

Newsletter 1 – 2023/2024

Editorial:

Dear Lions friends,

We released our last Newsletter in December 2022.

Since then we organized the **3rd Euro Africa Webinar** on Feb 03. 2023. **Central topic: Lions Re-Greening Africa.** By a common effort of African Leadership, African Lions and Euro Africa Committee five pilot projects were defined in time and could be presented in the webinar. I must apologize for the technical problems. I was not sufficiently prepared to take the role of the moderator and I will not do this job for the next and my last Euro Africa Webinar. The description of the pilot projects follows below.



Our friend webmaster Jean-Claude Alyko from Benin is making remarkable progress in putting our new website online which can be viewed at <http://euroafrica.lions-africa.org>

Presentations from our events at the European Forum and the African Forum will soon be available online.

At **Lions Europa Forum 2023 Klagenfurt**, PID Dr Manoj Shah and PID Alexis Vincent Gomes also attended the meetings of the Euro-Africa Committee. Unfortunately, many other African Lions were unable to come to Klagenfurt. The Open Meeting gave the participating districts and multiple districts the opportunity to present their work in Africa. The presentations from France, Italy, Germany and Kenya focussed mainly on medical, educational and agricultural projects.

In my guest lecture at WaSH, I presented the "Lions R-Greening Africa" campaign. Following the launch of five different pilot projects in South, East, Central, West and North Africa, it is set to grow under African leadership into a major contribution by Lions in the fight against climate change.

"110 years of charitable work in Africa. But need and misery are growing. Why?" After a short presentation, an open discussion began with this provocation. Moderator PID Dr Ton Soeters had no easy task in view of the lively exchange



of opinions. The participants in the discussion were clear about the size and difficulty of the tasks in the world's second largest continent, but also had suggestions for improvement: more communication, responding to African initiatives and suggestions, working together in partnership.

The closed meeting focused on the admission of new members, the future focus of the committee's work and the upcoming elections for a new Executive Board in autumn 2024.

At **4th Lions Africa Forum in Accra/Ghana** introduced the website, the campaign “Lions RE-



Greening Africa” in general and three of the pilot projects, an Agro-Forest Project in Ethiopia and “Kili for Kids”. The closed meeting discussed the next newsletter and the future tasks of the committee.

We discussed also the **preparations for the election of a new board in autumn**

2024. The planned stages are as follows:

- Circular mail in spring 2024 to all MDs and Ds as well as all delegates, members and interested persons with notification of the election and an invitation to register candidates.
- All candidates introduce themselves with a short article and a photo in a newsletter of the committee in May/June 2024.
- An online meeting in September 2024 will give the candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves verbally and answer questions from delegates, members and interested Lions.
- The secret ballot by the delegates will take place in a hybrid session during the 5th Africa Forum in Morocco. This allows delegates who are absent to participate.

In my address to the First Plenary Session I emphasized how important it is to protect the environment and for the common survival of humanity as a whole. This goal cannot be achieved through selfishness and wars, but only through fair cooperation at regional, national and international level.

Let us together continue our efforts for a better future in Africa!

December 21, 2023

Hermann Heinemann
Past District Governor
President of the Euro-Africa Committee

4th Lions Euro Africa Webinar

**Vendredi 26 janvier 2023 Francfort 18:00,
Lagos 18:00, Le Caire 19:00, Nairobi 20:00**

Lions Re-Greening Africa, Recent Situation

Africa the Future - Future Tasks of Lions Euro Africa Committee

Invitation and Program will be released at the beginning of January.

Lions Re-Greening Africa

The Lions Nashulai Forest

By PID Dr. Manoj Shah

The Lions of Kenya District 411A have embarked on a Re-Greening Project at The Nashulai Conservancy in Kenya. The Nashulai Conservancy is The Only Masai Owned Conservancy in The Masai Mara. Their Focus with The Lions of Kenya is to Conserve Wild Life, Preserve Culture and Reverse Poverty.



The Project Was Launched By our International President Dr Patti Hill together with other Executive Officers and The Entire International Board of Directors on Thursday 19th October 2023. The Objective of The Lions together with the Community is to Grow and Sustain 500,000 Indigenous Trees within the Next 3 Years. We will also set up our own Seedling Nursery. All this will be Managed by The Masai Community.

The Lions of Kenya are Humbly Seeking for Partners and Well Wishers who could assist with funding of this noble project which is estimated to be completed at approximately Euros 150,000.

Restoration of Sakumo Ramsar Site in Ghana

By PCC Dr. Lami Ahmed

The Sakumo Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention, a global treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is located close to the Sakumo Lagoon, which is along the coastal road from Accra to Tema in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. The Lagoon is about 25% of the Site which is about 350 acres/ 1,416 hectares. It consists of blackish lagoon water with a narrow connection to the sea. The lagoon's surface area is about 350 hectares.



The site plays an essential role in supporting biodiversity, sustaining fisheries and woodland resources, marine life (turtle species). Animal species whose presence relates to international importance to the site and is a migratory staging area during peak bird migration season with a high count of water birds which represents more than 1% of the coastal population of this species (RAMSAR information sheet published 14 August 2015) and provides a home for many migratory bird species, about 30,000 birds a year. Plant species that relate to international importance to the site and Mangrove vegetation are located there. Currently, in addition to the above, activities such as fishing, farming, recreation, urban and industrial development are being carried out there.

Over the years, the Sakumo Ramsar Site has experienced some encroachment, and degradation due to human activities including human settlement and housing, waste dumping, Sewage waste and pollution, open burning with its effect on the climate, and deforestation.



"We are excited to see our restoration work finally begin at Sakumo Ramsar Site." said the District Governor of Lions District 418, Ghana, Lion Emmanuel Kojo Gyimah, PMJF. He went further to say, "This project is a significant step towards improving the health of this critical wetland ecosystem and restoring biodiversity. This activity is the

first phase of our Environmental project at the Sakumo Ramsar Site. It is District 418 Ghana Flagship Environment Project for the 2022-23 Lions Service Year. The project aims at the Restoration and Preservation of the Sakumo Ramsar Site to acceptable international standards. This will involve planting various species of trees like Mahogany, Acacia, Montalls, Albizia Lebbeck, and Blighia Sapida among others", he said.

The Chairperson of the District Environment Committee, Lion Commodore Steve Obimpeh MJF said, "Restoring the Sakumo Ramsar Site not only benefits the environment but also promotes the well-being of local communities, supports vital ecosystem, and enhances the biodiversity of the wetland."

The restoration project at Sakumo Ramsar Site was launched by the Hon. O. B. Amoah, Minister of State, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation & Rural Development (MLGDRD) and it is expected to be a 5 years project. After the completion of the project, the site's ecological health and biodiversity are likely to improve significantly, the land will be re-vegetated; the Lagoon will enhance sustainable Aquaculture with socioeconomic benefits for the indigenes; eco-tourism will be encouraged as the site will be developed into a modern wetland base to provide urban recreation e.g. bird watching, green park (Lion's den). The public is being encouraged to follow the restoration project's progress, take part in supporting conservation and restoration efforts, and visit the site to appreciate its restored habitat.

Lions Club Hibret's Childhood Cancer Project

By Lion Ephraim Senbetta

Lions Club Hibret of Addis Ababa has initiated a project in cooperation with Tesfa Addis Parents Childhood Cancer Organization (TAPCCO). TAPCCO is a registered Non-profit Organization that has been operating successfully since 2012.

TAPCCO supports children with cancer and their families, most from the countryside of Ethiopia where cancer treatment is not available. TAPCCO's support includes, among other things, lodging and meals for a child and one parent during the children's cancer treatment that is often lengthy. TAPCCO also provides transportation for the children to and from the hospital.

Prior to the establishment of TAPCCO, parents of children diagnosed with cancer had to make one of two extremely difficult decisions, either to take the child back to where they came from

knowing that they could not sustain themselves in the city during the child's cancer treatment or abandon the child at the hospital and go back home to give the child a chance to live.

Our club decided to create a project to address



TAPCCO's bigger needs by applying for a grant from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). The grant application includes acquisition of a van to transport the children to and from the hospital where they receive treatment, renovation of the facilities where the children are cared for, acquisition of furniture, etc. The grant application for a total project cost of \$116,000 was submitted to LCIF in March of 2023.

To receive the grant from LCIF, we must raise 25% of the total project cost which amounts to \$29,000. We have already raised approximately \$11,000 and we need to raise \$18,000 more. Of the \$11,000 we raised, approximately \$5,000 was pledged by a club in Germany. The rest, \$6,000, has been raised locally and the fund-raising effort is continuing. I expect that the Lions in Ethiopia will also be making in-kind contributions, that are not yet defined, when the project gets underway.

The LCIF board is expected to review our grant application in January of 2024, and we are looking forward to a positive outcome.

The restoration project aims to reverse this trend by improving the condition of the wetland, promoting the protection of its wildlife, and mitigating future threats. It is expected to cost about \$200,000.00 (Education and Sensitisation - \$50,000.00, Tree Planting and Protection - \$70,000.00, Aquaculture - \$50,000.00 and Dredging and Clean Up - \$30,000.00).

In 2021 the Lions Clubs International- District 418 and Tema West Municipal Assembly initiated a 10,000 Trees Project with the Office of the Regional Minister, UNESCO, US Embassy, Forestry Commission, Australian Embassy, Canadian High Commission, Brazilian Embassy, Namibia Embassy as partners. Some structures were even demolished on the Site because of a policy from the Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovation to stop encroachment.

The District has recently on 29th April 2023 embarked on additional restoration work to improve the ecological health of the site, enhance its biodiversity, and protect its important role as a natural habitat for a variety of species. The restoration process includes planting 300 trees for the reforestation of critical areas and educating young people who live in the environs to maintain and protect the trees. The Lions Clubs International, District 418 is working in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation, Ministry of Lands & Forestry, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralization & Rural Development, Greater Accra Regional Minister, The British High Commissioner, The United States Ambassador and other Diplomatic Corps & Representatives, Department of Wildlife & Forestry, Tema West Municipal Assembly (TWMA), Environmental Protection Agency, District Director of Education (TWMA), The Headmasters of Tema West Municipal Assembly J.H.S & Primary School, Zoomlion Ghana Limited, Chief & People of Sakumono Village, and the Assemblyman of Sakumono Electoral Area to foster sustainable development and environmental conservation through innovative, action-oriented initiatives.

A Complementary Way to Re-Green Africa

By PDG Dr. Franco Marchesani

MK Onlus, Italian Lions Against Childhood Killer Diseases, is an Italian Lions NGO dealing with the major issue of childhood mortality due to neglect, malnutrition, illiteracy and poor healthcare by means of interventions which, jointly, may be able to lead to an improved social life in rural Burkina Faso villages.

Operational headquarters: in a few areas in Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou, Koudougou and Bobo Provinces).

Through the years 70 drinking water wells have been drilled (in the last villages in cooperation with Onlus Water for Life), vegetable gardens have been dug,



dispensaries, hospitals, orphanages and CREN have been supported, and in Bobo villages childcare centres equipped with kitchens, toilets, playgrounds, meeting places and schools have been built.



Italian MK spreads over the entire country and is supported by many clubs and districts which – frequently – sponsor whole projects as their own services.

MK has an operational facility based in Faenza (MK Lab) which takes care of technical and organizational aspects and of media. A similar facility is based in Ouagadougou and is managed by local Lions. It also relies on a group of young modern technicians who, in Burkina, is the operational branch that follows all projects.

Project to rehabilitate 50ha of the green strip of Ouagadougou

By PDG Dr. Mbadinga ITSOUHOU



With a view to contributing to the fight against climate change and desertification, the lions of Burkina Faso have undertaken to support the rehabilitation of the green strip of

Ouagadougou, an important area for the city in terms of natural resources and economic development.

The project contributes to rehabilitating 50 hectares of the green strip to gradually allow it to create a microclimate around the city and a pole for the development of a green economy.

It should be remembered that the green strip of Ouagadougou is a vegetation zone (natural formation or artificial plantation) of about 2000 ha over a length of 20 to 25 km and 0.5 to 1 km wide, created in 1976.

This project will rehabilitate 50ha of the green strip of Ouagadougou by planting 8,000 trees and will provide economic activity to 1000 women who will be able to organize and equip themselves to carry out remunerative market gardening activities while maintaining the trees planted. It should also serve as a study environment for pupils and students of botany.

The total amount of the project is 315 K Euros.

The Ouagadougou Shea Lions Club estimates the duration of the project at three years.