

# **REPORT OF RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT OTTER TO FISHER MENS, FISH FARMERS AND SCHOOL KIDS.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First of all I would like to thanks IOSF for funding and all support I get from AON. Secondly I thank a Project manager of Liparamba Game Reserve Mr. Richard Bwire for allowing me to conduct all the activities. Lastly I thank Carol Bennetto for her tireless effort in preparing education materials.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The activities of raising awareness conducted both in Lake Nyasa and Mbinga District, The aim is to impart the knowledge of Otter to Local people especial Fish Farmers, Fishermens and Students who are living near to Lake Nyasa, I started a journey on 18/07/2017 headed to Lake Nyasa to speak with Fishermen and Students at Zambia primary School talk to Fish Farmers who are living in Burma village near to border of Nyasa and Mbinga District.

## **THE PURPOSE OF ACTIVITIES.**

To collect various information concerning Otter species, distributions, and how people perceive them.

To tell people of how Otter play roles as the ambassador of first class environment.

Many people knew nothing about Otter, It is the time to Voice Up for them and spread the positive word all over the World to make many people aware of their presence and their contribution in ecology.

## **RESULTS**

The project succeed by talking to 17 fishermens and All students from Zambia Primary and 5 teacher. Thereafter talking to 7 fish farmer.

In Lake Nyasa I talked with group of ten fishermens at Mbamba bay Beach (S. 11.28720<sup>0</sup>, E 034.79901<sup>0</sup>) and tell them about the Advantage of having Otter in Our Environment rather than taking Otter as the problems to Our life. Shared some information with them on how they perceive Otter. Good enough they don't have a big problem but some they hunt Otter for bush meat.

In Mkwakwa beach (S 11.28873<sup>0</sup>, E 034.78868<sup>0</sup>) I spoke with two fishermens( Mr Vicent Mbunda and Kula Ngumu), They tell me about the beliefs of Otter having a roots in his mouth that help them to catch fish easily. But I told them that is wrong beliefs because Otter is like other animals, It catch fish easily because of webbed feet and tail that help them to hunt in water.

I went in Chinura beach (S 11.22204<sup>0</sup>, E 034.76136<sup>0</sup>) and spoke to group of 5 fishermen and told them about the importance of preserving Otter and their habitat.

I spoke with all students in Zambia Primary School (S 11.29220 , E 034.79712<sup>0</sup>) were almost 249 and five teacher. I told them how living organism depend on each other, the role played by Otter in Ecology, and importance of preserving Otter and their habitat. Some student has already saw an Otter in Lake Nyasa.

In Burma (S 11.15036<sup>0</sup>, E 034.91568<sup>0</sup>) found in Mbinga Near to Lake Nyasa border I managed to speak with group of fish farmer known as JUHUDI FFS who owned two ponds and Mr. Baptist Mapunda who owned two ponds. They know Otter and Mr. Gido Jeseeph Mapunda said that in 2002 one Otter were killed by Car during night and people ate that Otter.

I found many signs of scats, foot prints and rolling place along those ponds.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is better to proceed and extend the education awareness to schools, fish farmers and fishermens to impart the knowledge of Otter to them.

If many people will know the importance of preserving Otter in the habitat they will pass that knowledge to other people.

## **CHALLENGES**

To change people's perception it takes time, I believe one day they will change and take Otter as the Environmental champion. In Lake Nyasa I found some difficulty with fishermen because they took me as the Spy after the government prohibited using some fishing net traps. It was very challenged to get them in a group.

## **CONCLUSION**

The work went well, many people love the lesson, people eager to know much about Otter life. It seems that people are starting to understand the lesson because many people now started to call me Otter (Fisimaji).

**Find the attachment here.**











































