



Environmental Conservation Family

ORGANIZATION PROFILE

2014



SUMMARY OF ORGANIZATION PROFILE 2014

Organization Name: Environmental Conservation Family (EcoFamily - Tanzania)

Mailing Address: The President
EcoFamily-Tanzania
P.O. Box 1802
Bukoba, Kagera, Tanzania

Office Location: Kafuti Street in Bakoba Ward adjacent to the Bukoba Port, in Bukoba Municipality.

Telephone: +255 282220181

Mobile: +255 688 265 758

+255 767 265 759

+255 786 673 498

Email: ecofamilytz@gmail.com

Website: www.ecofamily.newplan.org

Contact Person: Mr. Jackson Rwebangira, President

Email: jrwebangira@yahoo.com

Mobile: +46 729 484 376 or +255 688 265 758 or +255 767 265 759

Legitimacy:

Registration Under: The Tanzania's Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2002

Registration #: 00NGO/00003932 of June 28, 2010

Type of Organization: NGO working on Sustainable Development

Core Areas of Work: Environmental Conservation
Community Empowerment

Paid Staff: None

Volunteers: 39 [Males: 29, Females: 10]



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About EcoFamily

EcoFamily stands for Environmental Conservation Family. It is a national non-profit organization (NGO) working in Tanzania mainland with its head office in Bukoba Municipality, Kagera region in Northwestern Tanzania. EcoFamily was founded in 2008 by seven individuals who have academic background in different environmental related fields. The founders of EcoFamily share a passion for fostering sustainable development through effective environmental conservation initiatives. Their interest is to build a voluntary spirit to care for the environment and link the knowledge and skills generated at higher learning institutions to the communities. The NGO was officially registered under The Tanzania's Non-Governmental Organizations Act of 2002 with Registration number: 00NGO/00003932 of June 28, 2010.

Since its inception, EcoFamily's leadership and the members have undertaken various initiatives towards community empowerment and environmental conservation for sustainable development as a commitment to the organization's mission and vision. The EcoFamily's leadership is committed to community sustainable development through environmental conservation. EcoFamily has not yet acquired any external funding to implement its projects. However, through its volunteers, the organization collaborates with the Kagera and Kigoma regions' Fisheries Resource Protection and Aquaculture Divisions of The Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries, to implement various activities under the Fisheries Act of 2003 with its Regulation of 2009. All implemented projects aim at protecting the environment and empowering the communities to utilize environmental resources sustainably.

1.2 Our Vision

To become an influential driver of sustainable development governed by environmental protection

1.3 Our Mission Statement

EcoFamily is committed to inspire and empower the community to protect the environment.

1.4 The Objectives of EcoFamily

- a) To empower the community to protect the environment through sustainable and research based projects
- b) To protect and conserve terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems' health and services
- c) To promote monetary valuation of the ecosystem goods and services for sustainable development
- d) To raise awareness and build community capacity on socioeconomic issues to improve livelihoods
- e) To promote environmental management tools
- f) To network with national and international stakeholders to enhance environmental protection
- g) To promote environmental education at all levels



1.5 Our Motto

Rationality for Sustainability

1.6 Our Values

- ✓ We are honest, accountable, transparent and responsible for our work promoting gender equity and participation
- ✓ We are innovative, adaptive and flexible providing our services in a competent, courteous and proactive manner
- ✓ We believe in education and support continuous learning, career and professional development for self-esteem
- ✓ We work together managing our resources effectively and efficiently to deliver effective outcomes
- ✓ We are independent and confident advocates for the environment

1.7 Our Philosophy

Our Philosophy is Biocentrism geared towards sustainable use of the environment for sustainable development. We consider that the rights and needs of humans are not more important than those of other living things are. We believe that natural resources should be used for the greater good for the greatest number for the longest time.

1.8 Leadership and Administration of EcoFamily

We are currently developing the precise organizational structure of EcoFamily that will include the following:

- ✓ The Board of Directors, which comprises seven (7) [founders](#)
- ✓ The Executive Committee, which comprises five (5) [top office bearers](#) of EcoFamily
- ✓ Sub-committees for specific subject areas and [other office bearers](#)
- ✓ Other Staff hired as funds are available according to a salary scale commensurate with NGOs of similar size and experience.
- ✓ The council of sponsors, EcoFamily branches, other members and the public

1.9 Physical Address

EcoFamily operates from its Head office in Bukoba Municipality. The office is located along Kafuti Street in Bakoba Ward near the Bukoba Port, at the right wing of the Regional Fisheries Office in Kagera Region Tanzania. It is adjacent to the ICAP and SCC VI Agroforestry Building. EcoFamily's leadership envisages having field offices at Malehe fish receiving station in Bukoba Rural District and other landing sites.



1.10 Membership and Partnership

Currently, EcoFamily consists of 39 volunteer members including the founders. The organization officials have created partnerships with the following:

- ✓ The Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries,
- ✓ The Institute of Resource Assessment of the University of Dar es salaam (IRA-U DSM),
- ✓ The Tanzania Environment Friendly Association (TEFA),
- ✓ TJSB Envidep Ltd. (Environment and Development Management Consultants), and
- ✓ MABUT Company Ltd.

EcoFamily leaders have also officially introduced the NGO to stakeholders throughout the Lake Zone regions as well as to the Vice President's Office (Division of Environment) and many other stakeholders. The leadership is currently working to garner more national and international friends, partners and donors in order to pursue the NGO's objectives, mission and vision successfully.

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS OF EcoFamily

Since its inception in September 2008 to date, EcoFamily, through its volunteers, has been collaborating with various stakeholders. Particularly, the NGO works closely with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development through the Fisheries Resource Protection and Aquaculture offices in Kagera and Kigoma regions, in implementing various projects on environmental protection and management. All the implemented activities aim at socioeconomically empowering the communities through conservation and protection of Lake Victoria environment, fisheries resources, the wetlands and the environment in general. Specific achievements are as follows.

2.1 Promotion of Afforestation and Reforestation

- ✓ EcoFamily has enhanced the establishment of two permanent tree nurseries, one at its office and the other in Kashai Street opposite to the Pepsi factory adjacent to the Bukoba Airport. At these nurseries, tree seedlings are available for more people at low costs and this earns an income for the attendants while promoting ecosystem services.
- ✓ EcoFamily has contributed to the dissemination of tree planting education and campaigns in Bukoba and Muleba districts. Mr. Jackson Rwebangira, President, has spearheaded tree planting demonstration project of about 145 acres in Bukoba Rural and Bukoba Urban Districts. See more photos [here](#)



2.2 Wetlands Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Management

- ✓ In collaboration with the MCS Kagera office, EcoFamily has visited and conducted capacity building meetings and seminars to leaders of the Beach Management Units (BMUs) at over 80 (BMUs) including Muleba District (69), Bukoba Rural District (11), Bukoba Municipal (6) and Misenyi District (2) all in Kagera Region.



- ✓ EcoFamily has conducted awareness meetings on environmental conservation to over 800 fishers at 17 landing sites in the mainland and Islands in collaboration with the MCS Kagera office. The islands include Goziba, Kerebe, Musila, Kinagi, Makibwa, Nyaburo, Bumbire, Katobofu, Malehe, Lubafu, Igabiro, Nyabyesiga, Nyamkazi, Foradhani, Kemondo/ Rushara, Kyamkwikwi and Kagoma (Buligi).
- ✓ EcoFamily has enhanced the formation of 50 small-scale Fishers' self-help groups of which 30 groups are located in the Islands of Lake Victoria and 20 groups are in the mainland.



- ✓ EcoFamily volunteers have participated in various patrols executed by the MCS Kagera Office aiming at curbing illegal fishing practices whereby immature fishes and illegal fishing gears including:

a) Thousands of mosquito nets as indicated on the following photos



- b) Over 5,120 gillnets <5 Inches, monofilaments, 982 seines (Kokoro) and 66 unregistered boats containing ‘makokoro’ (BS) have been seized according to guiding laws. In addition, the surveillance enhanced the arrest of over 169 suspects of illegal fishing whose cases are under the courts. See more photos [here](#)



2.3 Achievements in Crosscutting Issues

Focusing on health and gender issues, EcoFamily has succeeded to integrate HIV/AIDS education in the implementation process. The plan is to combat HIV/AIDS in the context of human rights and gender mainstreaming among fisheries communities. This activity aims at protecting the rights of women, the disabled, elders, children, widows and orphans. Awareness creation will continue at village levels and among the fishing communities during the implementation of different projects in order to rescue the farmers and fishers' communities from the HIV/AIDS disaster and gender discrimination.

2.4 Institutional Capacity Building, Professional and Career Development

A number of EcoFamily officers including the two high ranked officers are currently pursuing their graduate studies at different universities in and outside of Tanzania as follows:

- ✓ Mr. Jackson Rwebangira, President, is currently at Stockholm University (Sweden) undertaking his MSc. in Natural Resource Assessment and Management. He is conducting a research on ‘Assessing the Impacts of Nile perch Commercialization on Socioeconomic Sustainability around Lake Victoria, Tanzania.’ He is expecting to graduate in October 2015 and return to work with EcoFamily. Apparently, Mr. Rwebangira is networking to established partnerships with international organizations in Sweden and Europe at large.
- ✓ Mr. Liberatus J. Rwebugisa, Vice-President, is currently at the University of Nevada, Reno in the United States of America, where he is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration. Mr. Rwebugisa expects to graduate in May 2016 and continue to study for his Ph.D. before returning to Tanzania to work with EcoFamily and pursue other career and professional development activities. Currently he is also networking to develop partnerships for EcoFamily.
- ✓ Ms. Kulwa Mtaki, Vice General Secretary, is apparently studying for her MSc. in Marine Science at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She is conducting a research on the ‘Percentage Male Fingering, Growth and Survival Rate of the Nile Tilapia (female) crossed with Rufiji Tilapia (male) Hybrid Reared at Different Salinities. She expects to graduate in October 2015 and continue working with EcoFamily. Ms. Kulwa is also actively involved in networking with various stakeholders at the University of Dar es Salaam.
- ✓ Ms. Will-elimina Selestine, Public Relations Officer, is now at Stockholm University (Sweden) studying for her MSc. in Natural Resource Assessment and Management. She expects to graduate in October 2015 and continue working with EcoFamily. Ms. Seletine is also collaborating with the President in establishing partnerships with key stakeholders in Sweden and Europe at large.
- ✓ Mr. Mathias Kabyemera, member, is currently at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania studying for his M.A Geography and Environmental Studies. He is conducting research on ‘An Assessment of Foreign Investments and Associated Implications for Land Conflicts and Community Livelihoods: A Case of Chasimba Village in Kinondoni District, Tanzania.’ He expects to graduate in October 2015 and continue to work with EcoFamily.
- ✓ Mr. Rodrick Mahimbali, Planning Officer, is a Tanzanian government employee currently working in Kigoma region as a Regional Fisheries Protection Officer. He is working with the EcoFamily leadership to establish the EcoFamily branch in the Lake Tanganyika basin.
- ✓ Mr. Nicholas Mlaponi, Technical Officer, is also a Tanzania’s government employee working at the MSC Office Kagera. He is currently the acting President coordinating the activities at the main office in collaboration with other officers and volunteers.

2.5 Financial Sources and Management

EcoFamily has a Constitution that provides for Financial Management Policies, which guide financial management procedures, internal controls and accountability system. We are committed to professional accounting system and procedures. Our Financial Officer is a well-versed professional with knowledge, skills and experience in accounting work, committed to financial and professional ethics. For resource mobilization initiatives, EcoFamily's leadership is establishing Fundraising and Resource Mobilization Strategies that will guide EcoFamily management to acquire financial resources for the accomplishment of the set objectives, mission and vision. For proper accounting, EcoFamily owns and operates one Bank Account with the Cooperative Rural Development Bank (CRDB) at the Bukoba Branch. We systematically manage and account for all funds through this account.

2.5.1 Anticipated Sources of Funds

- ✓ Board members' Contributions
- ✓ Patrons' voluntary contributions
- ✓ Membership Fees
- ✓ National and International grants from partners and donors.
- ✓ The government at all levels
- ✓ Community and stakeholders' contributions
- ✓ Others

2.5.2 Challenges

Notably, EcoFamily is a young organization officially registered and awarded the Registration No. OONGO/00003932 of June 28, 2010. Most of its founders and volunteers are still working hard pursuing their higher education at various universities and the NGO itself has not yet received external funding to implement various projects. However, before its registration, most of the founders of EcoFamily have been full workers, volunteers and participants in curbing illegal fishing activities and fostering the Lake Victoria basin environmental conservation initiatives in collaboration with the MCS Kagera Region under the Tanzania's Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries.

3.0 PLANS FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2020

The EcoFamily leadership is committed to the NGO's objectives, mission and vision. We plan to maintain, strengthen and expand the working relationship with existing and new stakeholders in order:

- ✓ To increase support and sources of funding, particularly by identifying donors to fund various projects aimed at environmental conservation and community empowerment in Tanzania
- ✓ To continue conserving natural resources in the Lake Victoria basin, ecosystem management, wetlands and water resources management for sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction
- ✓ To increase community capacity building and empowerment through vigorous sessions including awareness creation meetings, trainings, seminars and workshops along with other supports.
- ✓ To enhance access to good sanitary, hygienic and housing facilities among the poor small-scale fishers' communities particularly in the eight Lake Victoria Islands to promote safe and healthy livelihoods
- ✓ To conduct projects aiming at promoting human rights in the context of combating HIV/AIDS spread and promoting gender equity among communities
- ✓ To promote aquaculture and sustainable agricultural practices among the rural poor communities
- ✓ To partner with schools at all levels and establish students' environmental conservation clubs
- ✓ To change mind set of smallholder farmers and fishers to business oriented farming and agribusiness
- ✓ To conduct research and any other legitimate projects, programs and activities aimed at fostering the success of the organization in pursuit of its objectives, mission and vision
- ✓ To identify and resolve different natural resource conflicts among different communities as an attempt to empower them.

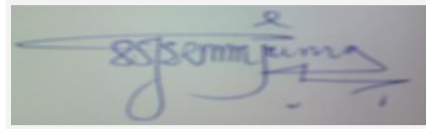
4. LIST OF VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

1.	Jackson Rwebangira	14.	Leonard Lydia	27.	Mwatum Maarifa
2.	Liberatus J. Rwebugisa	15.	Sylivester Laurian	28.	Mary G. Karega
3.	Stemius Salvatory	16.	Willson Emmanuel	29.	Henry L. S. Machui
4.	Hosea G. Mbilinyi	17.	Evelyne M. Kulwa	30.	Maximilian Edward
5.	Rodrick Mahimbali	18.	Masudi Zuberi	31.	Eng. Japhet Loisimaye L.
6.	Nicholaus G. Mlaponi	29.	Mathias Kabyemela	32.	Chaggaka. J.A. Kalimbia
7.	Justus J. Magongo	20.	Erick Nestory	33.	Jovin Kamala R.
8.	Fatuma Sobo	21.	Jovin John Manyori	34.	Hamdan S. Mushema
9.	Renatha Kiengo	22.	Yahya Shakiru	35.	Lusekelo Kaseba
10.	Will-elimina Selestine	23.	Auson Nyonyi	36.	Felix A. Mpiru
11.	Tatu Hamis	24.	Workstone Laurent	37.	Andiphance Kilukibi
12.	Beatha Laurent	25.	Verónica Bartazari	38.	Octor Nyabange Jandwa
13.	Deogardius Medardi	26.	Ernest Kazimili	39.	Sadam Matsawili

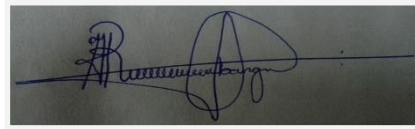
AUTHORIZATION:

We, the undersigned, certify on behalf of EcoFamily that the information in this profile is true to the best of our knowledge and correctly describes EcoFamily's pursuit of its objectives, mission and vision.

Yours faithfully,



.....
Mr. Sadam Matsawili J.K.
Financial Officer (Treasurer)
EcoFamily Tanzania



.....
Mr. Jackson Rwebangira,
President,
EcoFamily Tanzania

***** *Rationality for Sustainability* *****