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

LCMOs Quarterly Newsletter

April -June 2023

Director's Overview

Like during the first quarter, LCMO has consistently undergone internal organization development. Our management team has grown from 4 to 12. In addition, we have recruited three interns and 25 Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs). During this second quarter, our team resumed outreaches, our human-lion coexistence program leaders visited Lion Landscapes as part of a staff exchange to learn about lion occupancy monitoring, data collection toolkits, and management. We also attempted the preparation of training manuals and guidelines and established a partnership agreement with Uyumbu Wildlife Management Society all intended to promote community-led lion conservation. We thus have the Village Natural Resource Management and Governance Training Guide, Lion proof bomas guide, Beekeepers groups training guide and constitution, the Youth Lion Clubs Guide and Guardian Training Manual, and Village MOUs for Human-Lion Conflict (HLC) Loudspeaker Early Warning System establishment. Two more HLC-LEWS were built in two villages bordering Ugalla River National Park and Luganzo-Tongwe Game Reserve making the sum of 6 stations LCMO has built in six HLCs threatened villages. Two of our program coordinators were privileged to join international training for youth conservation leaders at RISE and Grumeti Fund for Science Communication Course supported by RISE, Grumeti Fund and the University of Leiden (Happyness Jackson) and Nelson Mandela Washington Fellowship (Belinda Mligo). Moreover, our team has continued to work in the field facilitating a program and mostly getting most ready for the next two active quarters of the year when the LCMO team spends substantial time in the field. We appreciate our supporters for continuing to generously support our work and team. We are struggling for more resources to empower and equip our team and organization to be able to outperform our strategic plan. I thus request your generosity to LCMO. You can support us by committing more donations, volunteering with us, sharing our newsletter and social media posts and even speaking to a friend about our work. Please email us to support our initiatives.
Wishing you all the best in the second part of the year 2023,

Jonathan Kwiyega,

LCMO Executive Director.

Predator-Proof Bomas in Sitalike Village

LCMO has started installing predator-proof bomas in villages around Katavi National Park where pastoralists have suffered livestock depredation losses by lions for years. Installation becomes one of our initiatives to mitigate losses induced by depredation. Sitalike village is one of the villages that have consistently reported incidences of carnivore attacks, especially lions. Almost in all our key selected focal villages for human-lion conflict victims to get a boma built in their households, we consider willingness to contribute 25% of the boma installing cost which is provided in the form of poles, land clearing, and food for LCAs during the boma installation. Our bomas are installed temporarily to also fertilize the soil to maximize crop and food productivity when selected groups especially the victims who previously suffered lion attacks, lost livestock, and those that reside near identified wildlife routes/corridors and are at risk of carnivore attacks. So far three bomas have been installed and we look to install over 20 in the next 12 months.

This is one of the predator-proof boma installed in Sitalike. This boma-beneficiary lost one cow to lions recently

LCMO & LL team during the exchange program at the LL camp in Iringa.

Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization – Lion Landscapes Exchange Program

Towards promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing to address conservation challenges, LCMO and Lion Landscapes are now partnering through the support of the Lion Recovery Fund to strengthen the capacity to strengthen Lion Data Management and Monitoring. In the first phase of this partnership, three LCMO team members (Emmanuel, Belinda, and Lino) visited Lion Landscapes and joined their team for a week to learn from their methods and techniques for collecting and managing data on the interactions between large carnivores and humans in villages bordering Ruaha National Park.

Additionally, the LCMO team was also exposed to methods of managing conflict using predator-proof chain link bomas which we are currently installing in our project area, canvas bomas, predator deterrent lights, and first aid kit for injured livestock. In the second phase of this, the Lion Landscapes team will visit LCMO in Mpimbwe to learn the implementation of the lessons learned but also learn from LCMO.

Internal Workshop to Strengthen Capacity for Communication in Community-Based Conservation

LCMO held an internal workshop involving its program coordinators and stakeholders from Nsimbo and Mpimbwe District Game officers, Tanzania National Parks Authority (Katavi National Park), and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (Rukwa and Ugalla River Game Reserve) to learn strategies for better communication in community-based conservation.

Every year, LCMO in collaboration with the above stakeholders, conducts a joint community outreach event in villages bordering the Rukwa-Katavi-Mahale-Ugalla-Kigosi ecosystem, and such meetings and workshops are indeed beneficial to review new strategies and effective approaches to the complex and cross-cutting challenges to conservation today.
LCMO also had a chance to brief on its new five-year strategic plan but also discussed and developed initial ideas for the development of a manual for the assessment and improvement of village natural resource management and governance. We have developed the first contextual draft of the village natural resource management and governance leader's training guide. This guide aimed to strengthen and empower village institutions in areas of management and governance of natural resources at the community level.

The LCMO team, stakeholders from TANAPA, TAWA, and District Councils after the intense discussion on strategic communication in community-based conservation.

Youth and the Environment Program

LCMO continued to empower youth in schools through the establishment of new environmental clubs in new areas covered under our 25 focal villages. Over this period, the youth coordinating team has established four new environmental clubs in four schools (Kashela and Sitalike Primary School and Mirumba and Sitalike Secondary Schools.
Since April, over 408 students were reached through class teachings and conservation talks. students are also taught about human-wildlife interaction and the need to educate their parents back home on the application of these methods to reduce damage caused by wildlife. We also conduct wildlife art challenges and students portray their potential talents to showcase different wildlife species.

Students from Sitalike Primary School portraying a lion image drawn during the drawing challenge in their school.

Loudspeaker Early Warning System (LEWS)

In June, LCMO installed two new stations in Lumbe and Ukumbisiganga villages which borders Ugalla River National Park and Luganzo-Tongwe Game Reserve. We also renovated the Sitalike station by building a house for the safety of the equipment. We currently have six stations across Katavi and Tabora regions. To improve these stations' utilization, we are preparing audio files that will be aired daily.

A photo of Lumbe village LEWS station

Topics will revolve around two key areas that our strategic plan focuses on addressing human-lion conflict and the issue of biodiversity loss.

Meet our new interns!

Mashaka Kija has a Bachelor of Science in Education with Computer Science (2018) from Ruaha Catholic University (RUCU). He is currently an intern at LCMO and working as Community Conservation Education and Outreach Officer. Previously, he worked as an Education Officer at Nyumba Ali Onlus (organization) in Iringa but also served as a tutor and ICT officer at Mwanza Medical and Vocational Academy (college). Kija originates from the Sukuma pastoral communities and enjoys working with agro and pastoral groups to foster their coexistence with lions and the environment at large.

Abiud Mpasa has a degree in Accounting and Finance degree from Moshi Cooperative University. He joined Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization as Communication Officer. Abiud has additional skills in photography, videography, website designing, profile designing, and content creation. He is also passionate about working with youth and developing youth engagement activities. We are privileged and excited to have him as part of our team.

Benson A. Mremi has a bachelor's degree in wildlife management from the College of African Wildlife Management, MWEKA. He has wide exposure to wildlife management acquired from different protected areas in Tanzania including Serengeti, Tarangire, Manyara National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and wildlife Management Areas. Benson has a deep passion for bird watching, research, wildlife inventory, and monitoring and hopes to utilize his passion and skills toward the fulfillment of the LCMO strategic goals.

Kindly follow us on ***Facebook***, ***Twitter***, ***YouTube,*** and ***Instagram*** for weekly news. You can also check our website **http://www.lcmo.or.tz** for updates and share our work.

Special thanks to Maliasili Initiative, Lion Recovery Fund, Wildlife Conservation Network, Nomad Tanzania, and The Rufford Foundation for their endless support our organization and special projects.