



Lamu Safi Group Newsletter

No.5 October 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.

Monthly Environmental Film Show in the Town Square

We have teamed up with Lamu Museums, LaMCop, and the Donkey Sanctuary to provide a free evening film show in the town square once a month. We are showing DVD's on environmental conservation, wildlife & donkeys, as an entertaining way of educating the public. This month's show is on 19 October.

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

Following the success of the trial and the positive response from the User's Survey, we decided to continue the service on the existing two trial streets, plus two streets running parallel to the trial streets. This totals around 150 houses in each area. Each user paid a minimum of Ksh 10 to the donkey man carrying out the service. On his first week, participation was much reduced and he became disillusioned when he only collected a relatively small amount, so he decided not to continue with the collections. We are currently looking for another, more committed person to take over the work. In the meantime, we are not deterred, and we are also looking at alternative ways of dealing with the issue of making waste disposal more accessible to the community.

Coming Soon..... to a Birika near you! Construction of two Mobile Waste Containers

The first mobile waste trailer is almost complete. It will then be brought to Lamu and put to use immediately! The second trailer will follow soon after.

Project to tackle the problem of plastic bags in Lamu

In September, children collected 1.212 TONNES of plastic BAGS! We changed the collection site, and in the last month have been collecting bags from the Coast Cinema area at the back of town, which is an unofficial dumping site and also through route for students of Ama Primary School and Lamu Girls Secondary School. We have also been to the area at the back of the Swafaa Mosque (through route to Kashmiri area).

We have joined with the County Council to write to the Wholesalers and large Shopkeepers in the District to alert them to the upcoming ban on plastic carrier bags, and to phase out their stocks before the start of next year. When Ramadan is over, we will be arranging for a meeting with these Wholesalers & Shopkeepers to discuss the ban in more detail and also to encourage shopkeepers to use alternatives to smaller plastic bags where possible – such as paper bags or wrapping items in newspaper, as well as stocking *vikapu* baskets instead.

We will also work with the County Council once Ramadan is over, to arrange a series of events to inform the general public about the ban, and to encourage them to use alternatives.

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.

Talks

We have carried out several talks to women's groups in the last month. In these talks covering town cleanliness and waste management, the following areas are covered: what is rubbish, why is it a problem, why is it important to keep Lamu clean, what you can do to help make Lamu clean (disposing of rubbish properly, sweeping the area outside your house regularly, using alternatives to plastic bags, speaking to people about the issues etc.). We also talk about Lamu Safi Group and the projects and work we are doing. Feedback from women regarding the information given has been favourable.

Stand Up, Speak Out!

On 17th October, Lamu people will be taking part in an event to "stand up, speak out" against poverty. 2007 marks the half way point from 2000 when eight Millennium Development Goals were set to meet the needs of the World's poorest by 2015. One of the goals is to ensure environmental sustainability. For more information on the UN Millennium Goals go to www.un.org/millenniumgoals/goals.

In Lamu the event will be marked by a football tournament and the focal point will be a human chain from Lamu Fort to Shela where it is hoped that 5000 participants will link arms and pledge against poverty.

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 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.



Name _____	Postal Address _____
Email _____	_____
Telephone _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Please register me as a member of LSG. I live in Lamu & will attend the meetings. 500/= Membership fee enclosed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please register me as a member of LSG, but will participate mostly as an email-member. I will send membership fee	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 <i>Please tick appropriate box(es) & delete as appropriate</i>	
<i>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!</i>	