



WASIMA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER APRIL-JUNE 2024



From Our Director

Dear readers,

We have been able to resume our field work after the rainy season when we are less active in the field. We have been able to conduct village natural resource management and governance appraisals in villages making Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area (WMA). With the support and facilitation of our partner Honeyguide, we had the Uyumbu WMA leaders visiting Randlen WMA and undergoing intensive good governance and Management practices training held in Manyara. Our team attended the Youth for Nature Conference and Maliasili communication workshop in Morogoro, Tanzania. On the other hand, we continued undertaking other program indoor and field-related activities such as new collaboration project inception, building carnivore-proof bomas, and youth engagements despite transport challenges encountered in the middle of the quarter.

How delightful it has been to reconnect and undertake the briefly described activities held between April and June, during which our only two vehicles simultaneously faced serious engine breakdowns. It has been so difficult for all of us ever. Please join us in giving a million thanks to all our partners and supporters for keeping their commitments and generosity to ensure WASIMA continues to implement and execute our strategic plan. Our current progress and impacts are shared on the [WASIMA website](#). Many special thanks to Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund, Great Plains Foundation-Big Cats Initiatives, and Cincinnati Zoo for their generous commitment to emergently support the procurement of a brand new 4WD Landcruiser. We feel so lucky and highly motivated, inspired, and encouraged with energy to work even harder to promote human-lion coexistence in southern western Tanzania.

Jonathan L. Kwiyege

Executive Director - WASIMA



Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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.

Our 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.

Values

1. Shared responsibility/Teamwork: We plan together, we act together, and we win together.
2. Context matters to us: We invest in understanding the context - cultural, social, and ecological contexts to create effective solutions.
3. Community-first: We observe, value, and respect local community traditions and values. We consult communities, learn from them, and get their consent before initiating programs and projects. Our impact is based on and measured by the community's commitment to conservation.
4. Evidence-driven: We embrace science and base our actions on the best available information. We strive to learn from others doing similar work in different contexts.
5. Ownership: We are not just employees.
6. We have developed a sense of ownership of the organization and are passionate about our work.
7. Keep promises: We never promise what we cannot deliver, this is key to maintaining community trust.
8. We respect authorities: In doing our work, we respect the law of the land and mandated institutions.

Our Quarterly Insights

Village-Level Natural Resource and Governance Appraisal

This quarter, our team completed the initial phase of the Natural Resources Management and Governance assessment in Izimbili, Nsogolo, and Izegabatogilwe villages near the Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area and Walla Forest Reserve in the Urambo district. We closely engaged 170 participants, including community leaders and local authorities, through large group sessions and smaller team-based discussions focusing on key issues like poaching, deforestation, population growth, and overgrazing.

Our efforts concentrated on developing innovative solutions such as environmental education, strict enforcement of ecological by-laws, tree-planting initiatives, modern agricultural practices, and sustainable

livelihood programs. These initiatives are designed to effectively address these challenges. Together, we have developed actionable strategies for the next phase aimed at achieving a harmonious balance between human needs and the conservation of natural resources at the grassroots level.



Mr. Emmanuel Boniphance (Urambo DGO) responding to a question that was posed by the community members during the Natural Resource Management and Governance training at Nsogolo village in Urambo DC

Support for the Mpimbwe WMA New Management Team

As part of our recent engagement with Mpimbwe WMA, which is now fully certified, we held pivotal meetings with the new chairman and secretary of the organization to strengthen our partnership and strengthen their initiatives. As part of our efforts to increase their operational efficiency, we developed a smart work plan that included personalized training and the provision of computers and printers for their office. In addition, we conducted intensive management and governance training for 27 newly appointed leaders and stakeholders from the four villages within the Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area. Discussions focused on understanding the WMA's purpose, defining roles amidst challenges like environmental degradation and

human-wildlife conflict, and emphasizing the urgent need for logistical support such as vehicles and firearms to bolster patrol capabilities. We proposed actionable solutions and advocated for collaborative efforts with local and governmental entities to secure resources and establish clear WMA boundaries. Looking ahead, WASIMA remains committed to restoring and safeguarding Mpimbwe WMA, leveraging our strengthened partnership and expertise from Honeyguide and Uyumbu WMA to enhance management, governance, and anti-poaching efforts.

Empowering Uyumbu WMA: Knowledge Exchange and Governance Training at Randilen WMA



A group photos for Uyumbu WMA, Honey Guide foundation and WASIMA team during the study tour in Randilen



In early June 2024, 25 members of the Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area (UWIMA) Authorized Association (AA) participated in a knowledge exchange and learning visit to the Randilen Wildlife Management Area. This visit exposed them to successful WMAs, facilitating discussions on governance structures, leadership strategies, human-wildlife conflict management, sustainable business models, and investment practices. Subsequently, our partners, the Honeyguide Foundation

conducted comprehensive training sessions on governance, management, roles and responsibilities, and sustainability at UWIMA, fostering dialogue aimed at positioning UWIMA as a model for other WMAs in western Tanzania. These initiatives are designed to empower UWIMA with the knowledge and tools necessary for sustainable natural resource management and community development over the next five years. Ongoing collaboration and stakeholder commitment will be crucial in achieving these ambitious conservation goals.

Predator Proof Bomas



Mr. Meshack Kija with Lion Proof Boma beneficiary and his family at Situbwike sub-village in Sitalike village (left) and one among finished Lion Proof Boma (Right).



In the first half of the year, we extended our support to communities affected by carnivores near Katavi National Park. Collaborating closely with livestock keepers in Sitalike village, we identified optimal sites for constructing predator-proof bomas. This initiative helped us establish 10 predator-proof bomas, benefiting 10 households comprising 89 family members. These structures have secured 223 cattle and 37 shoats (goats and sheep), collectively valued at TSH 181,360,000 (\$70,159).

This significant investment safeguards community livelihoods and plays a pivotal role in conserving lions and other carnivores essential to the ecosystem's balance and health. Furthermore, we procured 60 additional chain links during this period to expand our boma construction efforts into new villages. Currently, new bomas are under construction

in Kibaoni and Ilalanguru villages around Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area (a buffer in the southeastern border of Katavi National Park), as well as in Lumbe and Ukumbisiganga villages around Ugalla River National Park and Luganzo Tongwe Game Reserve.

Moreover, our continued use of loudspeakers and early warning systems, of which there are currently six across the entire landscape we operate in, has effectively educated residents about carnivores, the challenges of wildlife coexistence, and proven strategies to mitigate lion and carnivore-related incidents. These efforts are instrumental in enhancing community resilience and fostering safe cohabitation with wildlife, ensuring sustainable development and conservation outcomes in the region.

Launching the Wild Survivors Collaborative Project

In April, WASIMA and Wild Survivors held an inception meeting to launch the "Elephant Protection and Habitat Restoration through Sustainable Community Livelihoods" project. This initiative, aimed at fostering harmonious coexistence within the Rukwa-Katavi Ecosystem, brought together 37 stakeholders from project villages (Kizi, Mirumba, Kibaoni, and Sitalike), Mpimbwe, Nsimbo and Nkasi District game officers, extension officers, development officers, representatives from TANAPA, TAWA, Mpimbwe WMA and NGOs. We were honored to have the Mlele District Commissioner inaugurating the project.

The project leverages Wild Survivors' expertise to mitigate human-elephant conflict while promoting sustainable livelihoods, particularly empowering women's groups. Key components include habitat

monitoring through audio sensors and camera traps, habitat restoration, and extensive community engagement. Our goal is to reduce conflict incidents and enhance conservation efforts in the protected areas adjacent to the project villages. Currently, Wild Survivors and WASIMA are mobilizing the community, forming beekeeping groups for women, and engaging farmers in participatory mapping to identify critical areas frequented by elephants and analyze land utilization patterns.



Mlele District Commissioner (Mr. Majid Mwanga) passing center, wildlife stakeholders, WASIMA, and Wild Survivors staff during the inception workshop for launching a Collaborative Project aimed at reducing human-elephant conflicts in the Western Tanzania Landscape

Empowering Youth Through Youth Engagement And Environment Program

This quarter, we engaged 472 students from Kashela, Ikuba, Mirumba, and Usevya Primary and Secondary schools in educational activities focused on the environment. WASIMA staff and environmental teachers led these initiatives, which included tree planting and creating school vegetable gardens, to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage active participation in conservation efforts.

In partnership with Nomad Tanzania and Kafika House, we provided healthcare support to children in the Katavi, Tabora, and Kigoma regions. This quarter, 15 children with physical disabilities received specialized treatments, highlighting our commitment to improving the well-being of young individuals in these areas.

Participation in partners Youth for Nature Conference and Maliasili Communication Workshop.

In June, our staff representatives Field Officers, Mashaka Kija, Abiud Mpsa, and Benson Amos actively engaged in the Youth for Nature Conference in Arusha, whereas our Director Shared about his Conservation Career and leadership journey in building our organization. This platform provided them with valuable opportunities to connect and network with senior and fellow youth conservation leaders and experts, exchange



WASIMA team and other team from other four conservation organizations (CWMAC, AFO, Sea Sense and MJUMITA) alongside Maliasili team after communication workshop in Morogoro.

ideas with peers, and explore innovative approaches to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Their participation not only enriched their knowledge and skills but also reinforced WASIMA's commitment to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards. Furthermore, our team benefited greatly from a communication workshop organized by the Maliasili Initiative. This workshop focused on enhancing our communication strategies, including branding, messaging, audience targeting, and the strategic use of various tools and platforms to maximize our impact-sharing capabilities and visibility.



Ms Happyness handling water storage tank and water pipe supported in collaboration with International Tree Foundation (ITF) to Mirumba secondary school for greening projects.

“Thank you for being an essential part of our community and for making a difference.”



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