



Lamu Safi Group

Newsletter

No. 4 September 2007

Who are we? Lamu Safi Group is a community based organisation, with a view to bettering our local Environment through education & implementing practical projects in the sphere of waste management.

New Logo! Check out our new Group Logo, kindly designed for us *gratis* by Hobo Design Associates in Leicester, UK. (hobo.dna@ntlworld.com). It's hip and high impact, so will be instantly recognisable on our correspondence and T-shirts. Thanks to John and Jason at Hobo for your help.

Stop Press! Coup for Lamu Safi..... At the Full Council Meeting at Lamu County Council on 4th September, LSG provided a presentation on the menace of plastic bags, and asked Councillors to ban plastic shopping bags. They agreed. The ban will come into effect from January 2008 in Lamu District, giving time to carry out a public awareness campaign & liaise with wholesalers to phase out their stocks.

We want your clean plastic bags! Please drop off any clean, intact plastic carrier bags at the LSG office, where they will be used in an income generating weaving project. They will be made into hats, bags and mats for sale. Thank you.

Notice Board at Lamu Airport

We have liaised with Kenya Airports Authority to provide a notice board at Lamu Airport, with posters containing information of different environmental community projects in Lamu. It will be positioned at the arrivals area so that new visitors can read about what is happening with regards to environmental work. The Project, called *Lamu Eco-Net* will include contributions from many Lamu Environmental Groups. If you want to include your group's information, please contact LSG or Lamu Chonjo Office, Bustani Ndogo, Utukuni.

Coming up.....Monthly Environmental Film Show in the Town Square

We are teaming up with Lamu Museums, LaMCop, and the Donkey Sanctuary to provide a free evening film show in the town square once a month. We will be showing DVD's on environmental conservation, wildlife and donkeys, as an entertaining way of educating the public. First show is on 7th September.

Progress on our Projects - Door to Door Collection of Household Waste using Donkeys

The trial finished at the end of August. We maintained a good participation rate throughout the trial, but the service appeared to be more accepted in the Langoni area rather than Mkomani. In the Mkomani area there were never more than 3 *soggi* (donkey baskets) of waste collected on one day, in Langoni it was generally more, sometimes up to 9 *soggi*, although both trial areas had the same number of houses!

A user's survey was carried out, asking participants what they liked and disliked about the service, suggestions for improvements, if they would be willing to pay for the service to continue and details of payment. They were also asked if they would be willing, at some point in the future to separate waste into organic and non-organic waste so that the organic waste could be made into compost or used as donkey food, providing there was some sort of incentive for them to do this.

Using the results of the survey as a basis, the service has continued and residents are charged a minimum of Ksh 10 per collection, carried out twice a week (Mondays & Thursdays in Mkomani and Tuesdays & Fridays in Langoni). The area covered was also increased – to include one street either side of the pilot street. The affected houses were visited to discuss the service and provide a leaflet. The expansion will be rolled out across the town over time in an organised way. We will keep you informed.

Coming Soon..... to a Birika near you!
Containers

Construction of two Mobile Waste

The two mobile waste trailers have been ordered & the deposit paid. Construction has commenced. They are being made by Textonic, a Mombasa company. Each trailer comes with a set of steps and will have a signboard attached. Textonic have estimated that each trailer will take one month to make.

When they arrive in Lamu, they will then be placed at strategic points in town to maximise their usage. We have been liaising with the County Council to ensure that they are attended to & emptied regularly.

Project to tackle the problem of plastic bags in Lamu - Phase 1

On 4 September we provided a presentation to Lamu County Councillors advocating a ban on plastic shopping bags in the District, and a push to promote alternatives. Councillors agreed to the ban, from January 2008. We will help with the public awareness campaign & continue research into alternatives.

In August, children collected 1.613 TONNES of plastic waste! That's A LOT of plastic! This includes 1180 kg of plastic bags and 433 kg of hard plastics (such as water bottles) that have been dumped in the town. And we have only just started! We started off being based at the County Council compound but found that children are only bringing plastics from nearby, so now we have started going out to different sites every Saturday and doing the weighing and paying on site. We have been to the Coast Cinema area at the back of the town leading to the Girls Secondary school and we will soon be going to the area at the back of the Swafaa mosque, and eventually to cover the whole town.

Lamu Safi Group Office – Lamu seafront between the Donkey Sanctuary & LCC offices

Our base is the above office. Next time you are in Lamu, pass by and find out what we are doing. We have a notice board outside the office detailing our projects. This has created a lot of interest from local people who stop to read. If you think your group would benefit from a presentation/talk about keeping Lamu clean, why its important and what YOU can do, then please contact LSG on 0734 794313 or pass by the office to arrange. These talks are free, and open to everyone.

How you can get involved in Lamu Safi Group and its activities...

Lamu Safi Group has its own bank account for members and well wishers to deposit funds. To do this you will need the following information:

Swift Code: KCBLKENXXX Beneficiary: Lamu Safi Group Account Number: 025 205671008

Remember, we rely on funds from group members to run our organisation. If you would like to hear about require other projects we want to undertake this year, then please contact us for more details.

We are also happy to receive donations in the form of materials and equipment.

IF YOU HAVENT DONE SO ALREADY... SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY BECOMING AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF LAMU SAFI GROUP. If

you are not ordinarily resident in Lamu, you can still be an active member by email. You will also be able to vote as a member through email, and be actively involved in decision making. You can register your membership by emailing us at: lamusafigroup@yahoo.com.

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Name	Postal Address
Email	
Telephone	

Please register me as a member of LSG. I live in Lamu & will attend the meetings. 500/= Membership fee enclosed

Please register me as a member of LSG, but will participate mostly as an email-member. I will send membership fee

I wish to contribute towards the running of LSG and funding of projects. I will send USD/GBP/€
by bank-bank transfer/pay into bank in person/send cheque/bring to office *Please tick appropriate box(es) & delete as appropriate*

Please complete & return to: Lamu Safi Group, PO Box 471, Lamu, Kenya, drop in at the LSG office, or email to lamusafigroup@yahoo.com Thanks!