



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOR WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

(ECOWICE)

ANNUAL REPORT

December 2020

Statement from the Board Chairman

We are glad to accomplish the six year of survival to our organization. Despite unexpected challenges of the pandemic COVID 19 We managed to conduct some of projects that have brought impact to both community and wildlife. As our first report for the 2020-2024 corporate plan we commit ourselves on more efforts in 2021 so that we can achieve what has not done in 2020.

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.



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Dr. Suzana Agustino

Board Chairman



Statement from the Chief executive officer

I would like to give my great appreciation to board member, members all our supporters who sacrificed to ensure the organization survive despite the challenge of COVID 19 pandemic.

As our first milestone toward our 2024 goal in our corporate plan, I can see we still have a lot to do. We have managed to support more communities and conserve more areas especially new areas of Rungwe forests, Mikumi and the continuation of Mkungunero-swagaswaga ecosystem. Our sales business have continued to survive despite COVID -19 which changed purchasing behavior for people...

My call to all staffs, board members, members and all stakeholders is to increase support, accountability and morale to ensure in 2021 we do the best and cover all gaps left in 2020.

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.

I wish you all the best



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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;

1. To increase number of community support and conservation projects
2. To improve institutional capacity
3. To Increase market for the products

1.1. *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. *Vision*

The vision of ECOWICE is developed rural communities for biodiversity conservation

3. *Mission*

The mission of ECOWICE is increasing income and food security with maintained biodiversity

4. *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

5. *Approach and methodology*

This report has been prepared during the workshop held by staffs of the management

Team based on the following approaches;

- i. Presentation on the status of the implementation of strategic objectives from planning perspective
- ii. Presentation on the status of the implementation of strategic objectives from field/practical perspective
- iii. Presentation on the key issues emanating from the objectives and review of other external perspective.
- iv. 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.



Five year strategic objectives

- i. Improved organization capacity to operate effectively and efficiently
- ii. Improved business efficiency
- iii. Realization of Organization sources of revenue
- iv. Ensure stakeholder involvement/participation.
- v. Ensure effective management of programs and plans

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES



Conservation of Rungwecebus Kipunji Project

This project is helped the endangered Rungwecebus kipunji which is threatened by habitat loss and poaching. The project was done in Kitulo national park, Ndundulu forest reserve and Mount Rungwe forest reserve.

The project involved the study for determining the level of deforestation and specie loss for rungwecebus kipunji and other primates.

The study for rungwecebus kipunji showed population decline as only few groups were observed. The most driving threat was observed to be charcoal production and encroachment for farming.

The project has analyzed the deforestation trend and shared it with the management. The forest was found losing its forest cover from the illegal harvesting. The spatial representation of deforestation patterns in Rungwe Nature Reserve underlines that significant deforestation took in the Western and Northern side and highlights that deforestation is accelerating. The process of deforestation clearly accelerated, as the deforested extent between 2014 and 2018 is much bigger compared to the previous two time periods (2000 – 2006 and 2007 – 2013).

Conservation education was done to more than 300 and 60 adjacent community were trained on environmental friendly income generating activities; mushroom farming and beekeeping.



Capacity building on marketing skills and financial management

In order to ensure sustainability of the groups, ECOWICE conducted training on marketing skills and financial management to mushroom production groups in Handeni district.

The training was done on March and July 2020, in three villages of Kwamsisi, Kwedihuo and Pozo villages. The training aimed at enhancing groups to gain knowledge on;

- Marketing strategies and management
- Financial management

The training was done to 64 mushroom farmers



Conservation of threatened bird species at Mkungunero-Swagaswaga ecosystem

This year ECOWICE has managed to conduct a project for conserving threatened bird species at Mkungunero-Swagaswaga ecosystem.

The project involved a survey on bushmeat hunting, household survey, forest assessment, awareness raising and livelihood support.

The survey showed high bushmeat consumption has resulted to decline of bird species and others are about to undergo local extinction.

The project helped to raise community awareness to 80 community members from six villages of Chemba and Kondoa districts



Marketing and promotion

This year the organization continued on promoting its products mostly through social media and website. The organization also managed to participate on Nane nane exhibition in Morogoro municipal. Different products such as honey, mushrooms were advertized beeswax, through that there was an increase in product sales.



Inception of human-wildlife co-existence at Mikumi national park

Due to the increasing human activities that threaten wildlife corridors and migratory areas of Mikumi national park. ECOWICE have initiated the project that will help restore the lost migratory areas and wildlife areas while developing living standard of the community. The project has started by a need assessment survey that was conducted at three villages adjacent Mikumi national park.

High trend of deforestation and species loss was observed mostly due to charcoal production, farmland expansion and elephant poaching cases which are associated by human-wildlife conflicts. This project will focus on developing approaches for reducing human wildlife conflicts that will encourage the community to conserve wildlife corridors and migratory areas.



Fundraising activity

In order to ensure there is effective fundraising activities, this year the organization developed fundraising strategy that initiated various fundraising activities such as quiz night, trivia night and online crowd funding, through that the organization managed to raise amount of money that helped to run different activities at our human-wildlife coexistence at Mikumi national park.



CHALLENGES



Although the organization has managed to run some of its activities there are many challenges uncounted to affect performance of activities; This includes;

COVID1-19 pandemic

This deadly pandemic emerged in Tanzania on March 17 2020 where the government of Tanzania restricted all public activities including seminars. This caused many field activities to be postponed, a situation that caused delay of many activities until July 2020.

Poor performance of financial sources

As one of the organization main sources of income; the organization did not secure enough funding from donors to run most of its planned activities which resulted some of them to end the year while unfinished.

Inadequate and poor transport facilities

Currently the organization has only one motorbike that is used to run both field and administrative activities. The challenge comes when both field and administrative activities need to be done at the same time. Also it is hard to use motor bike in rainy conditions and in distant areas.