

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



WASIMA

PEOPLE, LIONS & ENVIRONMENT
WATU, SIMBA NA MAZINGIRA

Message from the Director

The year 2023 has been a resounding success for WASIMA (formerly LCMO) in terms of internal development, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of new activities aligned with our new strategic plan. In the past quarters, WASIMA remained committed to supporting communities residing near wildlife areas, focusing on education and outreach initiatives, implementing Predator-Proof Bomas to mitigate livestock loss, and providing training on natural resource management and governance to enhance community-based conservation efforts at the grassroots level. We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support and dedication from our local, national, and international stakeholders.

We are thrilled to announce that we have re-registered our organization name to WATU, SIMBA na MAZINGIRA (WASIMA), meaning People Lions and the Environment to reflect our organization niche, focus strategic vision, and mission. With this new name, WASIMA is positioned to promote harmony between humans, lions, and other wildlife that thrive in the healthy landscape of western Tanzania.

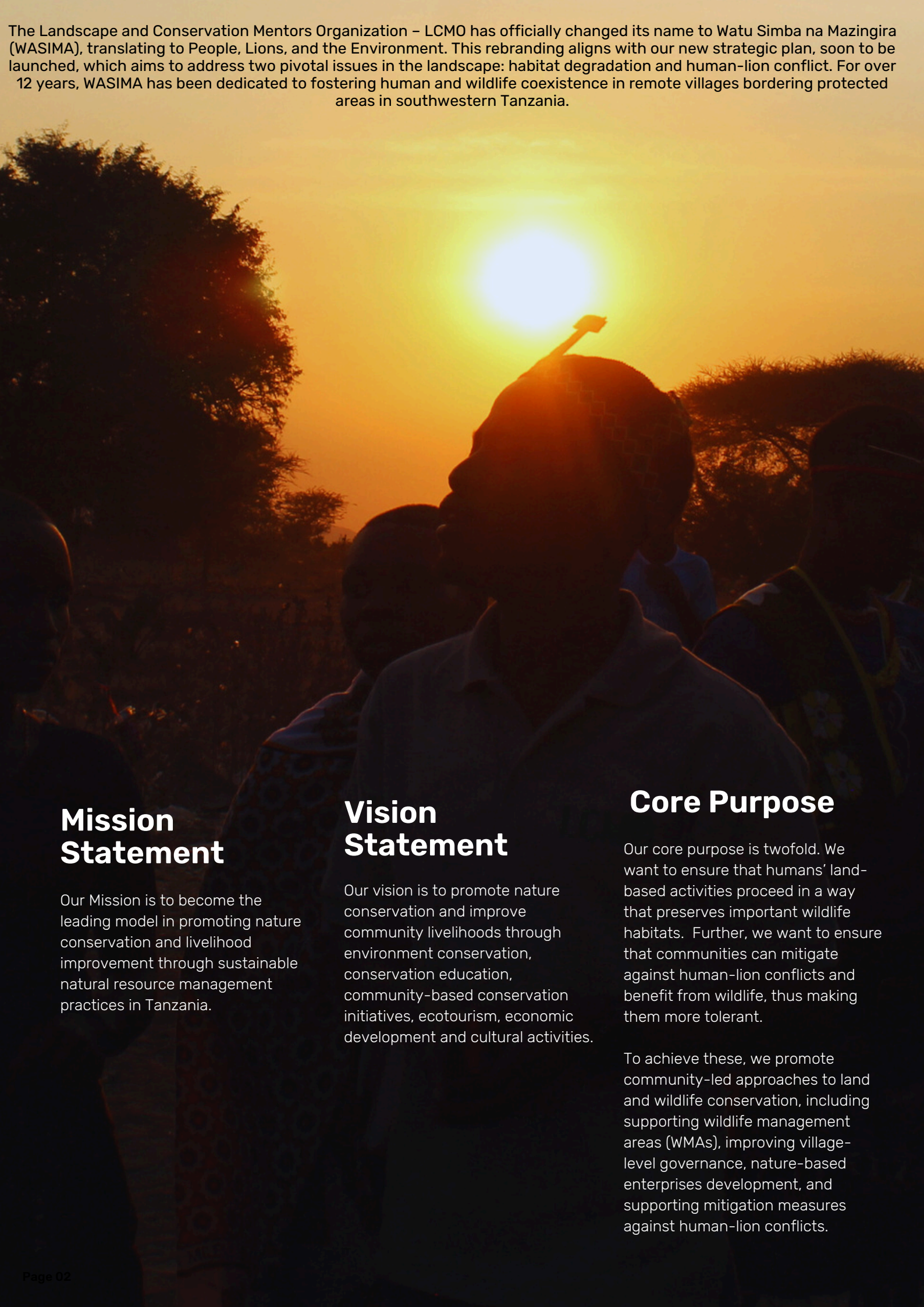
A heartfelt thank you to the WASIMA board members who worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure our success. Our office and field teams have demonstrated tireless dedication and commitment, resulting in the successful implementation of numerous projects throughout the year. Despite challenges such as some instances of human-lion conflicts, we sincerely appreciate all community members in our landscape for their increased resilience in mitigating such conflicts despite the encountered losses.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, the government, and all partners for entrusting us with the resources to promote human-wildlife coexistence in southwestern Tanzania.

Jonathan L Kwiyega
Executive Director - WASIMA



The Landscape and Conservation Mentors Organization – LCMO has officially changed its name to Watu Simba na Mazingira (WASIMA), translating to People, Lions, and the Environment. This rebranding aligns with our new strategic plan, soon to be launched, which aims to address two pivotal issues in the landscape: habitat degradation and human-lion conflict. For over 12 years, WASIMA has been dedicated to fostering human and wildlife coexistence in remote villages bordering protected areas in southwestern Tanzania.



Mission Statement

Our Mission is to become the leading model in promoting nature conservation and livelihood improvement through sustainable natural resource management practices in Tanzania.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to promote nature conservation and improve community livelihoods through environment conservation, conservation education, community-based conservation initiatives, ecotourism, economic development and cultural activities.

Core Purpose

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.

IMPACT OVERVIEW



2+ HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT (HWC) LOUDSPEAKER EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS.

Installed in two villages, Lumbe and Ukumbisiganga bordering Ugalla River NP and Luganzo-Tongwe Game Reserve. This makes a sum of six stations across the Katavi and Tabora regions.

Through LEWS, 29 HWC have been reported to the community hence reducing multiply effect and losses related to each of this single HWCs that would have been caused by the encountered wildlife.

2+ BEEKEEPING GROUPS ESTABLISHED AND TRAINED

Comprising 45 members, in the villages of Kizi and Kibaoni as part of efforts to support livelihood initiatives in communities residing adjacent to wildlife.

7 VILLAGES REACHED AND 246 COMMUNITY LEADERS ENGAGED AND TRAINED

This is through the Natural Resource Management and Governance Appraisal Toolkit developed to support the sustainable management of community-based natural resources under local village and district governments.

4 COMMUNITY GROUPS VISITED KATAVI NATIONAL PARK

Through our 'Day in the Park' initiative, 157 community members embarked on educational trips to Katavi National Park. This excursion offers the community invaluable opportunities to witness and understand the rich biodiversity of Katavi National Park. Additionally, it strengthens the bond between the community and the wildlife authority, fostering a deeper connection with wildlife conservation efforts.

16 PREDATOR-PROOF LIVESTOCK BOMAS

Constructed to protect livestock from carnivores around Katavi and Ugalla River National Park, Luganzo - Tongwe Game Reserve, and Msaginia Forest Reserve. They also serve to ensure livestock do not break out of the shed at night to destroy crops. 802 livestock secured worthy \$340,476.

16 CONSERVATION EDUCATION OUTREACH

Events were held, reaching 3,034 community members through conservation film screenings in 12 villages across the landscape.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Engagement in Environmental Conservation

- WASIMA integrated environmental education into school curricula to cultivate a sense of environmental responsibility among youth. Through the youth program, we achieved the following milestones:
- Impacted 2,020 students through school-based wildlife club events.
- Established 4 new wildlife clubs and trained 17 wildlife club teachers to serve as club guardians.
- Educated 600 students through conservation film screenings and facilitated an outdoor ecological study trip for 30 students.
- Coordinated medical treatment trips Kafika House in Arusha for 43 children with physical disabilities, under the generous support of Nomad Tanzania.
- 435,885 trees were planted in schools and farms across Mpimbwe and some parts of Nkasi District through a sister greening campaign program.



Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs)



- For years, communities residing near protected areas within the landscape, primarily comprised of farmers and livestock keepers, have grappled with the challenges posed by wildlife presence on their lands, often without adequate support to mitigate associated costs.
- In 2023, WASIMA enhanced community engagement village game scouts as Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs). These village representatives were deployed as WASIMA personnel to assist our staff with monitoring conflicts, facilitating conflict resolution within communities, conducting educational outreach, carnivore proof kraals building, and providing essential extension services such as first aid for injured livestock in their respective villages.
- Presently, 20 LCAs have been enlisted to serve priority villages facing high HLCs vulnerability.

Organizational Growth

Our strategic plan prioritizes bolstering the team's capacity to execute field activities efficiently. This focus ensures that we can effectively translate our vision into tangible action on the ground. By nurturing our team's skills and capabilities, we aim to achieve greater success in our environmental conservation efforts.

In 2023, we successfully recruited an Accounting Officer, Communication Officer and two Field Officers. The addition of these crucial roles marks a significant milestone for our organization, as we have long operated without such vital support, made possible through the invaluable assistance of our partners. Our team has grown from 12 in 2021 to 15, making a total of 35 (plus LCAs) in 2024.



Abiud Mpsa
Communication Officer



Errio Tom
Finance and Administration Officer



Mashaka Kija
HLC Field Officer – Ugalla -
Kigosi Ecosystem



Benson Amos Mremi
HLC Field Officer – Ugalla -
Kigosi Ecosystem

Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations.

In 2023, WASIMA furthered its commitment to enhancing partnerships by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uyumbu WMA. This significant agreement aims to fortify support for the management and governance of the Uyumbu WMA to maximize its positive contribution community members from member villages and conservation impacts for lions and other wildlife and neighbor ecosystem.

This MoU represents a pivotal step towards achieving shared conservation goals in the region. We look forward for an incoming partnership with Honeyguide Foundation to strengthen our team effort for Uyumbu and other Western Tanzania WMAs.



Exchange Program with Lion Landscapes



In 2023, WASIMA and Lion Landscapes initiated a collaboration envisioning sharing knowledge and team capacity building on carnivore occupancy and the related conflicts monitoring. The program was designed to improve data collection and database management for carnivore monitoring within the Rukwa-Katavi-Mahale-Ugalla-Kigosi ecosystem. During the visit of WASIMA members to Lion Landscapes, significant experiential learning occurred, resulting in enhancements to our data practices. WASIMA greatly benefited from the insights provided by Lion Landscapes, thereby fortifying our data management capabilities. This partnership forms a robust foundation for continued collaboration and advancements in carnivore monitoring within the region.

Training on SMART, SAGE & MA&T by Honeyguide Foundation

In early 2023, we facilitated a comprehensive training session led by two esteemed experts from the Honeyguide Foundation. This initiative aimed to enhance our team's proficiency in utilizing essential tools such as the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), Site-Level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE), and Management Assessment and Tools (MA&T). Our primary focus was to elevate our capabilities in data collection and management, bolstering our competence to collaborate effectively with Uyumbu and other prospective Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) within the landscape.



Engagement in Key Events for Learning, Networking, and Closer Collaborations with Partners

- Five members of our team participated in the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute 14th scientific conference to showcase our conservation efforts in western Tanzania, while also expanding our network and connections within the conservation field.
- We participated in the African Community Conservation Forum in Naivasha organized by the Maliasili Initiative, where we exchanged perspectives, ideas, and experiences regarding partnerships and power dynamics among communities, local African CSOs, international NGOs, and donors.
- Miss Belinda Mligo (Human and Lion Coexistence Program Coordinator- (for Rukwa-Katavi-Mahale ecosystem)) was selected and participated in the Mandela Washington Fellowship, a program aimed at empowering young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking opportunities.
- Happiness Jackson (Our Youth Engagement and Environment Conservation Program Coordinator) was awarded an opportunity to attend the Women in Conservation Technology training under RISE, a specialized program aimed at empowering women with the essential skills and knowledge to thrive in conservation technology fields.
- Jonathan was invited by the Office of the Vice President to serve as a facilitator, enhancing the leadership capacity in restoring the ecological systems of the Great Rukwa and Ruaha basins.
- WASIMA represented western Tanzania in developing the national lion and leopard action plan organized by the Wildlife Division, TAWIRI, and WWF.
- The WASIMA team participated in the International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) conference in Kigali Rwanda.

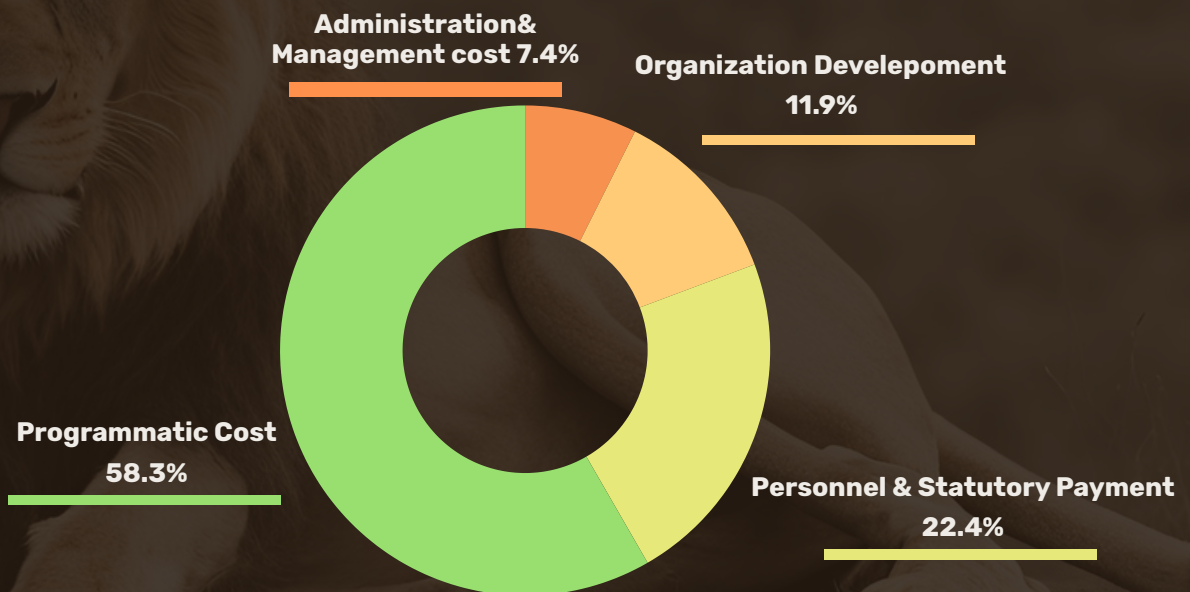
Our Financial trend from 2022 to 2023

INCOME

Donor	TSH (2023)	USD (2023)	TSH (2022)	USD (2022)
Total Donations	345,885,471.00	142,830.50	112,086,671.00	46,285.25
Balance Brought Forward	<u>40,318,947.74</u>	<u>16,649.40</u>	<u>149,745,102.00</u>	<u>61,835.98</u>
Total Budget	<u>386,204,418.74</u>	<u>159,479.90</u>	<u>261,831,773.00</u>	<u>108,121.23</u>

EXPENDITURES	TSH (2023)	USD (2023)	TSH (2022)	USD (2022)
Administration & Management Cost	25,010,277.00	10,327.78	25,701,500.00	10,613.22
Organization Development	40,172,000.00	16,588.69	16,774,423.00	6,926.86
Personnel & Statutory Payment	75,627,970.74	31,229.93	50,001,200.00	20,647.58
Programmatic Cost	<u>197,125,827.00</u>	<u>81,401.45</u>	<u>129,036,650.00</u>	<u>53,284.60</u>
TOTAL	<u>337,936,074.74</u>	<u>139,547.85</u>	<u>221,513,773.00</u>	<u>91,472.25</u>

EXPENDITURES FOR 2023



Onwards 2024



- WASIMA Strategic Plan: Finalizing and launching our five-year strategic plan (2024-2028).
- Fundraising: Directing fundraising efforts towards securing long-term funding and strengthening current partnerships.
- Community-Based Conservation: Partnering with the Honeyguide Foundation to kickstart support implementation in Uyumbu and other potential Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).
- Predator-proof Livestock Bomas: Expanding the construction of predator-proof livestock bomas to new areas in Mlele, Sikonge, and Tanganyika, and experimenting with two new mitigation methods, such as solar lights.
- Staff Capacity Building: Constantly enhancing our team's capabilities to effectively execute our strategic plan.
- Enhanced LCAs Training: Improving our training content and increasing the number of LCAs trained in our primary operational regions.
- Potential Carbon Investment: Developing the skills of specific team members to explore carbon investment opportunities effectively.
- Livelihood Initiatives: Strengthening the beekeeping project and promoting greater involvement of women in income-generating activities to improve the economic resilience of communities in the landscape.

Our Partners and Funders

We express our sincere gratitude and express our heartfelt appreciation for the valuable support in achieving our mission



Lion
Recovery
Fund



nomad





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