

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOR WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITY  
ENTERPRISE  
(ECOWICE)**

**P.O.BOX 2405 MOROGORO**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR 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 "Dr. 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 over a dotted line that extends across the page.

**Felician E. Chemihanda**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## 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 bring the economic value of wildlife and forestry directly to an individual living around protected area.
- To reduce pressure on illegal consumption of wildlife and forestry resources.
- To form the link between community and urban market.
- To cooperate fully with conservation institutions and defense sectors

### **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.

### **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

### **Main focus;**

- To increase number of conservation projects in target areas
- To improve institutional capacity
- Product improvement and diversification
- To Increase market for the products
- To review 2016-2019 Corporate strategic plan

# IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES ON 2019

## **PARTICIPATORY CONSERVATION AND ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES**

Despite increasing awareness regarding value and importance, habitat destruction and poaching continue to take place in many protected areas in Tanzania. In Tanzania forests and wildlife are protected by laws particularly the forest act 2002 which was enacted after establishment of forest policy in year 1998 and Wildlife act of 2009 which was enacted after establishment of Wildlife policy of 2007.

According to the stated policies, adjacent community are obliged to be involved in managing the forest and wildlife that are in their vicinity, the policy calls for application of participatory management of forests and wildlife approaches by community living adjacent the forest and wildlife protected areas. The most noted gap is inadequate community involvement in conserving and protecting mangrove forests in a project area which is accompanied by lack of commitment and support by communities.

ECOWICE have noted this gap and is currently supporting communities on managing the wildlife and forestry resources by enhancing them to establish and strengthening management models by collaborating with the government and enhancing them have alternative means of generating income and food rather than depending on forest and wildlife resources.

This year the organization supported communities of Handeni, Babati, Maswa and Karatu districts through mushroom farming and beekeeping projects.



## ECOSYSTEM STUDY AND ASSESSMENT

Tanzania's wildlife and forestry protected areas are facing many challenges that mostly results to habitat and specie loss. Although both wildlife and forest acts states the significance of assessing wildlife and forestry resources, still little studies have been and many challenges are occurring unnoticed. ECOWICE in collaboration with staffs from Sokoine University of Agriculture, conduct studies to asses various threats and deliver solutions for conservation.

This year the organization managed to conduct studies in Ludewa forests, Kitulo national park, Ndundulu forest reserve and Rungwe mountains forest reserve and Mkungunero-Swagaswaga ecosystem

The studies observed various ecosystem threats are mostly associated with human livelihood issues such as poaching, and tree cutting





## VALUE ADDITION AND MARKETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

### i. Value addition to environmental friendly products

ECOWICE promotes environmental friendly products that support community adjacent wildlife and forestry protected areas to generate income and food. They are alternative from destructive activities like charcoal making and poaching. Communities are enhanced to produce mushrooms, honey, cinnamon and bee product jelly.

ECOWICE support communities to add value so that they can sell to profitable markets.

Communities are either supported by buying their unprocessed products or supporting them to process.

This year the organization managed train communities on processing and packaging of mushroom products and also certify honey processing center to Tanzania bureau of Standards (TBS), this certification will help to increase markets from both national and internationally.

### ii. Marketing of Alternative income generating activities

ECOWICE support the community to sell their products by either buying them or supporting them to promote and sell to profitable market.

This year the organization managed to buy 2 tons of honey and supporting the community to sell 300kgs of mushrooms.

These were done through various marketing strategies such as exhibitions (NANE NANE agricultural exhibitions, SABASABA international trade fair and SOKOINE UNIVERSITY exhibitions), radio promotion (local radio station namely SUA radio), banners and brochures.



### iii. 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).



## ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

### i. 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.

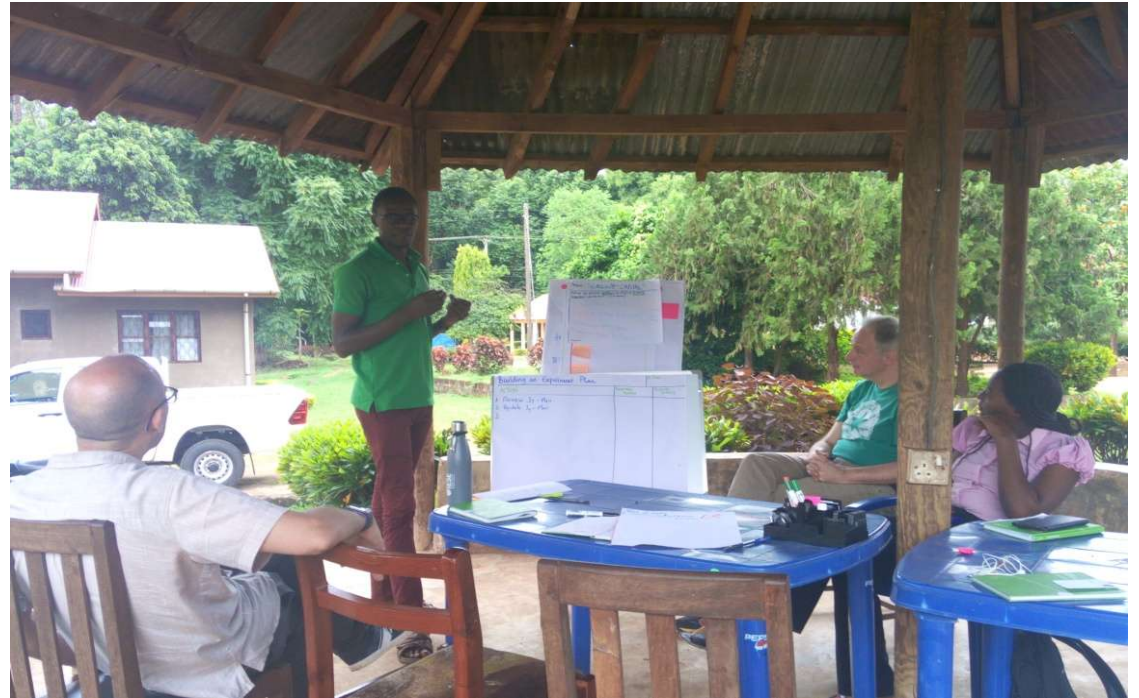


## ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

### ii. Review of Corporate strategic plan of 2016-2019 and formulation of 2020-2024 corporate strategic plan

ECOWICE has reviewed the corporate strategic plan that was done with the support from Raleigh Tanzania (Youth 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.



### iii. Formulation of partnership policy

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.