

REPORT OF RAISING AWARENESS AND COLLECTING INFORMATION ABOUT OTTER IN MBINGA AND LAKE NYASA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First of all, I would like to thank International Otter Survival Fund for financial support; secondly I thank African Otter Network for advice and material support. I appreciated the contribution of everyone towards achieving goals of imparting conservation knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

I visited five Primaries in both district, one fish farmer in Mbinga and 46 fishermen in Lake Nyasa. The activities of raising awareness and collecting the information's concerning the Otter were conducted both in Nyasa and Mbinga Districts. The Conservation awareness is essential for present and future conservation of Otter. It makes people understand the importance of conservation and the role plays by Otter in the ecosystem. By raising awareness to the fishermen's, fish farmers and students it will help to build the community that care for environment and organism live within the environment also it help to change their perceptions towards Otter and other wild animals. Through educations awareness, we shared and exchange the information on how to preserve the nature and deals with challenges without destructing the nature.

THE OBJECTIVES OF ACTIVITIES WERE.

To raise awareness about Otter and the role plays by them in the environment

To collect various information from people's perception, species available, and their distributions.

To know the level of Otter-human conflict.

RESULTS

I visited two schools in Mbinga District such as Mtama primary school with 322 total and Lipumba primary school with 233 total. Thereafter I visited one fish pond of Daniel Mlawu who is also the headmaster of Lipumba primary school.

Also I visited three Primary school in Lake Nyasa such as Lituhi with 419 students, Litimba with 202, Luhuhu with 323 students and talked to 46 fishermen from Lituhi in Lake Nyasa.

The knowledge imparted was how living organism depend on each other in order to survival, the role played by Otter in Ecology such as; they are good Indicator of healthy environment, tourism attraction and importance of Otter in food web. I tried to gave them some Example of other species that we perceive as the problem in our lives, without knowing their roles in Ecosystem such as snakes and flies. Where snakes are dangerous but help us to reduce the number of rats (Rats destruct crops and reduce the yield). A fly it's an agent of spreading diseases such as cholera but it helps in decomposition of materials. So every organism as its own role in Ecosystem. So, it is better to preserve otter and stop killing them for the purpose of getting meat, medicine, or as an enemy.

After talking to fishermen's in Lituhi they said they are two species of Otter such as spotted necked Otter and African clawless Otter. The fishermen don't have conflict with Otter but they are some poacher who hunts Otter by using dogs for bush meat. I managed to talk with one poacher in Lituhi and tried to tell him the Importance of preserving otter he understood and promised me preserve Otter and be an Ambassador, but refused to take him photo because he was scared.

Mr. Daniel Mlawa who owned the pond, he don't have any conflict with otter but only birds that eat the fish from pond.

People love the lessons and promised me to preserve Otter and their environment for the benefit of present and future generation.

RECOMMENDATION

It is better to proceed and extend the education awareness to fishermen's, school and fish farmers to impart the conservation knowledge, sharing some information because education is driving force for changes.

CHALLENGES

Due to dry seasonal it was difficult to see Otter in their areas. According to fishermen they said that otter it easier to spot them during rainy season.

Some fishermen scared to be gathered because they are using small net in fishing (prohibited net).

CONCLUSION

Education awareness went well with some little challenges, the students and fishermen's love the lesson and they promised me to be the good ambassador of Otter and spread the positive word of mouth to other people.

Find here the attachment of pictures.





