

Project Name: Building Climate Resilient Communities Around Wild Life Protected Areas Project

Project Goals: to contribute towards the increased participation of CSOs in tackling climate change and mitigating its adverse effects.

Specific Goal: Is to empower targeted communities surrounding Mwabvi Wildlife Reserve, Kasungu National Park and Lengwe National Park to transform negative coping strategies and build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change

Project Outcomes:

1. At individual level: the targeted women, men, youth and people with disabilities living near the protected areas will have diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income
2. At community level: Targeted communities will be able to protect, restore and promote sustain use of natural resources
3. At National Level there will be a positive enabling environment established where duty-bearers, laws, policies and institutional practices related to wildlife and forest management will effectively mitigate climate change and are responsive to the well-being of communities surrounding protected areas
4. At Institutional Level. CSOs will have a strengthened operational, managerial and technical capacity to engage in climate change mitigation programming.

Main Activities

1. Establish community nurseries through community-led tree planting campaigns

YONECO in collaboration with the VNRMCs will mobilise and work hand in hand with communities to establish community nurseries of indigenous and naturalized tree species.

2. Conduct conservation education with schools and youth clubs

YONECO will lead on this intervention across all three targeted Protected Areas. YONECO will work hand in hand with the Parks' Education and Extension Departments in order to engage youth, students, and out of school children in conservation education, through a curriculum mutually agreed with the Park's authorities.

3. Conduct road shows to sensitise communities on the consequences of negative coping mechanisms.

YONECO is leading on this intervention across all three targeted Protected Areas in collaboration with community activist network. The road shows are presented on community market days in order to engage an optimal number of community members.

4. Inter-community competition awarding the best performing community in relation to forest conservation and management

YONECO is leading on this intervention across all three targeted Protected Areas. This intervention was requested by the consulted VNRMC members and Park Authorities, who emphasised the value of incentivising targeted communities to engage in forest conservation and management

5. Intra-community competition awarding the best performing community member to put in practice sustainable agro-forestry systems and practices

YONECO is leading on this activity. The activity is complementing the other competition and it was also requested by the consulted VNRMC members and Park Authorities, who emphasised the value of incentivising targeted communities to engage in water and soil conservation.

6. Produce and air radio jingles on water and soil conservation measures promoted by the project.

Through YONECO FM radio, YONECO is producing and airing radio jingles on water and soil conservation measures in order to reach out to an increased number of community members with simple but impactful messaging on the importance and good practice of soil and water conservation.

7. Conduct community participatory theatre performances and dialogue meetings to raise awareness on the need to reduce negative coping mechanisms which degrade the reserve such as poaching and wildlife crime.

YONECO through YONECO Cultural Troop is conducting TFD sessions in all the 3 districts to create dialogue meetings with community members on the need to reduce negative coping mechanisms which degrade the environment

Achievements So Far

1. Conducted a series of roadshows Kasungu, Chikwawa, Nsanje
2. Conducted TFDs on Wildlife conservation and Soil Management in Kasungu
3. Produced and aired jingles on YFM (108 times) on soil conservation

4. Established and trained 20 LRC to assist in producing content for radio programming on protecting wild life
5. Launched inter and intra competitions on Agro forestry systems
6. Developed a curriculum to be used in teaching school clubs and youth groups on wildlife issues
7. YONECO conducted TFD sessions in Kasungu on the need to reduce the negative coping mechanisms which degrade the environment