WASIMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Our Core Purpose

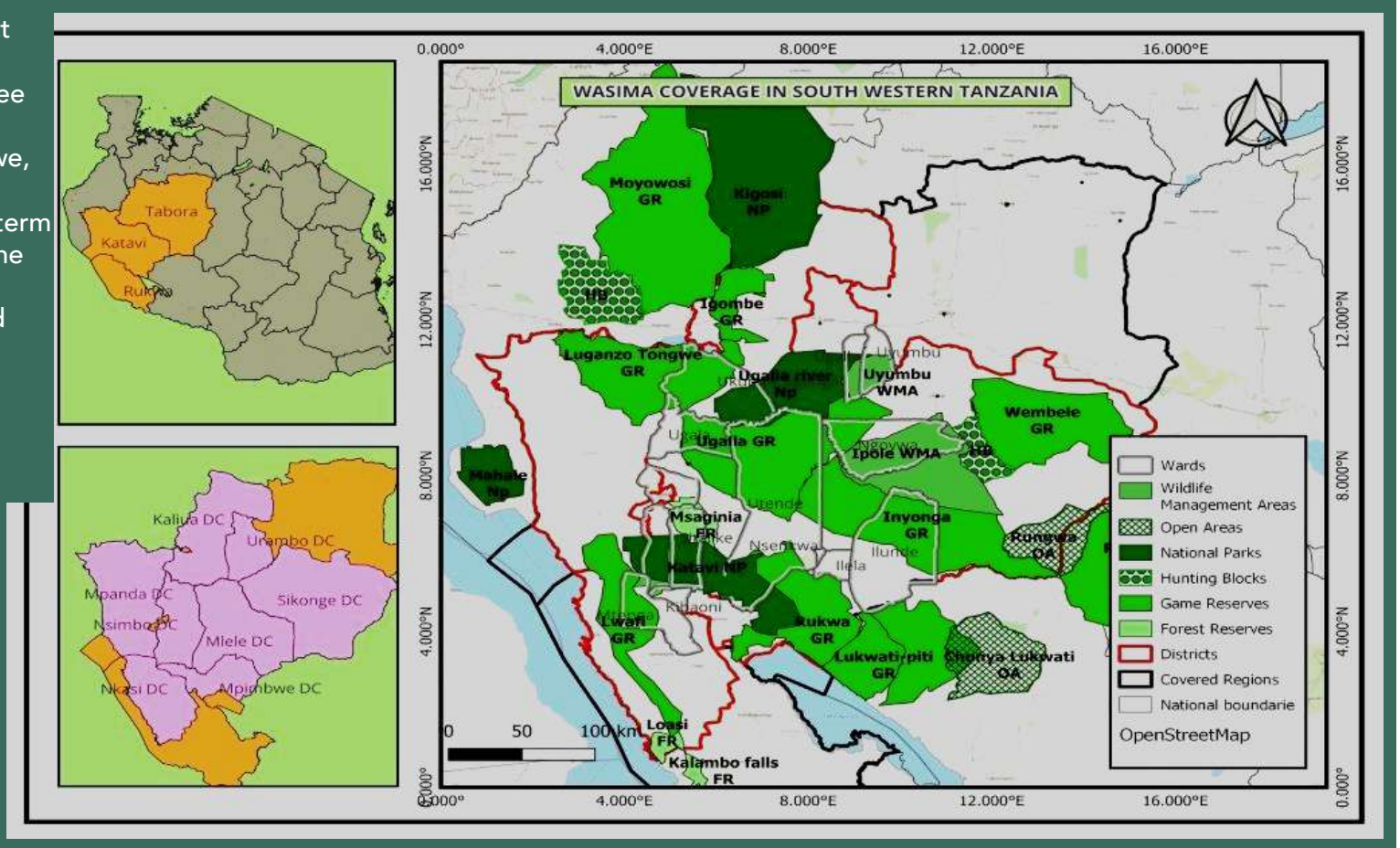
Our core purpose is twofold. We want to ensure that humans' land-based activities proceed in a way that preserves important wildlife habitats.
Further, we want to ensure that communities can mitigate against human-lion conflicts and benefit from wildlife, thus making them more tolerant.
To achieve these, 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.

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.

Our Coverage

WASIMA is based in Mpimbwe District Council and 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.



A Message From our Executive Director

2024 was the year of transformation for WASIMA! Ranging from internal to external organization environment development. We had our new logo, website, office facility, new vehicle, team growth, and new and improved existing collaborations.

WASIMA established a communication action plan and intensified collaboration with existing and new partners making our newly structured programs more impactful. Our programs' impacts are remarkable as we have experienced fewer livestock depredations by lions despite increased lion sightings in communal lands over the last five years. This year, our Lion Conservation Ambassadors noted neither retaliatory nor non-retaliatory lion killings in the landscape.

We know we will not settle for the average, but have to keep ourselves awake to ensure both humans and lions are harmoniously interacting in the landscape. We appreciate our partners-Maliasili Initiatives, Honeyguide Foundation, Wild Survivors, Nomad Tanzania, Tanzania National Parks, Tanzania Wildlife Management Authorities, Regional and District Councils, and mostly village governments for their hearty commitment to achieving our common conservation goal. Our supporters have been so generously supporting and tirelessly partaking in project establishments, co-learning, and passionately mentoring WASIMA to execute our new and first strategic plan.

For the second time, WASIMA took part in the global community of international community-based conservation summit for grassroots organizations witnessing the importance of actively engaging local communities in wildlife conservation. Here we stand to prove the truth that wildlife conservation must place local communities at forefront of the biodiversity conservation. Many thanks to our field team and Board of Directors for their passion and teamwork that have marked 2024 as a transformational year at WASIMA.

Please join us to celebrate the 2024 success as you read through this report. We have no words to express our gratitude to all our partners!

Jonathan Kwiyega,
Executive Director, WASIMA.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

38+ Lion Proof Bomas

Lion-proof bomas were constructed to protect livestock from carnivore attacks around Katavi and Ugalla River National Park, Luganzo Tongwe Game Reserve, and Msaginia Forest Reserve. This initiative benefitted thirty-eight households, comprising 406 family members.
54 Lion Proof Bomas were erected, safeguarding over 2400 livestock worth more than USD 514,023. This accounts for only 0.9% of the 5952 traditional Bomas in 25 villages across the landscape.

1496+ Ha

Hectares of village Natural Forest Lands are Preserved in our landscape as a result of the Greening Initiative within project villages.

5000+ Community Engagements

Community Members Engaged through our Environmental Education and Outreach program, raising awareness and fostering positive changes in conservation practices by enhancing community knowledge.

3 Women beekeeping groups

Women beekeeping groups established in Mpimbwe and Nkasi District council in Katavi and Rukwa Regions, training a total of 129 community members.
This beekeeping project is part of our efforts to provide alternative livelihoods, helping people earn income through honey production while supporting biodiversity.

2000+ Youth Engagements

Youth Engaged through school wildlife clubs to promote conservation, foster skills, and instill a conservation spirit with class presentations, talks, creative activities, and ecological studies.

6 Community groups visited Katavi National Park

A Day in the Park initiative successfully brought 243 community members from six groups to Katavi National Park. This educational excursion allowed participants to experience the park's rich biodiversity firsthand, fostering a deep appreciation for wildlife conservation. The initiative strengthened community bonds with wildlife authorities and inspired a collective commitment to preserving Tanzania's natural heritage.

Empowering Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs)

- 2024 experienced a transformative training program for our 21 dedicated Lion Conservation Ambassadors (LCAs) from our three projected regions of Rukwa, Katavi, and Tabora, mastering skills in data collection on KOBO and GPS, conflict resolution, communication, and lion conservation.
- LCAs act as our representatives in our covered villages around protected areas their responsibilities include assisting in installing the lion proof bomas monitoring and mapping lion occupancy, human-lion conflicts, and wildlife presence while leading community efforts in recovering lost people and livestock and maintaining WASIMA's presence in the villages and raise conservation, awareness in their respective 25 villages.
- In 2024, the scope of LCAs' responsibilities expanded to include monitoring elephant incidents, managing camera traps, and overseeing biodiversity audio systems in the Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area.
- The trained and equipped LCAs assist in monitoring efforts and alerting the communities via the Loudspeaker Early Warning System. They supervise the presence of lions (and other dangerous and problematic animals) in communal land.

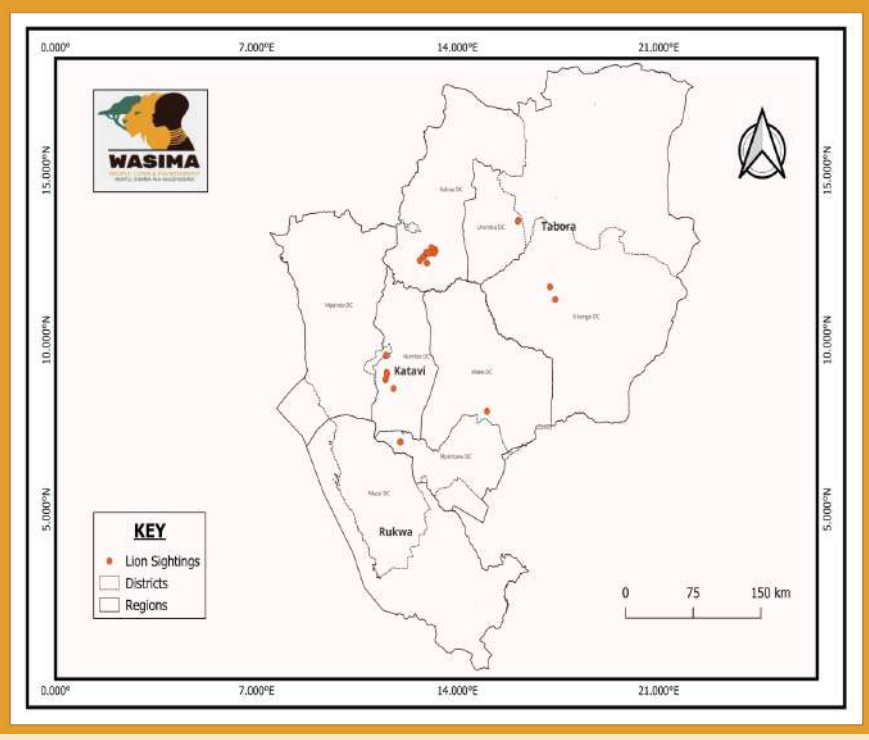


Figure 01. The distribution of Lion sightings within the Project area in 2024

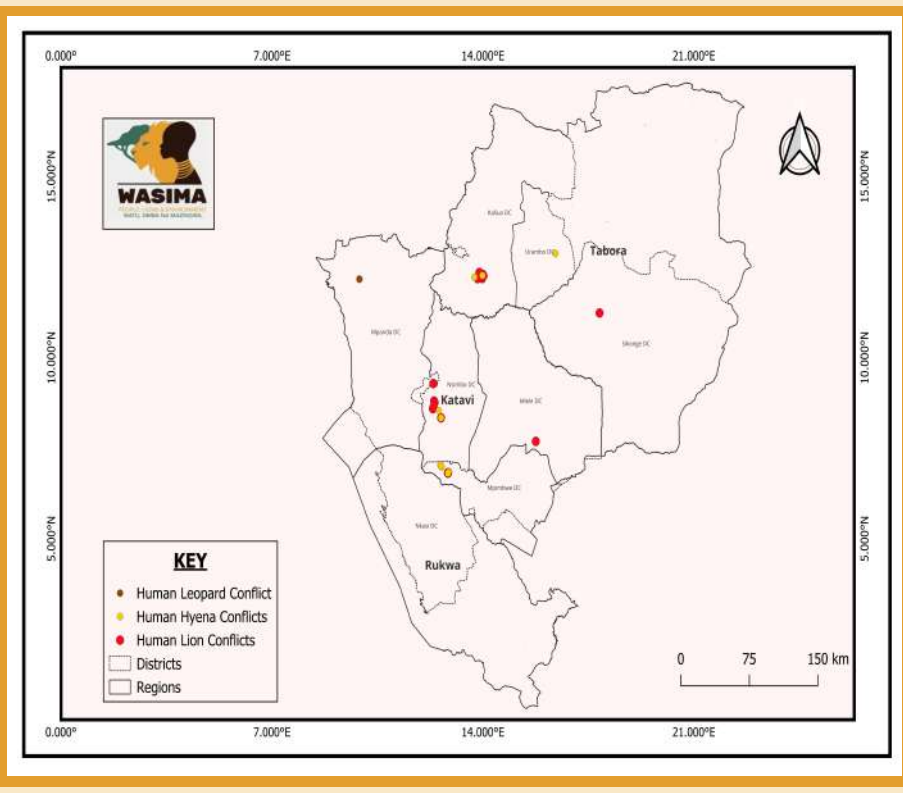


Figure 02. The distribution of Human-Wildlife Conflicts within the Project area in 2024

Human-Lion Conflicts and Lion Sightings:2024 Impact

Increased Lion Sightings:

- In 2024, lion sightings increased significantly compared to 2023. These majestic animals were more widely distributed across the villages of Kaliua district, including Lumbe and Ukumbisiganga, which border the Ugalla River National Park and Luganzo-Tongwe Game Reserve.
- Additionally, a notable number of sightings were reported in Sitalike village, located in the eastern part of Katavi National Park, within Nsimbo district. (See figure o1)

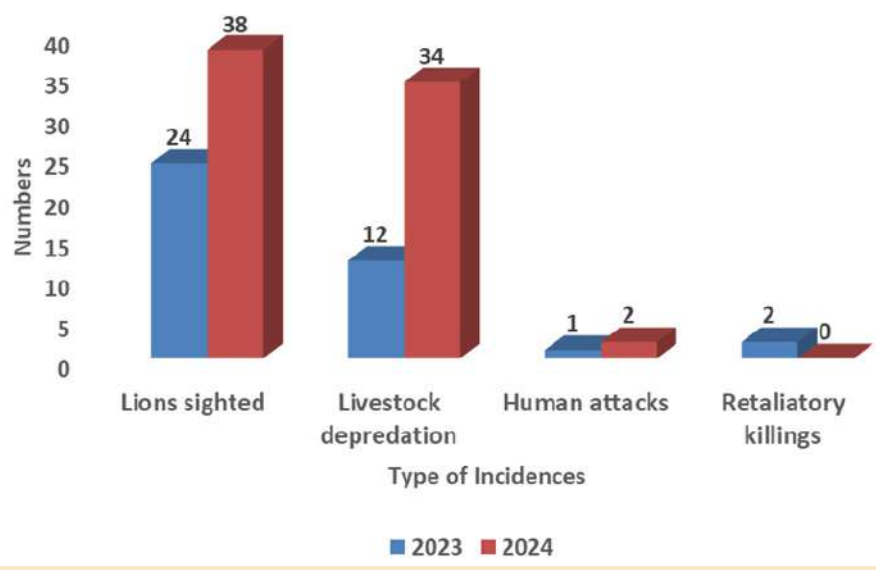
Human-Lion Conflicts:

- In 2024, there was a significant increase in livestock depredation incidences and two human attacks, with losses rising from $3,806 in 2023 to over $10,000. This increase is likely attributed to the fact that 99.1% of the traditional Bomas in the landscape remain unfortified.

Positive Developments:

- No retaliatory killings of lions were reported in 2024, a marked improvement from 2023, when two such incidents were documented (See Figure 03).
- The data collected by LCAs is critical in refining strategies to mitigate human-lion conflicts.

Figure o3 **Lion Sighted and Losses Reported in 2023-2024**



MORE HIGHLIGHTS

Community and Youth Engagements through Environmental Education and Outreach Program

In 2024, our Environmental Education and Outreach Program made significant strides in raising awareness and promoting conservation through active community engagement and educational initiatives. Our efforts focused on addressing critical issues such as human-wildlife conflicts, habitat degradation, lion killings (both retaliatory and non-retaliatory), poaching, and encroachment. By enhancing community knowledge and fostering positive changes in conservation practices, we aimed to reshape behavior, attitudes, and perceptions toward wildlife and habitat conservation.

Public Outreach and Film Screenings: Reached 6,764 community members, spreading awareness and knowledge about conservation.

Wildlife Clubs and Ecological Studies: Impacted 2822 youth, providing them with valuable education and hands on experiences in wildlife and ecological studies.

A Day in the Park: Engaged 243 community members in immersive, educational experiences within protected areas.

Organizational and team growth

In 2024, we launched our first strategic plan of five years, 2024-2028, which focuses on addressing the two key challenges in Southern West Tanzania, namely the Human-Lion conflict and Habitat loss.

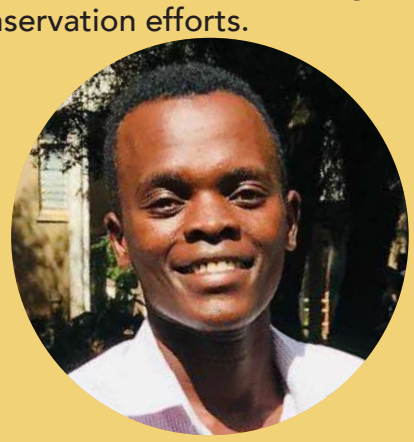
Our strategic plan prioritizes enhancing our team's capacity to execute field activities efficiently, ensuring that our vision translates into tangible actions on the ground. By nurturing our team's skills and capabilities, we aim to achieve greater success in our environmental conservation efforts.

In 2024, we successfully recruited key personnel, including a Program Manager, Beekeeping Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Governance and Management Officer, and Environmental and Education Outreach Officer. Consequently, our team has grown from 35 members in 2023 to 41 in 2024.
This year experienced the relocation of our office to the newly constructed WASIMA building in Mpimbwe District Council, enhancing our capacity to further our conservation efforts.

Gilya Lino
Program Manager

Ester Joseph
Beekeeping &Livelihood Officer

Paulo Yohana
Conservation and Outreach Field Officer



Felix Mduda
Governance and management officer

Elizabeth Aliponda
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning officer

Community Empowerment and Wildlife Protection

Tree Planting and Agroforest

We launched the Agroforest project in the Southern Part of Katavi National Park, engaging and training 17 households. 400 tree seedlings, including avocado, bananas, citrus, and mangos, were distributed, covering approximately 4.75 acres. This initiative provides alternative income and food security and combats malnutrition.

We also established tree nurseries in the Mpimbwe district Council, produced over 45,000 tree seedlings planted in various locations, and empowered community members to produce tree seedlings on their own. This supports reforestation and habitat restoration efforts, laying a solid foundation for our future tree-planting initiatives.

Three villages were reached, and 170 community members and leaders engaged through the Natural Resource Management and Governance Appraisal Toolkit. This led to the preservation of about 1496 acres of village forest.

Wildlife Monitoring and Beehive Fence Initiative

In collaboration with Wild Survivors, we launched the “Elephant Protection and Habitat Restoration through Sustainable Community Livelihoods” initiative.

A three-kilometer beehive fence have established in Kashela and Kibaoni villages bordering Katavi National Park and Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area, reducing human-elephant conflicts and fostering peaceful coexistence using beehive and chill fences. The project also supports honey production, providing an alternative livelihood for communities.

We set up camera traps and sound meters in the Mpimbwe Wildlife Management Area to monitor diverse wildlife species. These tools provide invaluable data on species presence, behavior, and population dynamics, enhancing our conservation efforts.

Stengthening Wildlife Management Areas

In 2024, we established a significant collaboration with the Honeyguide Foundation to support the Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area (UWIMA) in promoting community-based conservation over the next five years. This partnership has enabled us to:

- Conduct the Site Level Assessment of Good Governance and Equity (SAGE).
- Facilitate the review of the UWIMA General Management Plan.
- Organize a visit for 25 UWIMA representatives to Randilen WMA.
- Employ three new staff members: a Secretary, an Accounts Officer, and a Liaison Officer.

At Mpimbwe, we successfully facilitated management and governance training for 27 newly appointed leaders and stakeholders. Additionally, we provided essential resources to support their roles. While our current focus is on the UYUMBU Wildlife Management Area, we are proud to extend our assistance to this initiative as well.

Exchange Programme with Lion Landscape

In April 2024, as part of our ongoing exchange program with Lion Landscapes, initiated in March 2023, WASIMA proudly hosted three staff members from Lion Landscapes in Mpimbwe. The visit aimed at improving the monitoring of human-lion conflicts in the Rukwa, Katavi, and Ugalla ecosystems.
During their stay, we showcased our progress and shared insights into our strengths in community engagement and conflict mitigation. This collaboration has been instrumental in enhancing our efforts and fostering a strong partnership for future initiatives.

Engagements in Key events for Learning, networking, and closer collaboration with partners.

1. Habitat Trust Summit in India:
Our Director, Jonathan, participated in this summit, fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas, resources, and expertise among representatives from various conservation fields.

2. Engagement with Honeyguide Foundation:
Our communication and finance personnel had the opportunity to engage with the Honeyguide Foundation, gaining valuable insights into communication and finance management.

3. Youth for Nature Conference in Arusha:
Four of our team members attended this conference, connecting and networking with senior and fellow youth conservation leaders and experts.

4. Communication Workshop by Maliasili Initiative:
This workshop enhanced our communication strategies, including branding, messaging, audience targeting, and the use of various tools and platforms to maximize our impact-sharing capabilities and visibility.

5. Training and Workshop with Maliasili Initiatives and WASIMA:
Our team received training facilitated by Maliasili Initiatives. The focus was on strategic planning, work planning, and performance management systems to empower our team in maximizing impacts.

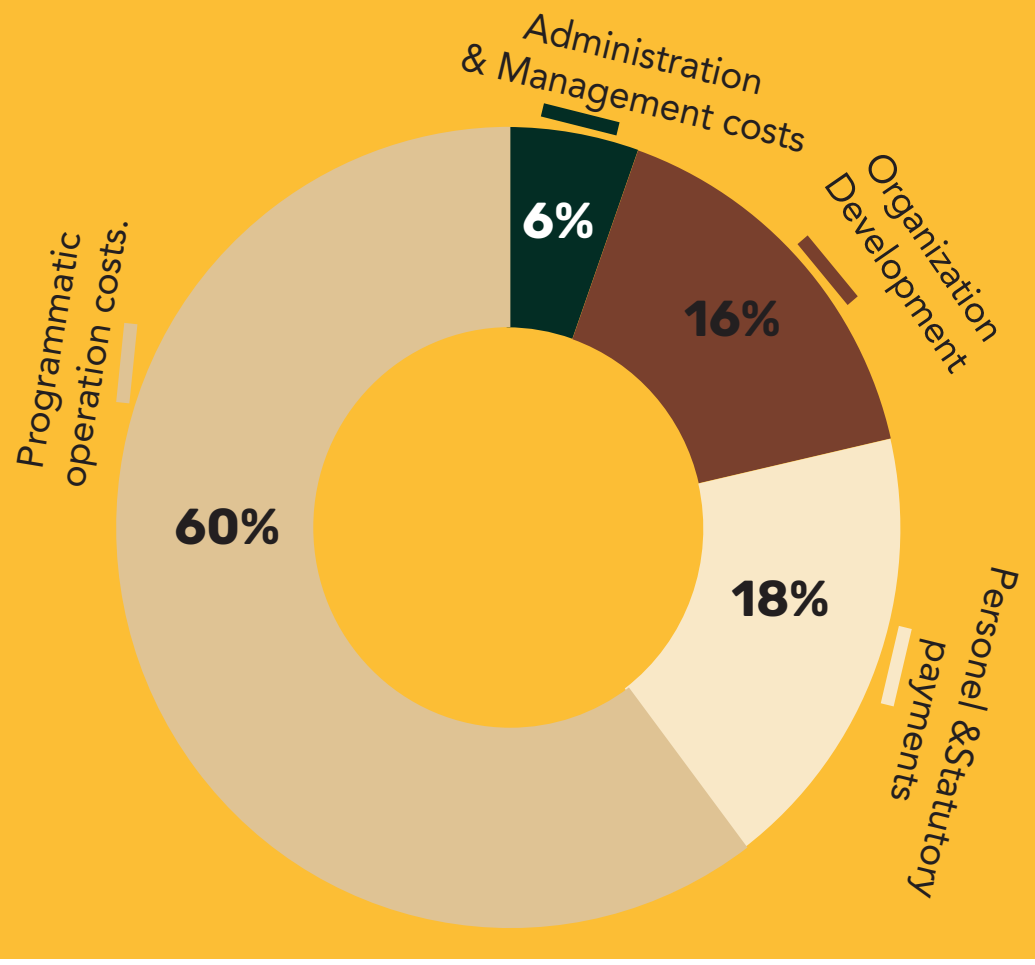
6. Building Community Conservation Success Workshop:
In partnership with The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, we organized a workshop to enhance skills in community-based conservation engagement (CBCE). The event united 35 participants from diverse institutions and NGOs, including TAWA, TANAPA, district councils, SUA-Mizengo Pinda Campus, UDESO, and Uyumbu Wildlife Management Area.

These engagements have significantly contributed to our organization's growth and effectiveness in conservation efforts. They have provided valuable opportunities for learning, networking, and closer collaboration with our partners, ultimately helping us achieve our mission more effectively.

OUR FINANCIAL TREND FROM 2023-2024

	2024		2023	
INCOME	**TSH**	**USD**	**TSH**	**USD**
Opening Balance	48,268,344	18,423.03	40,318,948	15,507.29
Donor Funds	857,041,712	327,115.16	343,885,396	132,263.61
Total Funds	**905,310,056**	**345,538.19**	**384,204,344**	**147,770.90**
EXPENSES				
Administration & Management Cost	42,386,056	16,177.88	19,100,000	7,346.15
Organizational Develepoment	125,300,000	47,824.43	40,172,000	15,450.77
Personnel & Statutory Payment	143,500,000	54,770.99	119,529,000	45,972.69
Program Operation Cost	472,080,000	180,183.21	157,135,000	60,436.54
Total Expenses	**783,266,056**	**298,956.51**	**335,936,000**	**129,206.15**
Excess of Income over Expenditure:	122,044,000	46,581.68	48,268,344	18,564.75

EXPENDITURES FOR 2024



OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

A YEAR TOGETHER!

We are filled with immense gratitude for the remarkable support and collaboration from our cherished donors, esteemed partners, vibrant community, and dedicated team. Your generosity, commitment, and passion have empowered us to achieve great things and create lasting change. Each contribution, regardless of size, has made a significant impact, and your belief in our mission has been the cornerstone of our success. We are honored to work alongside such dedicated and visionary organizations, and we deeply value the engagement and advocacy of our community, who have driven our progress through their dedication and passion.

Looking ahead, we carry with us the lessons learned, the successes celebrated, and the challenges overcome. With the continued support of our donors, partners, community, and team, we are confident that the future holds even greater achievements. Thank you all for being an integral part of our journey.

Together for Wildlife: Supporting Conservation in Western Tanzania

At WASIMA, our mission to protect and preserve the incredible biodiversity of western Tanzania is more than just a goal—it's a profound calling. Every day, we dedicate ourselves to safeguarding the unique ecosystems and the magnificent creatures that inhabit this incredible region. Your unwavering support and investment are the lifeblood of our efforts. Join us in making a lasting impact:

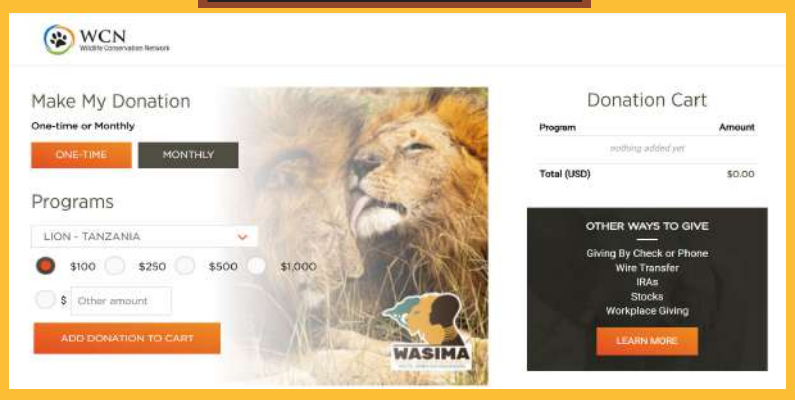
1. Monetary Donations:
Your financial support empowers us to carry out critical conservation projects, conduct essential research, and promote environmental education. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring contribution, every bit helps sustain our mission.

2. Volunteer Your Time:
Get involved in hands-on conservation work and experience the difference you can make firsthand. From wildlife research and habitat restoration to community outreach and environmental education, your skills and dedication are invaluable.

3. In-Kind Contributions:
Donations of equipment and supplies (such as field gear, research tools, and educational materials) play a crucial role in supporting our operations. Contributions help us continue our vital work.

4. Corporate Partnerships:
Collaborate with us through sponsorships, employee engagement programs, and corporate social responsibility initiatives. These partnerships can amplify our impact and promote sustainable practices within the community.

Click here to Make a Difference



ONWARDS 2025

- Fundraising: directing fundraising efforts towards securing long-term funding and strengthening current partnership.
- Livelihood initiatives; strengthen beekeeping and Kick off Vocational training project in the village with high incidences of Human -lion conflicts.
- Finalizing our MoU with the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) to collaborate in three areas; protection, outreach program, wildlife population monitoring and mitigating human-wildlife conflicts.
- Staff Capacity Building and reallocation of Ipole substation office to Usoke village; Constantly enhancing our team's capabilities to effectively execute our strategic plan.
- Team optimization by Maliasili Initiatives
- Develop Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems
- Lion Proof Bomas installations in the highly affected villages in Kaliua and Mpimbwe district.
- Enhancing Human -lion coexistence through environmental education and outreach in 25 villages.

WASIMA

PEOPLE, LIONS & ENVIRONMENT

WATU, SIMBA NA MAZINGIRA

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