

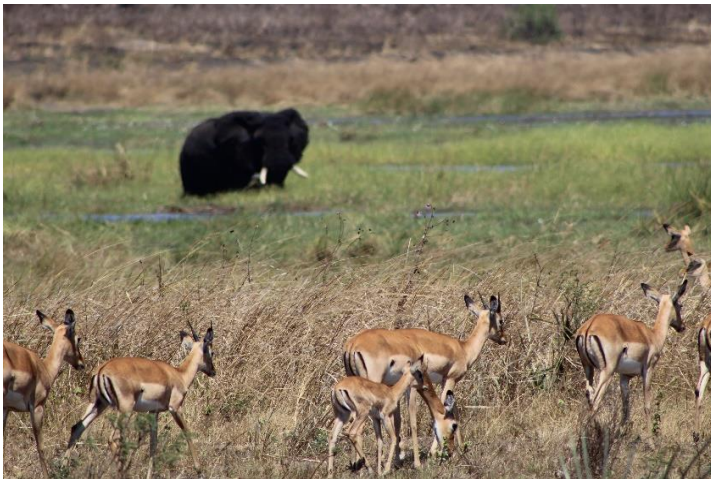


Welcome to LCMO's newsletter!  
January-June 2020

### **About LCMO**

#### **Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization-LCMO**

LCMO is a grassroots [Environmental Conservation Non-Governmental Organization](#) registered under the Non-Governmental Organization Act of 2002 with registration number ooNGO08464 since March 2016. LCMO's mission is to promote nature conservation and improve community livelihood through environmental conservation, conservation education, community-based conservation initiatives, ecotourism, wildlife and cultural activities. It aims to mitigate human wildlife conflict and enhance nature-related research. 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 Mpimbwe and Student Support program among others.



### **Message about COVID-19**

We send our condolences to our brothers and sisters who lost your loved ones due to Covid 19 outbreak. We thank our medical practitioners and leaders in various disciplines who in one heart tirelessly joined efforts to control the virus and its associated impacts. Like in other countries, in Tanzania and especially western Tanzania where we work, Corona virus has negatively impacted the tourism industry resulting into losses of wildlife conservation supports. During Covid 19 outbreak we conducted no community outreach but kept office work, planning and education materials preparation taking all key health precautions. Covid 19 uncertainty has not directly impacted our community. However, its crisis has made LCMO lose nearly \$30k, funds we had expected from our supporters and partners this year to sustain the Organization overheads, staffs and some sister eco-friendly livelihood projects such as beekeeping, poultry, compost, Student Support, A Day in the Park and village conservation education, all of which back up the LCMO mother programs' success. Being a grassroots non-profit and non-governmental organization without financial savings, LCMO's sustainability has been devastated. We pray that our supporters and partners recover quickly from this crisis and that our conservation stakeholders all over the world retain a positive attitude towards preserving our natural world despite the crisis. We appreciate the Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism for leading wildlife conservation and protection work during the crisis. We promise to keep going and request your [goodwill support to cover the Covid 19 crisis gap, maintain wildlife conservation work, and promote human-wildlife coexistence in western Tanzania](#). Any small donation has the potential to make a difference to our natural world and saving our species. Special thanks to supporters, partners and team for keeping hands together to keep LCMO alive during the crisis.

*Best regards, Jonathan L. Kwiyege. Executive Director, LCMO.*

# WATU SIMBA NA MAZINGIRA -WASIMA

## Wildlife Law Enforcement Stakeholders' Workshops

Because of the low incidence of Covid 19 in Western Tanzania the WASIMA Campaign held 7 district workshops on wildlife law enforcement in Rukwa (Nkasi), Katavi (Mpimbwe, Mlele, Nsimbo and Tanganyika) and Tabora (Kaliua, Sikonge). Taking socially distancing precautions as far as possible, the workshops brought together over 390 wide range of stakeholders with mandates relevant to wildlife law enforcement and conservation. These stakeholders were from Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA), Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), District Councils, District Executive Directors' offices, Wards, courts, police stations and village militia service (Sungusungu and VGS). The involvement of all these stakeholders ensures that each stakeholder group is well represented to allow for constructive participation in the dialogue process of topics presented by WASIMA Campaign which include: the conservation status of lions in areas adjacent Katavi-Rukwa-Mahale-Ugalla-ecosystem in Katavi, Rukwa and Tabora regions, human wildlife conflict, review of existing natural resource conservation laws and management, and policies on land and resource management compensation for wildlife damage and ownership of wildlife trophies.

Through these workshops, we have been able to identify and integrate the interest for different sectors to comply with policy and laws at all level, and more specifically to balance lion conservation with sustainable development.

At these workshops participants expressed their appreciation and committed to play an active role in halting illegal lion killing so as to reduce threats facing lions' habitats in western Tanzania. A recent outcome of this workshop is increased participation of the involved stakeholders especially at local government level in WASIMA related field activities. [The workshops general report is shared on the LCMO website.](#)



Participants' discussion session after topic presentations during the workshop in Nsimbo District.

In all our wildlife law enforcement stakeholders' workshops, Stakeholders had equal rights and chances to share ideas regarding mitigations and solutions to minimize human-lion interactions and conflicts and their associated impacts to both human and lions in their respective Districts.

## WASIMA By-Law Approval Meetings

The WASIMA campaign promotes lion conservation in western Tanzania through a multipronged wildlife conservation approach. We work with Sukuma households to ensure universal refusal to reward traditional lion hunters, to promote cross-societal ecological literacy, and to encourage villagers to develop bylaws that prohibits illegal lion killing and lion dancing. So far 22 villages have adopted and passed this bylaw in our core area – Mpimbwe District. From January the WASIMA Campaign began its expansion, holding Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) meetings with Village Council members in 5 new villages that surround the Lwafi Game Reserve in Nkasi District. These meetings play a key role in the approval of village by-laws against non-retaliatory illegal lion killing practices.

The process is now at Village Council and Village Assembly levels at 15 villages in Nkasi and Sikonge Districts. By the end of August, we start the Sungusungu training, and seminars with influential community group leaders, to empower the local traditional policemen to enforce certified bylaws, with the cooperation of the Tanzania Police Force, TAWA and TANAPA.



A village council meeting in Ilalanguru (top), a group photo of the village council committee in Ipanda, Nkasi, (middle) and a village council meeting proceeding in Kizi, Nkasi District (bottom)



Mr. Lino Gilya, WASIMA assistant project manager in front of WASIMA office in Sikonge, Tabora.

## WASIMA Launches an Office in Tabora

We have observed a high incidence of traditional lion killings and human-lion conflicts around the Ugalla-Rungwa ecosystem. Following the Ugalla-Rungwa stakeholders' 2019 workshop recommendations, WASIMA has opted to identify Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs) in the area. By June we had established a WASIMA office with a full-time assistant project manager to coordinate WASIMA activities in Sikonge and Kaliua Districts neighboring the Ugalla River and Kigosi National Park. The WASIMA office is based at Ipole village, and will work with 8 villages around the Ipole Wildlife Management Areas that buffers Ugalla

## VIJANA NA MAZINGIRA-VIMA

In January and February VIMA energetically engaged youth in schools in greening activities and environmental class sessions; in March schools were closed due to the increased cases of COVID-19 across the globe. This had strong negative effects on all the trees planted in 13 schools, as there was no one to attend to the trees and tree nurseries. Our recent survey showed a low survival rate of the trees. We are now working with these schools to help support the few remaining trees. This includes creating additional protection around the young trees to make them safer.

During this period, VIMA also received additional educational materials from PACE Project to further strengthen conservation education in schools.



Tree planting day at Tupindo Primary School (Top right) and Ikuba Primary School (Bottom right). Ms. Neem Mwaja from LCMO with educational materials donated by PACE project (above).

## Greening Campaign

Tree planting in Mpimbwe occurs seasonally, during the wet season in December through April. We produced and planted 18,704 tree seedlings in 4 tree nurseries. LCMO raised and donated over 11000 trees to community members from our tree nursery whereas the three youth groups raised, planted and disseminated, with LCMO support, 6000 trees. With over three years of trial and error LCMO has now identified 13 tree species that are suitable for the area. That is, they are drought resistant, unpalatable for livestock and termites, suffer minimal biological competition, have manageable water requirements, and serve multiple uses such as timber, shade, fruits and apiary positioning. The species include: *Gmelina arborea* (Mfudufudu), *Cedrela odorata* (Mwerezi), *Psidium guajava* (Mpera), *Gliricidia sepum* (Mglirisidia), *Carica papaya* (Mpapai), *Mangifera indica* (Muembe), *Moringa oleifera* (Mronge), *Tamarindus indica* (Mkwaju), *Albezia labbeck* (Mkenge), *Pithecelobium dulce* (Mchongoma), *Azadirachya indica* (Mwarobaini) and *Citrus sinensis* (Mchungwa).

Most trees were donated to schools, but unfortunately survival has been adversely affected due to poor management caused by the Covid-19 closure of schools in March through June Covid-19. LCMO is working with schools to ensure the few remaining trees survive. Despite the challenges



Photos of different community members who took part in 2019-2020 tree planting campaign

## Alternative Livelihood Initiatives

LCMO supports chicken raising and beekeeping projects which help create sustainable livelihoods to the people of Mpimbwe. The chicken project specifically targeted marginalized women whereas the beekeeping project targeted all community members.

We are also working with farmers to promote beekeeping technique as a way of keeping elephants at bay in farms bordering Katavi National Park. In early 2020, LCMO received support from International Elephant Foundation to help farmers reduce human elephant conflict but also improve livelihoods from beekeeping. A group of 25 farmers were supported with beehives in the 5 villages of Kibaoni, Mirumba, Sitalike, Ilalanguru and Ikuba.

LCMO planned to move to the second beneficiaries of the chicken project at the start of this year but due to challenges caused by C-19 and the impact of lockdown to the project supporters, we postponed to September. The first beneficiaries will donate part of their first produce to the second group of 5 women in Usevya and Kibaoni village.

Exciting news is that, the first five beneficiaries are successfully managing chicken diseases, a major hindrance to the economic success of chicken farming in Mpimbwe. This group can now identify both viral and bacterial diseases and are extending their expertise to their neighbors. They can now mobilize joint vaccination hence reducing cost per individual vaccination.



1. Mrs. Angelina Beda, one of the chicken beneficiaries in Kibaoni village, 2. A section of the beehive fence installed in Sitalike village 3. Mrs. Makoe and Emmanuel Stephen with the beehives donated by LCMO.

# Composting



LCMO, with the support of Nomad Tanzania and The Guardian Project, introduced a composting program which aims to improve the livelihoods of local communities in western Tanzania, by minimizing waste generation and promoting recycling through use of leaves, grasses, ash and livestock manure to improve soil health to produce food. With this focus, composting has become recognized as recycling method for conversion of organic by-products to new resources.

From January, we involved and supported 4 primary schools (Usevya, Ikuba, Kashishi, Kakuni) and 4 secondary schools (Usevya, Mizengo Pinda, Mbede and Maji Moto). The schools have a sum of about 5850 pupils all of whom participated in preparation of compost piles.

When these piles were ready, LCMO supported each school with 5 Kg of maize seeds. The school were required to set aside part of the school farm to produce maize using the prepared compost manure. Over 40,000kgs of maize produced by these schools is used for the pupils breakfast or lunch.

We are guiding these schools in making the program sustainable, and in encouraging students to practice back at home with their families.

Compost making process in Kakuni Primary school. 2. Checking the compost progress at Kashishi Primary, 3. Mr. Lino handing over maize seeds to Kakuni Primary School teachers, 4. Farm survey in Usevya Secondary School 5. Piles of dry maize awaiting harvesting at Kakuni Primary School.

*NB: Photos were taken before and after the Tanzania national lockdown due to Covid 19 outbreak. Some of our earlier field activities were permitted by District Governments.*

## How you can help!

- LCMO relies on the generosity and kindness of our supporters. We give a million thanks to our supporters and are indebted to them for back us in such achievements.
- Please donate to an aspect of LCMO's work of your choice. You can make donation online at <http://www.lcmo.or.tz/donate>. Your 1\$ donation helps LCMO make a difference in the landscape.
- You can also volunteer your time and skills; Email us at [conservation@lcmo.or.tz](mailto:conservation@lcmo.or.tz) to enquire about opportunities.

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