

Tanzania Community-based Conservation – educating students in the Lake Victoria Mwanza District about wildlife and conservation to facilitate self-designed action.

2010 Year-end Report

Submitted by: Jan Reed-Smith, African Otter Outreach Project (AoTOP), Director & Mussa Mashishanga, Children's Health & Environment Club (CHEC), Director/Roots & Shoots Club Coordinator, Mwanza District

Prepared by: Mussa Mashishanga

Edited by: Jan Reed-Smith

2010, under the direction of Mussa Mashishanga with the guidance of Jan Reed-Smith, has been a fruitful year for this partnership. As reported in August, early use of the John Ball Zoo Society Wildlife Conservation Grant (\$1,000) was:

- A Compaq Presario laptop was purchased and sent to Mashishanga in early August (\$365.68). The laptop was graciously hand-carried to Tanzania by Thane Maynard, Director of the Cincinnati Zoo. A small amount of funds were used by Mashishanga to purchase a carrying bag for the laptop (\$13.40) and to wire transfer funds to Tanzania (\$45.00).
- This year was the 50th anniversary of Gombe. Due to the timely arrival of the JBZS funds, some of the remaining \$540.00 (808,000 Tsh after conversion) was used to organize a tree planting event in Mwanza. This was attended by Jane Goodall, several JG Institute leaders, Mashishanga, and several CHEC/Roots & Shoots club members. Participation in this event generated a great deal of excitement within the Mwanza community and validated for the students their dedication to this new environmental movement.



Subsequent to the August 2010 report some of the remaining funds have been used in the following ways (see budget accounting pg. 8-10):

Visit to Sukuma Museum in Bujora Magu

Roots & Shoots/CHEC organized a study tour on 4th September 2010 to visit the Sukuma Museum in Bujora Magu. This was agreed on after a meeting with leaders of the three clubs and discussions held with all club members.

The purpose of this study tour was to learn traditional methods used by Sukuma chiefs, the tribe to which many club members belong, to protect nature in the past. It also was designed to learn about what is being done currently by Sukuma people in the area, what has been achieved, and what the challenges are. After the study tour every student was required to produce a report of what he/she learned (a sample report is attached). It was decided that participation in the museum visit would be limited to 40 members who have shown an outstanding contribution towards nature in their respective clubs. As can be seen from the student report sample (pg. 11), the museum visit was successful at exposing the students to some of their cultural history and the importance placed by their ancestors on wise use of the environment.



Laptop Use: from Mshishanga's 12 January 2011 email report, with only a little editing of English.

I have visited the existing Clubs several times with a goal of showing and discussing environmental documentaries; I was able to accomplish my goal on only some of these occasions, however. This has been due to fact that, members often are busy with school daily routines, therefore even in those days set for club activities, they find themselves occupied either by academic work or other school programs. Despite these challenges, we have been able to present 7 environmental shows, three shows at Nganza Girls School and four shows at Bwiru Girls School. All these environmental video shows were from the CDs that Mama Jan and Grace Yoxon provided about environmental and animal issues.

The show, normally took about one hour and a half. One hour for the show and the remaining half an hour was taken up with discussion based on what video has shown. The discussion sought to build among members the ability to identify the challenges and lessons to be learned and contextualized to their locality. We also focused on their knowledge and their understanding of environmental issues locally and globally.

Also, the laptop has been helpful to all members, as it is used to create video slides of all the events they are participating in, and make copies of these for every member who has contributed to the buying of empty CDs. The copies made and distributed to members are used by them at home to show their families and friends what they have been doing at school, and why there is a reason to take action to save nature. By doing so, they do inspire the family members and their friends.

Mwanza Clean-up Event: from Mshishanga's 12 January 2011 email report, with only a little editing of English.

The event was scheduled to take place on a Saturday in December 2010 at Kamanga area; however, the place was changed to Mwanza City Central Market after holding a discussion with the city authority. The importance of holding our first event there was particularly stressed by the office of the City Health Officer (Mr. Batare) due to the nature of activities taking place at the market [this area is central to commerce for the majority of area residents], the poor infrastructure, and the inadequate manpower to keep the area clean. The Central Market area also was believed to be important as it is contributing in various ways to polluting Lake Victoria. Although some measures are being taken to address the problem, according the City Health Officer the failure to collect and clean the area on daily basis results in ever more trash being moved by rain water into Lake Victoria. This has been especially true during the recent rainy season in Mwanza. This is because geographically the market and Mwanza metropolitan area is located in a valley surrounded by steep hills. When rain water from the hills flows down through and into the Mirongo river it carries all the trash directly to the lake.

Initially, we expected the event to have about 80 participants from Roots & Shoots/CHEC members. The actual number was 110 CHEC/Roots & Shoots members,

10 university students, and several people who have their business in the targeted market area joined us. Additionally, several city officers participated for the entire event.

The event lasted for about 5 hours from 9 AM to 1PM. After the event, participants gathered around the city garden to have drinks and a snack. During this social time the city authority representative Mr. James, thanked CHEC/Roots & Shoots members for the spirit they have shown, in his remarks he said “You have proved that young people can make a difference, and you’re the change for the future if you are entrusted”. He asked CHEC/Roots & Shoots to keep the spirit up, because he said “you are the future leaders, and your actions mean a lot to the public”, in closing he wished the participants best of luck.

What the market typically looks like.



What it looked like after the Clean-up Event.



Local shopkeeper helping with clean-up.



Mr. James, city representative, addresses the group at the end of the day, and tired but happy club members.



BWIRU GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL

ROOTS AND SHOOTS CLUB.

STUDY TOUR AT BUJORA SUKUMA MUSEUM.

The aim of this study tour is to learn how the local people chiefs of Sukuma tribe conserved their environment.

The study tour provided on Saturday 5th September 2010 from 11:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. Bujora is the one of the Museum in Tanzania which found at Kiche in Mwanza. The museum shows and provide Sukuma tribe. It was established by a Canadian David Clement who spoke French Language. The name of Museum comes from Sukuma word "Bujora Ngingo" which means hanging a neck.

At Bujora there is conducive environment as there are many trees planted and conserved are attractive. Bujora Museum shows how local things of Sukuma tribe lived in the issue of environment by follow their tradition, custom rules and laws. At Bujora we learnt a lot about trees as the one of the things which chiefs used trees as important and wealth things. As they were used as a median. At Bujora there is a good condition of air because the local chiefs of Sukuma they keep their trees and other things as a good way. Now this days people of Bujora they keep and preserve their environment by not cutting trees. Also they keep the source of water by not taking anything from the source of water. They keeping trees and grasses by making intimidation before cutting trees. And those trees and grasses which they preserve help them in making houses.

Also even us when we cooperate together to keep our environment we can preserve our environment in good way and we will maintain our environment.

Me as a member of roots and shoots club I see that when we preserve and keep well our environment we will win and we will live in a good condition. That day we learnt many things from Bujora Sukuma Museum eg we learnt how they live, how they keep their environment. We were enjoy a lot very well from Bujora Sukuma Museum.

Prepared by

Nchama Kasili Dwaesi Form III R