

uniterra *leo*

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*Inclusive Economies. Inclusive Societies.
Collaborative Action for Women and Youth.*

The Volunteer Issue

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Uniterra at International Volunteer Day



Uniterra volunteers Tristan McLean, Julie Turgeon, Jayda Bubeloff, Nadia Lampkin, Shazmane Mandjee, Alyssa McDonald and Sector Program Officer Gaudence Kapinga at International Volunteer Day on Dec. 5, 2017 at the Julius Nyerere Convention Centre.

The Uniterra program and WUSC Tanzania was represented at International Volunteer Day on Dec 5, 2017, at the Julius Nyerere Convention Centre.

The event was attended by a wide selection of volunteer organizations to celebrate the work being done in Tanzania and the idea that volunteering builds resilient communities. Sector Program Officer Gaudence Kapinga spoke on a panel with other non-profit leaders about resilience and volunteerism, and communications advisor Alyssa McDonald produced videos on behalf of UNV and the IVD event.

Karibu (Welcome) to Uniterra Leo!

Whether you are a partner or volunteer, community member or staff - WUSC Tanzania welcomes you to Uniterra's newsletter! Keep reading to learn more about the last four months of the program.

Canals of Sustainability

G.C.I.U.S students connect water to farmers' fields



The G.C.I.U.S. students (L-R: Corinne Gauvreau, Jean-Felix Leclerc, Louis-Philippe Gauthier, Charles Bernard, (f) Sophie Laflamme, Melissa Windsor, missing Antoine Paquet) with a group of beneficiary farmers in their maize field in the Manyara region. Photos by Alyssa McDonald.

When it comes to farming, water can mean the difference between a small or big yield - a success or a failed season. With this in mind, a large irrigation canal system was constructed near the village of Dongobesh, however, there was no money to finish the system.

So seven students from the University of Sherbrooke's G.C.I.U.S program stepped in. Not only to finish the irrigation system, but to examine and conduct the best way to construct it and make ties with the community. Partnering with MVIWATA - Manyara region, the students finished 600 meters of primary and secondary canals, 10 boxes of water division and 3 bridges.

"[This project] allowed us to make a big difference in a community and have a concrete project in engineering," said Jean-Felix Leclerc, who is in charge construction.

"Due to the dry season there is less water available so if we improve the end of the canal with masonry - when there is less water, more water will be able to get to field."

Over the span of four months, contractors were hired, community members came to help dig trenches, fetch water, carry rocks and contribute in any way they could.

"It's *our* project - us *and* the farmers because we bring the funds and a bit of technology but overall it's them who is going to benefit from it," said Melissa Windsor, in charge of communications, "They feel apart of it. Ownship of it."

In addition to canal, the group also conducted a 5-day gender equality training (GALS) for the community. They heard from women who had an interest in farming but didn't have the space. With the remaining money, the

group purchased a small parcel of land to be utilised by a small cooperative of 20 women.

"It's a good way for them to invest what they learned in the GALS," said Charles Bernard, the community agent who studies political science.



The making of the irrigation canal.

"With the cooperative, it's a small place where they can go and learn... and get tools and skills that otherwise they might not have the opportunity [to get]."

The land bought by the students will go directly into a small-scale farming venture so the women can invest profits in other projects.

The irrigation canals were officially opened at an event thrown by MVIWATA on December 12, 2017 which was attended by farmers, community members, government officials and the press.

Find out more about G.C.I.U.S. at gciusblog.wordpress.com.



Team members Charles Bernard and Melissa Windsor with the farmers who came and dug trenches and other construction staff.

Snapshots from the field



AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

WUSC Tanzania hosted the Africa Regional Meeting for English-speaking offices in October 2017. Country directors and staff travelled from Ghana, Malawi and Burkino Faso to Arusha to discuss the challenges and successes of the past year.

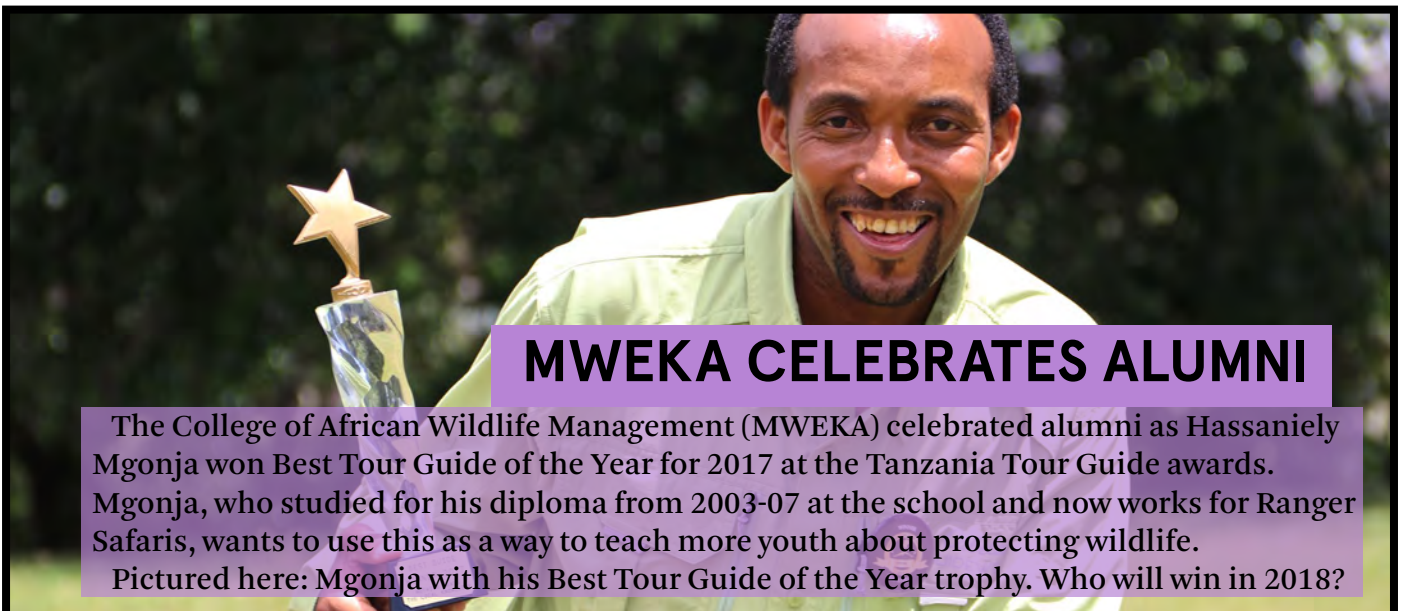
Pictured here: During this time, meeting participants had a chance to tour Arusha and visit one of the Tanzania Tourist Board's Cultural Tourism Enterprises.



FRI TRAINS NEW JOURNALISTS

Farm Radio International volunteer Jamie Little led a two-day workshop for six journalists in Arusha from Jan. 15-16, 2017. These aspiring and early-career journalists came from around Tanzania to learn important aspects of storytelling, interviewing and photography. The journalists have the opportunity to pitch stories and be mentored on their journalism skills for Barza Wire, an online wire service used by African rural radio broadcasters.

Pictured here: Jamie (left-center) seen here with journalists from around Tanzania.



MWEKA CELEBRATES ALUMNI

The College of African Wildlife Management (MWEKA) celebrated alumni as Hassaniely Mgonja won Best Tour Guide of the Year for 2017 at the Tanzania Tour Guide awards. Mgonja, who studied for his diploma from 2003-07 at the school and now works for Ranger Safaris, wants to use this as a way to teach more youth about protecting wildlife.

Pictured here: Mgonja with his Best Tour Guide of the Year trophy. Who will win in 2018?

There are many adventure-filled tourists who want more than just the typical tourist sites – they want to veer from the path and experience a different side of Tanzania.

The international non-profit Village Monde recognized this need and now provides information for tourists to find places to sleep while also helping cultural and sustainable tourism projects, mostly in remote areas.

In conjunction with Uniterra and its partner the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), Village Monde sent Rodolphe Lasnes to travel around Tanzania and visit different accommodation options that also pledge money to help their surrounding community. Many of the 20 places that Village Monde will feature on their website after Lasnes' three month researching trip, are listed as TTB's Cultural Tourism Enterprises (CTE) and have a village development fund or sustainable projects for their villages.

"It was a good match between Village Monde and the CTEs of TTB, because we knew from the beginning that all the CTEs are giving



Uniterra volunteer Rodolphe Lasnes participating in a traditional dance at the Mulala Cultural Tourism Enterprise near Arusha.

Online but Off the Beaten Track

Advertising the road less travelled
for community social good

back something to the community," said Lasnes.

"To develop a school, for example, or to develop a small hospital. Or some of them are working a lot with the environment and planting trees."

Once at an accommodation, if the location met certain requirements for sustainable tourism, Lasnes was able to collect information for Village Monde so the accommodation could be posted (and booked on their Airbnb-type website for remote villages.

"Most of the places are like a small home stay, like a family business (and) they don't really know how to promote themselves so basically they are just unknown on the tourist map," said Lasnes.

"On the other hand, there are lots of tourists who would be willing to go to these places but they just don't know they exist. So Village Monde is trying to be bridge between these two people. "

Of all the places Lasnes visited,

he said some of his favorites were Ukerewe Island, the Usambara Mountains and Chumbe Island. He also advised travelling as local as possible and not shying away from the cross-cultural exchange staying at a remote place may offer.

"If you do spend a night with a family, then it is something different. You are no longer participating in an activity – you're just part of the family," said Lasnes.

"Then you can discover different things... learn more of the culture and the traditions. It is more interesting for the family as well because there is an exchange."

Lasnes also hopes that Village Monde can come back to Tanzania to explore more potential accommodations in the west and south of Tanzania.

More about Rodolphe's adventures at rodolphelasnes.ca.

See accomodations at villagemonde.com and tanzaniaculturaltourism.com for information about TTB's CTE program.

Selling Tanzania Tourism to the World

TTB
SPOTLIGHT

Tanzania Tourist Board joins six other Uniterra countries in trade mission to Canada

Two of Tanzania's top tourism experts went on a Canadian safari to learn and share experience about the international travel trade.

Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) managing director Devota Mdachi and cultural tourism program coordinator Elly Maturo joined representatives from six other Uniterra countries (Bolivia, Haiti, Peru, Sri Lanka and Vietnam) for the International Tourism and Travel Show in Montreal in October as well as attended a conference on sustainable tourism.

"The training was awesome," said Mdachi. "It gave me participants from other countries who were attending the training, to share experiences but also to learn about methods other countries are using."

During their trip, they were able to connect with businesses, meet potential clients and have discussions with other countries about

what is working, how they run their tourism departments and most importantly, the best way to feature cultural tourism.

"I learned how non-governmental organization can work with government sector – especially when dealing with employment challenges and empowering more women to be engaged in the tourism industry," said Maturo.

"Within that, we have something we can do back home with different players... to make sure we can change the situation of women employment in the tourism industry."

The Cultural Tourism Enterprises (CTEs) has been the focus on of many Uniterra volunteers and is a priority of TTB. Mdachi says she was inspired by talking with other countries about the experiences they offer with CTEs.

"It can be a totally different expe-

rience," said Mdachi. "The tourist comes in, stays in the community, but also participates in some of the activities. Not just the end product but the whole process and that is something that most of these enterprises do not do."

Maturo says he has already been implementing some of the lessons he took away from the trade mission and wants to focus on sharing this knowledge with those he works with and the CTEs.

"It all comes with the right training for the right people," said Maturo.

"We have people with great potential here but they are not aware they have this potential. They are not aware they have something to offer to the world - something where once they can do it, people will appreciate it and go for it as a product. We have lots of women with all the talents but have not yet explored their market."

Welcoming 2018



WUSC Tanzania wishes all of our partners, staff and volunteers
a happy and successful new year!

juicin' up the market

SWB volunteer Samir Haji helps organize Tanga's premiere Farmers' Market



SWB volunteer Samir (second from right) with members of HaiLife team and Uniterra volunteer Beth at the Tanga Urithi Market. Photo provided by Samir Haji.

Artisans, local farmers, food vendors and small enterprises now have a place to sell their products thanks to Uniterra partners HaiLife, volunteer Samir Haji and Tanga Urithi Museum.

The Tanga Urithi Market had its debut on Dec. 9, 2017 and second event on Jan. 31, 2018 at the Urithi Museum. Approximately 15 vendors came out for the second round to sell their arts and crafts, food and other products. Although there are active farmers' market in communities like Arusha, Usa River and Dar es Salaam, the coastal city of Tanga was left out of the trend.

“The response from vendors and

even locals was tremendous,” said Haji, a business advisor volunteer for the fresh juice company HaiLife.

“One lady, who was selling her Pilau spices and medicinal, told me that we’ve given her the strength, courage and the willingness to sell her products at a larger scale. That was very touching!”

Since the first market in December only had 10 vendors (partially due to bad weather), the crew worked hard to keep the market growing and “establish the foundation for the future markets”, said Haji.

They created a committee where roles were given out to vendors,

investing in a sound system and looking for more ways to get the committee involved. For their third market, they also plan to have more kid friendly activities, henna and possibly live music. They have also been approached by vendors from Kenya to sell some products at the next market.

“It is spreading. People are talking about it. Tanga is getting some attention – it is definitely one of those towns that are untapped,” said Haji.

“It is only going to get bigger.”

Find out more about HaiLife at hailife.co.tz.



Samir promoting the second annual Tanga Urithi Market on TK FM RADIO 88.5 Tanga. Photo provided by Samir Haji.



In partnership with Uniterra, SWB volunteer Samir developed a calendar for HaiLife. Photo from HaiLife Facebook.

Speaking Out for Youth in Agriculture

Alex Dickson travelled to Ghana to take part in Youth Summit on the SDGs



When it comes to solving global goals, Dickson Alex's venue has always been agriculture.

The 27-year-old farmer shared this passion in October 2017 with youth from across Africa when he attended the first ever Youth Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Ghana.

"[The summit] was about youth inclusion in SDG goals. So different ways of youth can play a part and push each for the goals to be achieved," said Alex.

"I think I can play a part in agriculture – to educate farmers, to do sustainable agriculture, to make sure there is enough food security in the country. So my part in SDGs is agriculture."

The summit, which theme was 'Youth as Drivers of Sustainable Development', focused how youth and the issues that stand in their way - including poverty, youth unemployment and climate change.

"Many youth were complaining about unemployment in their respective countries. I tried to tell the youth that you need to break the obstacles and look for opportunities everywhere," Alex said about speaking with some of the 250 delegates from 13 countries who attended.

"I spoke about how I started my business as a youth and why I decided to get into farming. You should just look at your specialization and start something. So that was my advice to the conference."

Alex, who is a graduate of Sokoine University of Agriculture, runs his own horticulture crop farm in central Tanzania growing yellow peppers, tomatoes and onions. He went as WUSC Tanzania's representative to the summit and was joined by other nine delegates sent from WUSC Malawi and WUSC Ghana.

In addition to the conference, the Unitera delegates met at the WUSC Ghana office for meetings about entrepreneurship and how to identify opportunities. Alex feels people in Tanzania do not see agriculture as a business.

"The general view of youth in agriculture in Africa is similar. In our country, in Ghana, in Uganda, in Kenya, in Egypt, in Nigeria – many youth still do not want to get involved in agriculture," said Alex.

"The agriculture value chain is very wide. When you talk about agriculture many youth just think of primary production but there is marketing, storage, post-harvest handling, consultanting. So as youth, they can play a part in any chain... so I encourage many youth to come and engage themselves in agriculture. There are a lot of opportunities. "



Delegates from WUSC in Tanzania, Malawi and Ghana attend the Youth Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Ghana. Photos supplied by Dickson Alex.



Uniterra is a leading international volunteer cooperation and development program, jointly implemented by WUSC and CECI.



In cooperation with local partners in the tourism and fruit and vegetable sub-sectors, Uniterra Tanzania is committed to increasing the socio-economic power of women and youth in Tanzania.



Through knowledge sharing of volunteers and partner in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, we aim to increase entrepreneurship opportunities and equitable access to markets for women and youth.

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