



NKHUDZI BAY UTALE CLUB (NBUC)
P.O BOX 14,
MONKEY BAY-MANGOCHI
MALAWI.

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NKHUDZI BAY UTALE CLUB LIONDE NATIONAL PARK EDUCATION VISIT TRIP REPORT



BRIEF INTRODUCTON OF NBUC CONNECTION OF TRIP

Nkhudzi Bay Utale Club (NBUC) is the registered non-profit Organization under Malawi ministry of justice number (CAP. 5:03), R.G.20754/IM/5.2005 and FORMC TR/INC

7330. And a registered member of Council for the Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA).

The organisation registered to fulfil its aims and objects which are:

- To civic educate members on the modern agriculture practices
- To maximize profit, consumption and market share, increase production capacity, use of competent personnel and improve technologies.
- To organise rural smallholder farmers and under-privileged women into groups and set up self-help groups for their social-economic development and empowerment.
- To create Environmental Awareness and undertake environment improvement activities like agro-forestry, agro-horticulture, soil and water conservation, sustainable agriculture development and human-Wildlife conflict management.

It is with this regard that on 17th August 2019, Nkhudzi Bay Utale Club headed by Cottage Industry women team organise an education visit to Lionde National Park to learn from experts on environment issues.

PEOPLE ATTENDED AND THEIR PURPOSE

The women team did organise the trip under NBUC roof, and below are the people who attended;

NBUC Board of Trustees

NBUC members

Community development team

GVH Mwanyama (Mwanyama village)

GVH Chiwalo (chiwalo village)

VH Mnthunya (Mthunya village)

Women Cottage Industry team

PURPOSE OF THE TRIP

After strategic meeting hold in Mwanyama village, many issues put in place in order to develop and sustainably move forward. NBUC

women thought of cement themselves on bee keeping, texture and cottage industry. The group regrets that, any progress can't happen without proper skills and knowledge of bee farming modern systems, because bees can only settled in the bush. This is why the group decided to visit Lionde Nation Park as one way to go forward. A part from this, people had many topics expected to learn from the environmental experts.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Below are some of the topics expected:

1- HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

In Malawi we have observe strange habit whereby people are negatively depend on nature, like; unnecessary cutting down of trees for firewood and charcoals, the illegal hunting of wild animals, fishing and selling of animal skins. This doesn't spare Monkey Bay-Mangochi. It is against this background that NBUC would want to learn how to manage the same by trying to find appropriate solutions.

2- ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL-ECONOMICS

It always sound thin line or nearly impossible for many rural community to know how to positively benefit from environment economically. In our context, we feel to learn more on how we can keep bee, any measures of agro-forestry etc.

3- WILD ANIMALS TRAFFICKING

In the past decades, we used to see many business people from Mozambique and other countries visiting communities around the lake shore areas to buy hippo meats, teeth and other animal skins. This does not sound good reflection as far as wild animal management is concern, hence the need for quick response.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

According to our low knowledge, the philosophy shows that community leaders do have power and influence to protect nature.

As the practical facts we have been seen people observe and obey community rules, especially to conserve wild trees around community historical area, no one cuts trees around the graveyard and once found the punitive penalty always given. It is with this ideology/fact that NBUC thought to travel with chiefs to Lionde National Parks. The bottom line is to learn how African Parks managed to work with communities around the park through chiefs and control poaching and all evil conducts. We are more than happy to confirm with respect attendance of GVH Mwanyama, VH Mnthunya and GVH Chiwalo. Confidently, this is what Chief Chiwalo said after the trip, "I confirm to put all my effort, and help environmental intervention which will help ourselves in future, I saw Elephant when I was young and happen to see it again now. I know because we cut all trees in our communities and having bare grounds, if not careful this will be unbelievable history to the next generation,, thanks to NBUC and all involved for this education visit, my mouth is a bit narrow to express my excitement and what I have seen today will keep on spiritually push me to do something on environment," Chiwalo said while filled with joy and excitement. On behalf of my fellow Chiefs, I wish if we could set proper plan with community at large to kiss this year's rain season with millions of trees and probably conduct environmental trainings. Chiwalo proceeded while failing to position himself at one place.

PLASTIC MANAGEMENT

We learn how plastic papers affect animals when swallowed and pollution issues. Thanks African parks for setting environmental training site, you helped us to learn something new.

TRIP OUTCOME

The trip was so amazing and educative; frankly the group have achieved what we expected to as follows;

- How the Park contributes economically to youth people around the park by giving them chance/training to become community tour guide.
- The way they contribute to community education by building compost toilets and school blocks.

- Special bee farming training to people around the park and further buying their honey for the economic empowerment.
- How wild animal management helps country's economic activities.
- How chiefs can help to manage the environment.etc.

FEEDBACK TO AFRICAN PARKS AND LIONDE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT

The group would like to thank the management of African Parks for the best training and knowledge they offered us through the fantastic young female environmental facilitator **Memory Padatha Chibwana** who answered all the topics the group had expected. Furthermore, the community tour guides helped us to learn more when drove around the Park whilst observing beauty of the nature and feel that; indeed, **“HOME IS BEST“**

However, the group learnt with a sad note after realised that African Parks can only buy honey from villages surrounding the Park, such that we are on the disadvantaged position as we come from far as Nkhudzi Bay in Monkey Bay.

Finally, having learnt and acquired the best knowledge and skills we lacks most, the group would want to embrace the same in our home village and surrounding areas.

Therefore, NBUC would like to request the African Parks management the following:

- Do us favour to help women with bee faming modern systems.
- If possible, would your management think of giving us a room for selling honey once harvest?

Once all is set, we shall communicate for further two days training session in near future.

THE WAY FORWARD

NBUC is happy to confirm that currently all is set to move forward with the bee keeping program. The fundraising is in progress to source funds to buy 40 (forty) hives and other overhead cost. The process is facilitated by **NBUC** women hub under the leadership of

Bertha Suman and **Janet Kazimu**. Very glad to report that, permission has already been granted from the Lake Malawi National Park management allowing us to hung hives around Nkhudzi Bay Mountain. The targeted budget of **k740 518.90** is in process to be sourced.

CONCLUSION

As our Moto “**only change brings changes**” our mapping forward is to seriously look into Income Generating Activities. And promote self-help programmes as we conserve nature.

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