts. Photo taken after an environmental class session.

Besides our activities in secondary schools VIMA worked with two youth groups in Kibaoni and Mirumba village. The Kibaoni group was supported with different tree seeds and the Mirumba group received three hives to install in their apiary.



A group photo of students and teachers who visited Katavi National Park

HEALTH PROGRAM

Since 2019, LCMO has been collaborating with Nomad Tanzania Trust to provide better health services to communities in villages bordering Katavi National Park. Health services include eye clinics, fistula education and treatment of children with different physical disabilities. In 2020, we identified 21 children with physical disabilities and managed to send 16 of them to The Plaster House in Arusha for treatment. For much of the year, the clinic was not receiving any patients in a bid to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



The Tabora region WASIMA Assistant Project Manager Mr. Lino Gilya with parents with kids identified to undergo treatment at Plaster House.

STUDENTS SUPPORT PROGRAM

Student Support Program has improved students' school attendance and performance, with over 400 beneficiaries.

This year, because of budget limitations, we could only support 40 students from Usevya secondary school and Sitalike Primary school with school uniforms, shoes, exercise books and pens. The supported children were from lion attacks victim families in Sitalike, northern part of KNP and those from families that could not manage initial enrolment costs to join Usevya Secondary school in Mpimbwe.



The Katavi and Rukwa WASIMA assistant Project Manager, Ms. Neema Mwaja with the supported students from Sitalike Primary School

How can you support the least supported and promoted conservation ecosystems of western Tanzania?

- Kindly follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#) for weekly news. You can also check our website for the updates, and share our work.
- LCMO relies on the 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 time of 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.

