



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

Welcome to LCMO's 2021 semi-annual newsletter!



About Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization

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 conflicts 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 sister programs: Greening Campaign, A Day in the Park, and the Student Support program. Currently we are EXPANDING into other parts of Western Tanzania.



Lion
Recovery
Fund



STOP ILLEGAL LION KILLING CAMPAIGN: WASIMA

LCMO leads “Western Tanzania Lion Conservation Strategy” Establishment!

Activities of the year 2021 resumed a bit on a high note despite the challenges of the ongoing global pandemic. In 2020, WASIMA Campaign conducted a survey on human lion conflict in Nkasi, Nsimbo, Tanganyika, Kaliua and Sikonge District and results showed continued challenge of lion conflict. This triggered the need for a strategy that will harmonize lion conservation and management in western Tanzania, giving landscape stakeholders common objectives to pursue.

To promote and advance ongoing local and national efforts to secure the future of lions in Western Tanzania, LCMO through the WASIMA Campaign hosted a 2 day workshop that came up with ideas of establishing a ***‘Western Tanzania Lion Conservation Strategy’***. The workshop brought together different key stakeholders working in the landscape and from our Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism, Tanzania National Parks (Katavi, Ugalla River and

Kigosi National Park), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (Lwafi and Ugalla Game Reserve), Wildlife Management Areas (Mpimbwe and Ipole Wildlife Management Area) Regional and District Game and Livestock Officers, Civil Society Organizations (CSO’s) and a representation from Frankfurt Zoological Society.

The WASIMA Campaign recognizes the role of village level stakeholders in lion conservation. During ongoing meetings and trainings at grassroots levels, we discussed and collected opinions from communities groups that will help improve the proposed Strategy. Community groups reached include livestock keepers, village councils and influential traditional leaders in villages bordering protected areas in Western Tanzania. These efforts ensure that the strategy will be broad and inclusive, and thereby engaging with the communities that face the day-to-day challenge of coexisting with lions.

The document is currently under review in consultation from a team of experts and will soon be approved and made available.



A group photo of the conservation stakeholders who participated in the two day workshop to discuss on the development of ***‘The Western Tanzania Lion Conservation Strategy’***. Photo by Lino Gilya.

Anti-Encroachment Outreach Campaign

WASIMA continued to raise pastoralists' awareness through meeting and seminars. Since January, 17 meetings and seminars with 481 livestock keepers were held in Nkasi, Mlele and Sikonge District. Through meetings and seminars, we address how to lower incidences of human-lion interactions, conflicts, and losses of livestock depredation by lions caused by increased reserves' encroachment. We also encourage locals to improve livestock enclosures (*bomas*) to reduce carnivore depredation.

Village By-laws Certification

WASIMA has extended work to 16 (in addition to the previous 22) village councils to halt traditional illegal lion killing and lion dancing through village by-laws approval and execution. Since January, six villages approved by-laws and the process involved about 538 village members. So far, WASIMA records a total of 35 villages that ratified by-laws to ban any form illegal lion killings- including traditional lion killings practices by young Sukuma men in villages around Ugalla and Katavi-Rukwa ecosystem.



WASIMA-TAWA meeting with livestock keepers in Utende Village, Mlele District.

WASIMA also continued to foster community wide environmental education program through conservation education in schools, public presentations and environmental film shows. From January to June, 3491 people were reached through public outreach education and film shows, and many more through loudspeakers warning systems and public education sessions.

At these outreach events, community members who actively participate in Q&A can win promotional materials (*T-shirts, caps, reusable bags and brochures*).

The loudspeakers systems installed in 2020 are used by LCAs to inform the community of stray animals in village land for early precautions but also to convey conservation education. These systems can reach people 8 km away from the station, and we currently have three actively working stations.

91 Village Leaders Visit Katavi National Park

A Day in the Park gives community groups opportunities to visit Katavi National Park with a goal of promoting environmental awareness over long term. During park trips, participants observe wildlife and receive specialized presentations on ecological importance of the park and threats to its wildlife.

We organize free educational park trips to students, farmers groups, livestock keepers, religious leaders, village law enforcement groups, traditional medicine practitioners and village council committees. Since January, two groups of 91 newly elected members of village council committees from Kizi and Sitalike Village visited the park and had insightful meeting with the park wardens.



Passersby listening to a session aired using the loudspeakers



Members of Kizi village council committee in Katavi NP



A film show program in Msadya village, Mpimbwe DC

VILLAGE GAME SCOUTS AND LION CONSERVATION AMBASSADORS TRAINING IN SIKONGE, TABORA.

LCMO through WASIMA Campaign also works to empower law enforcement at village level. LCMO has been involved in capacitating Village Game Scout (VGS), Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCA) and the Village Council Committee through seminars and training.

Recently, LCMO organized a 3 day training to 65 VGS and LCAs from villages that borders Katavi National Park, Lwafi Game Reserve, Msanginya Forest Reserve, Ipole and Mpimbwe WMA. Having the community based scouts attend the training is part of our long-term support to local communities, building their capacity to manage their wildlife resources surrounding them.

The training covered wildlife management, strategies to deal with human-wildlife conflict, VGS ethics and code of conduct, intelligence and law enforcement skills, and first aid skills. Additionally, all the trained scouts received a full set of uniform (cap, shoes, trouser and a jacket) to help them during implementation of the field activities in their respective areas of work.

The training was conducted by LCMO in collaboration with Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and the Sikonge District Para-Milita Advisor.



Top photos; Sikonge District Para-Milita Advisor leading the VGS training and photo **below** is part of the trained VGS in Ipole with uniforms and a bicycle provided by LCMO through WASIMA Campaign.

OUR GREENING EFFORTS IN MPIMBWE



Tree planting is an important component of LCMO connecting us directly with communities in Mpimbwe. We produced and distributed 23590 tree saplings. The species produced include: *Melia azedarach* (chinaberry tree), *Gmelina arborea* (Mfudufudu), *Cedrela odorata* (Mwerezi), *Psidium guajava* (Mpera), *Gliricidia sepium* (Mglirisidia), *Carica papaya* (Mpapai), *Mangifera indica* (Muembe), *Tectona grandis* (Mtiki), *Acrocarpus fraxinifolus* (Mti kivuli), *Albizia labbeck* (Mkenge), *Pithecelobium dulce* (Mchongoma) *Azadirachyta indica* (Mwarobaini) and *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (*Jacaranda tree*). The above trees have been tested and proved to do well in Mpimbwe.

From 23990 tree saplings produced, LCMO contributed 21,045 saplings from its two tree nurseries, Kibaoni Youth Group produced 1200 saplings while Mbede Secondary school produced 1745 tree saplings which were shared to schools, individual households and some farmers for agroforestry. The tree saplings from the LCMO tree nurseries were distributed in schools – Lyazumbi Primary (560 tree saplings), Paramawe primary (320 tree saplings) Mkole Primary ((1200 tree sapling), Mkwajuni Primary (1200 tree saplings), Bura Primary (325 tree saplings), Migunga Primary (700 tree saplings), Chamalendi Secondary (940 tree saplings), Majimoto Secondary (650 tree saplings) and Mkole Secondary school (900 tree saplings). The Msadya village community planted 400 trees during the World Environment Day. Additionally, 11 farmers received 10650 tree saplings to plant in their farms and 3200 trees were given out to individuals who collected them from the tree nursery to plant them in their compounds.



Top photo; Bahati with primary schools kids during a tree planting event. **Below,** a tree beneficiary inspecting trees donated by LCMO in February 2021.

HOW DO WE IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS?



Emmanuel from LCMO inspecting a beehive in Lala Nayo, Kibaoni village

LCMO works to improve local livelihood through supporting backyard chicken farming and beekeeping among farmers groups in Mpimbwe. Currently, we have 11 chicken beneficiaries in Usevya and Kibaoni village, with recipients now independently running their chicken enterprise.

From January, we have supported 14 farmers in Kibaoni with 5 beehives each. In mid-June 70 litres of honey was harvested and sold locally.

Our women's groups have also been able to improve their lives: through sales of eggs and chicken parts, they have been able to purchase burnt clay blocks for construction, and to invest in their agricultural capacity.

VIJANA NA MAZINGIRA -VIMA

VIMA Project (Youth and Environment) works to empower the young generations in schools and those outside schools with knowledge and skills that helps them become a force for positive environmental conservation.

In the last 6 months we actively engaged youth through lectures, films, art, and outdoor activities such as bird watching. We also planted over 5000 trees in six schools under our program.

Through the ongoing human-elephant conflict mitigation awareness program, Vilolo Primary School, that closely borders Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area (WMA), held seven sessions with a focus on elephants. Students participated in a challenge that involved using clay to carve animals that have been sighted in the village land, bringing us carvings of elephants, leopards, lions (sighted within the WMA), giraffe, buffaloes, zebras and antelopes. Through these experiences we hope to foster a commitment to wildlife conservation in the next generation.



Students from Vilolo PS with an elephant carving drawn during their outdoor session.

For World Environment Day, in collaboration with the Mpimbwe District Council, we organized for an awareness event that brought together youth in school and those outside school in Msadya village which was highly affected by floods and currently much part of land is exposed to erosion. We also participated in planting common reeds (*phragmite australis*) and *Gliricidia sepium* sps in areas affected by the floods and to reduce further soil erosion.



A group of students from three schools planting reeds along the river bank to prevent erosion during the celebration of World Environment Day

ECO STUDY TRIPS IN MPIMBWE AND NKASI SCHOOLS



Through the support of Nomad Tanzania, LCMO recently introduced eco-study trips where students from primary and secondary schools visit different areas of conservation importance around their villages as part of the outdoor learning. Such areas include -village conserved areas (i.e.WMA), water catchment areas, hot springs, preserved forests for beekeeping and areas affected by human induced activities. So far, we have conducted two eco-study trips with students visiting Mirumba waterfall for a birding event and Mpimbwe WMA to study on effect of human encroachment and human elephant conflict.



Top photo; Students from Mirumba Primary school **below;** students from Mizengo Pinda Secondary school during their eco-study trip

HEALTH PROGRAM

This program helps to support children from agropastoral communities that we are working with to halt lion killing and lion dancing practices. Last year, the program was stopped for a while due to the outbreak of COVID-19 but we have resumed again and so far 16 identified children with different physical body deformities were sent to The Plaster House Center in Arusha for treatment. We are still working to identify more children even from the new areas that WASIMA recently expanded; Nkasi Nsimbo and Sikonge District.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

LCMO also run an internship program that help to empower, inspire and connect young conservationist to conservation platforms. Through this program, interns develop a wide range of skills relevant in the field of conservation but also able to apply their skills to LCMO and the community. In May, we recruited three interns who work in our station in Mpimbwe and Sikonge and to this extent they have been a great component of our team.

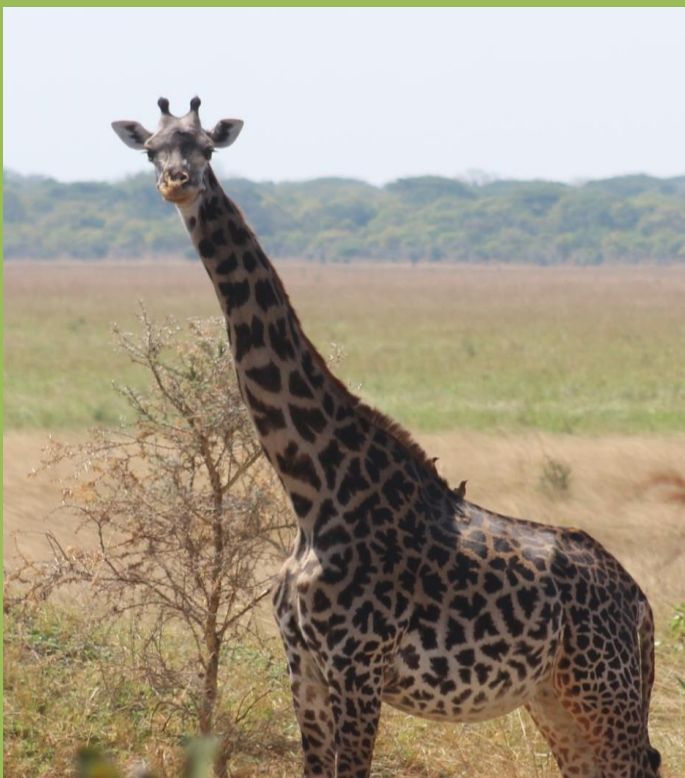


A group of the identified children and their parents at Mpanda Bus Station ready for the trip to Arusha for treatment



Our three interns Top; Ms. happiness Jackson, left; Mr. Aziz Mseke and right; Ms. Belinda Mligo

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



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- LCMO relies on the generosity and kindness of our supporters. We give a million thanks for your backing of us and our activities. 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 reach out LCMO, 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.