



**QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**

January-March 2026

Our Mission, Vision and Core Purpose

To promote community-led approaches to lion and wildlife conservation in Western Tanzania.



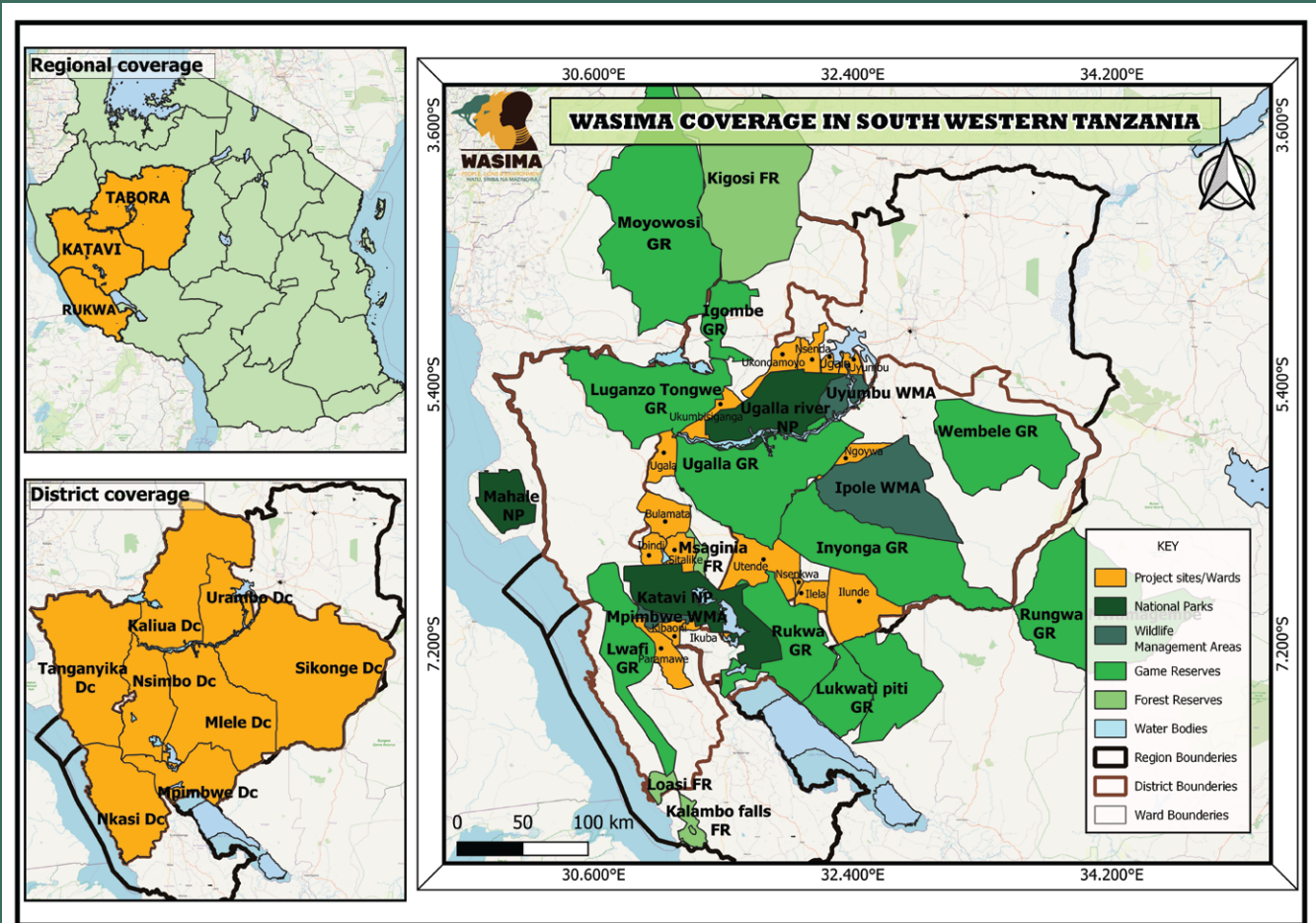
To create a healthy landscape for people and wildlife where humans, lions and other wildlife co-exist.

Our core purpose is twofold. We want to ensure that humans' land-based activities proceed in a way that preserves important wildlife habitats. Further, we want to ensure that communities can mitigate against human-lion conflicts and benefit from wildlife, thus making them more tolerant. To achieve these, we promote community-led approaches to land and wildlife conservation, including supporting wildlife management areas (WMAs), improving village-level governance, nature-based enterprises development, and supporting mitigation measures against human-lion conflicts.

Our Coverage and Approach

Our Coverage

WASIMA is based in the Mpimbwe District Council and is currently working in 25 villages bordering wildlife areas in three regions of Rukwa, Katavi, and Tabora, and eight District Councils of Mpimbwe, Mlele, Nsimbo, Tanganyika, Sikonge, Urambo, Kaliua, and Nkasi. Our long-term target is to reach 72 villages around the Katavi-Rukwa-Mahale-Ugalla-Kigosi Ecosystem surveyed in 2019-2020 and have reported recurring incidences of lion presence and related conflicts.



Our Approach

We use a community-led conservation approach and believe the community knows its needs better than anyone else. Together, we work side by side to solve problems, make decisions, and create positive changes in our community.



A Message from Our Executive Director

Across the landscapes of south-western Tanzania, local communities live side by side with some of Africa's most iconic wildlife. Yet for many families, coexistence comes with daily challenges, from livestock losses caused by carnivores, mainly lions and hyenas, to climate pressures and limited economic opportunities.

For us, we believe conservation works best when communities are empowered to thrive alongside nature. Our mission is not only to protect lions, other wildlife, and habitats, but also to strengthen livelihoods, expand opportunities, and build lasting resilience for the people who call these landscapes home.

In the first quarter of 2026, your support helped us achieve measurable impact. More than 30,300 trees were planted across 60.66 acres, restoring ecosystems and strengthening climate resilience. Our Lion Conservation Ambassadors carried out 107 patrols, walking over 14,622 kilometers and dedicating 482 hours across 25 villages to reduce human-wildlife conflict and improve monitoring. Newly installed lion-proof bomas protected 165 livestock, safeguarding livelihoods worth more than USD 13,000. Conservation awareness campaigns and community radio programs reached over 250,000 people, while 50 youth enrolled in vocational skills training to create sustainable livelihood opportunities linked to conservation. Women-led initiatives also expanded, helping families build income while reducing pressure on natural resources. Behind every number is a powerful human story: a farmer protecting crops, a student becoming a conservation leader, a mother growing her small business, or a family feeling safer because their livestock survived the night. These successes show what is possible when communities, partners, and supporters work together.

But the need remains urgent. Thousands of livestock are still vulnerable to predator attacks, degraded habitats require restoration, and many young people still lack access to sustainable opportunities. With your partnership, we can expand lion-proof bomas to high conflict villages, restore critical habitats through large-scale tree planting, empower women and youth through sustainable livelihood programs, strengthen conservation education in schools and communities, and advance peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife.

Every contribution directly strengthens conservation and improves lives. We invite you to stand with us, to learn, support, partner, and invest in a future where wildlife thrives because communities thrive too. Together, we can create lasting impact for people, wildlife, and future generations.

Jonathan Kwiyega
Executive Director, WASIMA



Our Impact in Number

Human-Lion Coexistence

05

Lion-Proof Bomas built in South-Western Tanzania to protect livestock from lions and other carnivores attacks.

165

Livestock Secured by 5 Lion Proof Bomas

USD 13,132+

The worth of livestock secured by five Lion-Proof Bomas.

Habitat Conservation

30,300+

Tree plantes planted across 60.66 acres, involving households, schools, churches, and mosques as a result of tree planting project.

52

Community members participated in reviewing and ratifying natural resource bylaws, ensuring local priorities were integrated.

120+

Participants were trained in governance, human rights, and resource management at Uyumbu WMA, strengthening community capacity for conservation.

Livelihoods & Inclusions

50

Youth admitted into vocational training initiative season two 2026

60

Chickens received by six Women in Value Addition beneficiaries (10 each) in Kizi village

81%

Trees survival rate as a result of smart-climate agriculture project.

Conservation Awareness Programme

1000+

Students reached via Students Wildlife Clubs.

250,000+

Community members reached via community radio awareness campaign

Strengthening Human-Lion Coexistence



Securing Livestock through Lion-Proof Bomas

In the first quarter of 2026, WASIMA installed five lion-proof bomas in Kibaoni and Sitalike villages, near Katavi National Park and Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area areas most affected by carnivore conflict. These secure enclosures now protect 53 household members and 165 livestock (30 cattle and 135 sheep), representing a livestock value of US \$13,132. For families living in conflict hotspots, this means fewer losses, stronger food security, and greater peace of mind.

To date, WASIMA has built 117 lion-proof bomas, safeguarding more than 5,000 livestock valued at US \$1,114,022. Yet this progress covers only 2.7% of traditional bomas in four villages and 0.9% across 25 villages in the wider landscape. With over 5,900 traditional bomas still vulnerable, scaling up remains urgent. Expanding this protection will reduce predation, strengthen community resilience, and foster lasting tolerance toward wildlife in conflict-prone areas.

Lion Conservation Ambassadors Strengthening Coexistence at the Grassroots

In the first quarter of 2026, our Lion Conservation Ambassadors carried out 107 patrols using the SMART system. They covered more than 14,622 km and dedicated 482 hours across 25 villages near Katavi National Park and Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area. Along the way, they recorded sightings of 8 lions, 93 hyenas, and 471 other wild animals, building vital data for conservation planning. The patrols also documented 43 human-wildlife conflicts, including 9 carnivore-related incidents where hyenas killed 18 goats and sheep and 2 cattle.

These records highlight the direct threat carnivores pose to household survival. This work is more than monitoring, it is frontline protection. By recording conflicts, safeguarding farms and livestock, and sharing information, the Ambassadors help families reduce losses, strengthen food security, and build confidence to live alongside lions and other carnivores. Their dedication ensures coexistence is not just a vision, but a reality for communities in conflict-prone landscapes.

Lion Conservation Ambassadors: Impact Metrics



WASIMA's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer, Ms. Elizabeth Mfumbilwa (wearing a cap), together with Lion Conservation Ambassador Mr. Vitalis Malilo, interview a community member during the human-lion conflict data collection.



PATROL EFFORTS

107 patrols conducted using the SMART system, 14,622 km walked, 482.34 hours spent on patrol, 25 villages covered
Location



WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

8 lions sighted
93 hyenas sighted
19 elephants sighted
471 other wild animals sighted



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

43 total conflicts documented
9 carnivore-related incidents
Hyenas killed: 18 goats/sheep, 2 cattle
Elephants destroyed: 30 acres of crops in southern Katavi



IMPACT STATEMENT

Lion Conservation Ambassadors protect families by patrolling villages, recording carnivore conflicts, and managing loudspeaker stations that alert communities about dangerous wildlife, reducing losses and building coexistence.



IMPACT STATEMENT

Our mission continues to protect lion populations while supporting local communities through education, conflict mitigation, and sustainable coexistence programs across the Katavi ecosystem.



GET INVOLVED

Support our conservation efforts by donating, volunteering, or spreading awareness about lion conservation. Together we can ensure lions thrive.

Human-Lion and Wildlife Conflict Early Warning Stations



Six Lion Conservation Ambassadors oversee six villages, each equipped with a Loudspeaker Early Warning System to collect and share wildlife-related information directly with community members. These stations are vital for safety and coexistence.

From the LEWS stations, a total of 47 broadcasts were aired. 25 alerts warned communities about human-wildlife conflict incidents, enabling families to protect livestock and avoid dangerous encounters with lions, hyenas, and elephants. The stations also served as platforms for conservation education, with 3 dedicated events conducted to raise awareness about coexistence and the importance of protecting wildlife. In addition, 4 social messages were aired to strengthen community ties, while 22 government announcements provided clear, cost-free communication to villages.

The impact is powerful: these early warning stations reduce losses, prevent conflicts, and build confidence that coexistence is possible. Families feel safer, communities save costs through free announcements, and conservation awareness grows stronger. By combining patrols with timely alerts and education, the Ambassadors ensure that people and wildlife can thrive side by side.

Habitat Conservation and Wildlife Monitoring



The headmaster of Usevya Primary school demonstrates proper tree planting techniques to students.



WASIMA's Field Officer, Mr. Paul from WASIMA guides a student from Tupindo Primary School during a tree-planting activity

Tree Planting in Mpimbwe Districts in Katavi Region

In this quarter we have managed to restore 60.66 acres of land by planting over 30,328 trees of diverse varieties, including fruit and non fruit species. This restoration was a collective effort; households, schools, churches, and mosques all joined in, turning tree planting into a true community movement.

By engaging families and institutions alike, the program has created living landscapes that strengthen food security, provide shade, enrich soil fertility, and secure habitats for wildlife. These trees stand as a symbol of resilience and shared responsibility, showing how collective action can heal ecosystems and build a greener future.

Conservation Awareness Program



WASIMA staff Mr. Paul Yohana guides student during a practical conservation study, observing birds high in the trees through binoculars to deepen their understanding of wildlife and habitat conservation.

In this quarter, WASIMA managed to establish four new School Wildlife Clubs in Mpimbwe and Nsimbo districts in Katavi Region, engaging pupils across the Katavi ecosystem. Of those reached, 48.5% were boys and 51.5% were girls, showing a strong gender balance in participation. This brings the total to 19 clubs under WASIMA programs, a growing network of young conservation champions.

Through these clubs, students also joined conservation talks at Usevya and Mizengo Pinda Secondary Schools. Here, 54% of participants were boys and 46% were girls, reflecting the active involvement of both genders. The sessions, delivered in collaboration with Katavi National Park's Community Conservation Services (CCS) department, emphasized the vital role of youth in protecting wildlife. Additional eco-studies and club sessions further deepened understanding of coexistence and conservation values.

Beyond schools, WASIMA partnered with Mpimbwe FM Radio to extend conservation awareness to the wider community. Through just two radio sessions, more than 250,000 community members in Mpimbwe district were reached, proving that conservation messages can travel far and unite entire communities.



WASIMA's Conservation Awareness Program Coordinator, Ms. Happyness, delivers a conservation message to the community through Mpimbwe FM Radio.

Empowering Communities Through Conservation, Livelihood and Special projects



WASIMA staff Mr. Elinuru Isaya and Ms. Asha Masudi, together with the Community Development Officer, conduct a site visit in Kizi Village to evaluate costs for constructing market stalls for one of the women beneficiaries in the value-addition program.

Vocation Training-Second Cohort Launch

WASIMA has launched the second cohort of the vocational training project in five villages around Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area and Katavi National Park. The program received 132 applications with women making up the majority, and after a careful selection process, 50 trainees qualified (29 female and 21 male). This strong interest reflects the commitment of local youth to build practical skills that support both livelihoods and conservation. To begin the journey, WASIMA organized a gathering that brought together local trainers and the new trainees, creating a foundation for collaboration and hands-on learning.

The training plan is straightforward and impactful. Students will spend three months attached to local trainers to gain vocational skills, followed by three months of mentorship under WASIMA. This approach ensures that communities living alongside wildlife are equipped with opportunities that strengthen livelihoods, reduce pressure on natural resources, and build confidence in coexistence. By linking vocational skills with conservation values, the program shows that protecting nature also means investing in people's futures.

Women in Value Addition

Under the Women in Value Addition program, four out of six poultry beneficiaries (67%) showed strong progress by expanding from the initial ten chickens to more than forty, while also producing eggs and manure that add value to their households. Despite this success, some beneficiaries faced challenges with poultry diseases, reminding us of the importance of resilience and support in livelihood projects.

At the same time, five pottery beneficiaries have improved their income by diversifying into poultry and agriculture, while others expanded their productivity in pottery itself. Food and vegetable vendors also continued to grow, though some faced challenges linked to local government authority. Together, these efforts show how women are strengthening their livelihoods, reducing dependence on unsustainable practices, and linking conservation with everyday survival.

Climate-Smart Agriculture Progress

In February, the project team conducted a comprehensive monitoring visit to beneficiaries in Mirumba Village under the Climate-Smart Agriculture initiative. The assessment revealed a strong tree survival rate of over 81% for seedlings planted in the first quarter. While this outcome is encouraging, farmers continue to face challenges such as pest infestations, lodging caused by heavy rainfall, and theft of fruit seedlings including mango, guava, and pawpaw.

To sustain momentum and support beneficiaries, the project implemented a replacement plan for lost seedlings. This quarter, a total of 183 replacement seedlings were distributed, 75 pawpaw, 58 guava, and 50 gliricidia. This timely intervention restores tree stocks, strengthens agroforestry practices, and ensures communities continue to benefit from climate-smart solutions that improve food security, resilience, and habitat conservation.



Agroforestry beneficiary at Mirumba village harvesting vegetables at her household farm for meal (Photo by LCA-John)

Organization Development, Collaboration, and Partnership

Over the past three months, WASIMA has strengthened its organization and partnerships through a series of impactful activities. A retreat session brought together our teams from both the Katavi and Ugalla ecosystems to reflect on the 2025 work plan, address challenges, and chart the way forward for 2026. To reinforce our capacity, two new staff members were recruited at the Usoke station a Human-Lion Conflict Mitigation Officer and a Governance Officer. The program team also benefited from a workshop designed to refresh and align their roles, while a dedicated Human Resource training, facilitated by our partners at Honeyguide Foundation, equipped staff with skills in self-awareness, attitude change, personal branding, leadership, and management. In addition, WASIMA's Executive Director, Program Manager, and Communication Officer represented the organization at the Business of Conservation Conference 2026 in Nairobi, strengthening our visibility and networks.

Collaboration has also expanded in the field. Panthera Tanzania visited our program sites in the Ugalla ecosystem to understand the areas where we are implementing Human-Lion conflict interventions, opening doors for future collaboration alongside the Luganzo Tongwe Game Reserve. Together with Honeyguide Foundation, and under the support of ADAP, we facilitated a site-level assessment of good governance and equity at Ipole. These efforts reflect WASIMA's commitment to building strong teams, nurturing partnerships, and ensuring that conservation is rooted in both community resilience and organizational strength.



Strengthening Community Governance for Sustainable Resource Management

Community-Led Natural Resource Governance.

Under our Natural Resource Governance program, we facilitated and supported the ratification of natural resource bylaws in Kizi village, Nkasi district, where a participatory village assembly brought together 52 community members to review and refine the bylaws. This inclusive process ensured that local priorities and ecological realities were fully integrated, strengthening governance and accountability at the grassroots level.

The bylaws, developed through the Village Natural Resource Management and Governance Appraisal Action Plan, are now pending district council approval. Once adopted, they will provide communities with stronger tools to manage natural resources sustainably, a critical step in reducing human-wildlife conflict and promoting human-lion coexistence in south-western Tanzania.



A photo of Village Game Scouts (VGS) attend a human-rights training at Uyumbu WMA, Urambo District to strengthening fairness and respect in law enforcement and conflict resolution.

Supporting Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area

Progress Monitoring & Learning

At Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area (UWIMA), we facilitated progress monitoring and learning sessions with 40 participants, including AA, Village Game Scouts, community representatives, NGOs, conservation agencies, and district officials.

Together, they reviewed the action plan proposed during the 2023 Site Level Assessment of Good Governance and Equity. This participatory process ensured that conservation strategies remain transparent, inclusive, and aligned with community priorities.

By strengthening governance, communities are better equipped to manage land and resources sustainably a foundation for reducing human-lion conflict and protecting habitats.

Building Capacity for Coexistence

This quarter we engaged over 80 in two key governance trainings. First, 33 Village Game Scouts, AA, and management teams were engaged in human rights training, equipping them with rights-based approaches to land use, resource access, and anti-poaching enforcement. This training builds trust, prevents conflict, and ensures communities feel respected and included, a vital step in securing long-term support for conservation and coexistence with lions.

In addition, 50 participants joined Governance in Action sessions, with 32 focusing on responsibilities of AA, management, and Village Game Scouts in decision-making for wildlife conservation. These sessions strengthened accountability and empowered local institutions to safeguard natural resources fairly. Together, these trainings enhance legitimacy, promote voluntary community involvement, and ensure that habitat conservation delivers benefits for both people and wildlife.



Next Quarter Plan (April-June)

Human-Lion Conflict Mitigation Program

We will assess Lion-Proof Boma (LPB) beneficiaries, procure and install chain-link fencing, and improve the loudspeaker early warning system. The program will also extend to new villages in Urambo, Mtakuja, Nsenda, Kamalendi, and Itebulanda, expanding protection and coexistence efforts.

Conservation Awareness

We will launch public presentations and film shows, organize park trips, and conduct stakeholder engagement workshops. School wildlife clubs will hold class sessions, eco-studies, and conservation talks to inspire young conservation leaders.

Habitat Conservation

Our team will facilitate and support natural resource bylaws in Nsimbo, Mpimbwe, Kaliua, and Urambo districts. We will assess tree survival rates, strengthen the District Advisory Board (DAB) at Uyumbu WMA, and conduct a study tour for Uyumbu AA and management to Makame WMA. In addition, camera traps will be installed at Uyumbu WMA to enhance monitoring and habitat protection.

Alternative Livelihood Program

This quarter will focus on scaling value-addition support and strengthening business coaching. We will recruit 50 new women into value-addition for natural and agricultural products, enhance agroforestry technical support, and finalize the energy-saving stove baseline assessment before starting phase two. Stove installations will continue, alongside monitoring and coaching for vocational training projects.

Organization Development and Partnerships

WASIMA staff will attend Fundraising and Fund Management workshops, and participate in exchange learning programs with Kope Lion and Honeyguide Foundation. A MEL workshop with Maliasili will further strengthen our monitoring, evaluation, and learning capacity.

THANK YOU



This quarter's achievements were only possible because of the dedication of our communities, partners, and supporters. From restoring habitats and strengthening governance to empowering women and promoting human-lion coexistence, every step forward reflects the power of collaboration.

We invite you to continue walking with us. By joining hands, you help protect wildlife, support resilient livelihoods, and build a future where people and lions thrive together. Whether through partnerships, volunteering, or sharing our story, your involvement makes a lasting difference.

Together, we can turn conservation into a shared responsibility and ensure that the landscapes of south-western Tanzania remain vibrant for generations to come.

Conservation is not the work of a few, it is the responsibility of all of us. At WASIMA, we invite you to stand with communities in south-western Tanzania to protect habitats, empower livelihoods, and promote human-lion coexistence. Your involvement is the difference between fragile landscapes and thriving ecosystems. You can be part of our mission by volunteering your time and skills in awareness campaigns and school wildlife clubs, donating to run our programs, partnering with us as an organization, individual or business, joining programs such as park trips and eco-studies, or spreading the word to inspire others.

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



TOGETHER WE GREW: GRATITUDE AND PROGRESS





WASIMA

PEOPLE, LIONS & ENVIRONMENT
WATU, SIMBA NA MAZINGIRA

P.O.Box 285,MPANDA,KATAVI

Email: conservation@wasima.or.tz

Website:www.wasima.or.tz



Photos by;
Asha Masoud,

Elinuru Isaya, Kelvin Evod, Paul Yohana,
Elizabeth Mfumbilwa, Abel Michael,
Denis Onesmo, Happyness Jackson,
Gilya Lino and Abiud Mpsa

**Promoting Human-Lion Coexistence
in South-Western Tanzania**