

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOR WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITY
ENTERPRISE**



(ECOWICE)

ANNUAL REPORT

December 2019

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Statement from the Board Chairman



We are glad to accomplish the fifth year of survival to our organization. This has been a very successful year since when the organization was established. We managed to conduct more projects, buying land and starting office construction. All these have helped the organization to progress well toward achieving its goals. This is also the last year for implementing the 2016-2019 Corporate strategic plan. We hope that, the new 2020-2024 will be the plan that has new ideas and passions for attaining our vision of Developed community for biodiversity conservation.

This report shows plans, strategies and success stories that trigger efforts toward our goal of developing communities for biodiversity conservation.

The board is promising to support the management team in all planned activities for the next financial year and the implementation of the new corporate strategic plan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Suzana Agustino". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a dotted line.

Dr. Suzana Agustino

Board Chairman

Statement from the Chief Executive Officer



It's my pleasure to see how the organization managed to finish the last year of implementing the 2016-2019 corporate strategic plan (CSP). We finished the plan with a lot of success stories that most of the have helped to save forests and biodiversity of Tanzania. We have managed to support more communities especially this year where we had more projects. We managed to develop the proposed 2020-2024 corporate plan and obtain certification from Tanzana Bureu of standards; we have purchased the land and starting to construct the office.

Although we have faced challenges in our milestones, but this year we have managed to tackle many challenges, financial challenge is still the major challenge that will be the major concern to the next year plan and to the 2020-2024 CSP.

My call to all staffs, board members, members and all stakeholders is to increase support, accountability and morale to ensure in 2020 we do the best than this.

In this annual report, we shall see the real picture of how we managed to accomplish our plans. We shall see the success stories and challenges; we shall also discuss the way how our organization can grow. There we shall have the base for the plan of the coming year and we shall see our organization financial conditions.

Thanks for your cooperation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felician E. Chemihanda'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Felician E. Chemihanda
Chief Executive Officer

1. BACKGROUND

Environmental Conservation for Wildlife and Community Enterprise (ECOWICE) is an organization that aims to increase income and food security for biodiversity conservation in Tanzania. The organization promotes environmental friendly income generating activities that also provide food security to community adjacent protected areas. Since its establishment on 2014, the organization has been involved on various projects to ensure goals are attained. On each year the organization implement its activities basing on planned strategic objectives. This year our main focus was on the following strategic objectives;

- To increase number of projects
- To improve institutional capacity
- To Increase market for the products
- To review Corporate strategic plan

1.1. Vision

The vision of ECOWICE is developed rural communities for biodiversity conservation

1.2. Mission

The mission of ECOWICE is increasing income and food security for biodiversity Conservation

1.3. Core Values

- **Accountable** in biodiversity conservation
- **Innovative** in finding solutions regarding to challenges facing human and

Biodiversity

- **Efficient** in utilizing available resources for biodiversity conservation

1.4. General Objectives

- To improve crop productivity per household
- Reduce ecosystem degradation through sustainable agriculture
- Enhancing rural communities to generate income from environmental friendly income generating activities
- Adding value on the commodities produced by local communities
- Using fair price as an incentive for biodiversity conservation
- Promote stakeholder awareness and participation on different issues relating to wildlife conservation and local people economic activities.

2. Approach and methodology

- This report has been prepared based on the workshop held by staffs of the management Team based on the following;
- Presentation on the status of the implementation of strategic objectives from Planning perspective
- Presentation on the status of the implementation of strategic objectives from Field/practical perspective
- Presentation on the key issues emanating from the objectives and review of other external perspective.
- After presentation, participants gave their views and comments that analyzed to produce this document, to be presented to the board for approval before presented on the annual general meeting.

3. Three years strategic objectives

- Improved organization capacity to operate effectively and efficiently
- Improved production of commercial enterprise
- Realization of Organization sources of revenue
- Ensure stakeholder involvement/participation.
- Ensure effective management of programs and plans

4. Main focus;

- To increase number of projects
- To improve institutional capacity
- To Increase market for the products
- To review 2016-2019 Corporate strategic plan

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES ON 2019

i. Mushroom project

Rural people in Tanzania face the challenging environment when it comes to food and income. Coupled with poor production means and climate change, they normally end up with poor harvests. This make them fail to obtain basic needs which later drive them to turn into forests and wildlife for quick income and food.

ECOWICE established mushroom project to support community in obtaining alternative source of food and income. The project involved raising environmental awareness, training on mushroom farming and spawns production, support for mushroom production infrastructures and equipments, processing, packaging and marketing.

The project was conducted in 5 districts of Morogoro, Maswa, Handeni, Babati and Karatu whereby 250 households (1500 people) were benefited.



ii. Beekeeping project

Beekeeping is another alternative source of income for forest dependent communities. ECOWICE has introduced this project in three districts of Handeni, Biharamulo and Ludewa where the community is enhanced to practice modern beekeeping by being supported modern beehives and equipments. After producing honey, the ECOWICE buy honey that is processed and packed before being sold to urban shops and supermarkets.



iii. Survey at Ludewa

Farmland expansion resulted from unsustainable agriculture is another threat affecting Tanzania forests. Ludewa forests in Lake Nyasa ecosystem, are no exception from this, people are highly destroying natural forests by converting them into farms.

This year ECOWICE conducted a survey in the forests and meet with villagers to discuss the challenges.

Villagers were ready to conserve the forests through establishments of bylaws and formulation of village forest reserve. They were also ready to practice beekeeping and mushroom farming as alternative means for them to generate income.

Charcoal business is still practiced in the area highly facilitated by motorbike as major means of transportation.

ECOWICE believes that, if villagers obtain alternative means of income and establish bylaws, the forest will highly be conserved.



iv. Construction of honey processing room and demo plots establishment

The organization had challenges of suitable place for processing and packaging of products, also the organization has no special sites as learning centers for people to learn about income generating projects.

This year the organization managed to purchase land , and start to construct processing rooms and establishment of mushroom demo plots and sweet potato demo plots. These demo plots are expected to be used as training centers for the community.



v. Workshop for the Review of Corporate strategic plan

ECOWICE has reviewed the corporate strategic plan that was done with the support from Raleigh Tanzania (Yourth based organization) together with NORVATIS experts (The human medicine producing company).

The workshop helped on the establishment of the proposed 2020-2024 Corporate strategic plan. The NORVATIS leaders also managed to visit our office and the area where there is office construction and demo plots.



vi. Exhibition

ECOWICE participated on Exhibition to promote the organization products, Such as exhibition include SABA SABA trade fair, TCU exhibition, NANE NANE exhibitions, SOKOINE UNIVERSITY exhibition.

Through exhibition, the organization was able to raise conservation awareness to the community, encouraging them to buy environmental friendly products and selling products



vii. Product improvement and diversification

The organization has managed to improve product quality through processing and packaging.

The machine that helps to separate pollen layer that was observed in honey bottles has been purchased. There is improvement in putting seal to bottles and also the label has been improved in style, attraction and contents.

There are also new bottles that have been added which are triangular shaped, attraction to customers. This year also dry mushrooms were able to be sold in new packages that are attractive.

There is a new product of beeswax jelly and sweet potato (still under experiment).



viii. Product registration to Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

Last year the organization managed to initiate the process of registering honey product to Tanzania bureau of standards (TBS). This year the organization has managed to obtain certification that allow the product to be sold in the market.

ix. Establishment of policy for partnership

The organization managed to establish the policy that invites partners to write projects through the organization. Since its establishment, six project proposals have been written and sent to donors. Only one has been successful for funding, two has been rejected and others are pending.

CHALLENGES

i. Inadequate number of staffs

The organization has few number of staffs who cannot perform all the activities at once, for example, this year the organization staffs spent most of their time in field, few staffs remained at the office to run all office activities. This reduced the efficiency especially in marketing of products.

ii. Government bureaucracy

The organization is currently one year struggling for product certification from Tanzania Bureau of standards (TBS). The certification process has procedures that take long time to be implemented. TBS officials have a culture of not performing someone task until there is a close follow up. The organization staffs have visited TBS offices more than four times trying to push the process.

iii. Inadequate funding partners

Although this year we have managed to secure more fund compared to previous years, still there is a need of finding more partners who will help the organization to implement its targeted projects and activities. This year the organization managed to establish the policy that invite partners to write projects through the organization. This has helped and it needs to be more developed.