

wanyamapori tanzania

Kakakuona Wildlife Magazine  
October – December 2007



# Kakakuona

Toleo 03 Oktoba - Disemba 2007

Bei Tsh 1000 Tanzania Kenya Shs 70

## Pundamilia

na alama za  
barabarani



Rais  
Kikwete  
awaonya  
walanguzi  
wa misitu  
uk 2

NGAJIMBA MBAYA: A great  
promoter of tree planting  
in Kilosa



# NGAJIMBA MBAYA: A great promoter of tree planting in Kilosa

Pictures and Story by Gratian Luhikula

I have met very few people who are gifted with the ability of promoting activities related to the management of the environment. Among those few, I can confidently say that Mr. Mbaya Ngajimba, the village chairman of the Msowero village in Kilosa, easily tops my list.

I was fortunate to meet Mr. Mbaya recently, during a visit organized by Water Development Alliance (WADA), which is undertaking several development activities, including tree planting in Kilosa. Without any exaggeration, every moment I was with this man, who is highly



***Ngajimba Mbaya (center) explaining to extension agents about how he mobilizes the community for tree planting.***





***Ngajimba Mbaya mobilizing Kilosa women, who have started a tree nursery.***

respected among the communities due to his leadership qualities, I couldn't stop admiring his 'art of persuasion' in matters related to environmental safeguarding – in particular tree planting.

WADA leader, Ms. Appa Mandari, has been enjoying the great company of Mbaya for over four months now. He has not only demonstrated his leadership qualities, but he is also a great campaigner for development activities.

WADA is a public-private partnership program committed to the conservation and sustainable use of Tanzania's water and watershed resources in the Wami - Ruvu and Pangani river basins – from the upper watershed to estuaries where the rivers drain into the Indian Ocean. It works with selected villages in the districts of Kilosa, Pangani, Korogwe, Bagamoyo, Mvomero, as well as public and private institutions.

WADA is primarily being implemented by the communities under the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

and The Coca Cola Company. Key members in this partnership include USAID Tanzania, the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island through the Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership (TCMP), Florida International University and World Vision. Other partners include the Tanzania Health, Environment and Sanitation Association (THESA), Wami-Ruvu Basin Water Office, Kwanza and Bonite Coca-Cola bottlers, the agro-industrial sugar companies of Mtibwa and TPC, Kigombe Sisal Estate and village water committees.

In the Wami-Ruvu watershed there is an urgent need to strengthen management of the sources of water for the benefit of the many communities whose lives and livelihoods essentially depends on water and its fragile resources it supports. Mbaya's realization of this led him to decide to devote his time to work with WADA in its campaign to conserve and promote sustainable use of the landscape and water resources. Using his great talents in community mobilization, he succeeded in attracting communities whose results left us amazed.

The life of the Kilosa people depend on integrated development of the environment of the Wami River in all of its facets. As Mbaya explains: "Our Kilosa has been blessed by a fertile land, well watered by the river. But due to our greed, we are inviting poverty through the size of our environmental footprint."

The community leader highly praises the WADA program, which he says has added new ingredients in community participation not only in tree planting, but also in other sustainable activities including health and sanitation activities. He mentions other activities, including the construction of toilets at schools, industrial waste water management, wise use of water and other activities aimed at improving lives of the communities.

One thing that can hardly escape my memory is the talent of Mbaya in community mobilization. Wherever we passed through a village, the people expressed without reservation that they were not only committed to Mbaya's preaching on tree planting, but also worked with great motivation.

Apparently, Mbaya also made a big impression on Mr. Donald Robadue from the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island, who was assessing the WADA project progress during this trip. Robadue didn't hesitate to ask the WADA Coordinator, Appa Mandari: "What magic did you use in raising and maintaining interest and energy among the communities...wherever we pass every individual seem to be highly motivated!"

Indeed, Robadue was right. Wherever we visited, the evidence of motivation was visible and impressive.

Our tour began by visiting a four acre teak, *tectona grandis*, plantation. We were all pleased by the effort being made by the communities, which was later described by Robadue as an 'amazing success' of the WADA project, which was hardly one year old. (See photo, page 61)

Supporting Robadue's perception, the head of the delegation, Mr. Jeremiah Daffa, the manager of the Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership, said: "If the prevailing spirit is

maintained, I am highly convinced that Kilosa will do wonders for the environment sector, in particular in the ongoing campaign in tree planting led by the nation-wide Award Scheme introduced by the President.

"The enthusiasm demonstrated by the communities shows that people now value sustaining a good environment. This, to us in the environment sector, is a great success. It provides us with positive feedback on the community response and commitment."

Daffa was so impressed that he predicted that if the much awaited Presidential Award for the Conservation of Land and Water Resources had been given out today, the winner would surely emerge from Kilosa, since their activities are authentic and are so visible.

Mbaya took us to witness one of the most impressive banana plantations in the area, one that demonstrated the great fertility soils of Kilosa. Upon my first glance at the plantation with healthy banana trees, weighed down by heavy bunches of bananas, I was temporarily speechless. The only comparison of the plantation's beauty can be found in Bukoba or in Moshi, as Hamis Mbano, our knowledgeable driver could easily testify.

As a matter of fact, the plantation left all of us speechless. The owner of the plantation, who is a retired agricultural officer, is expanding his operations with the intent of becoming the big supplier of bananas in Morogoro town. His vision is quickly becoming a reality.

After admiring the bananas, Mbaya revealed to us still one more surprise. We drove up to the New Msowero Farm, which is revitalizing its sisal plantation. Following the example set by the villagers, the farm is now practicing teak tree planting, placing rapidly growing seedlings along the access roads to the young sisal plants.

We concluded our highly inspirational tour with a visit to a women's group known as Kikundi Motomoto (see photo, page 62) which is undertaking various development activities, including tree planting. Their aim is simple: 'kick away' the persistent strains of poverty.