

Liana annual report 2015

Eija Soini, www.liana-ry.org

Introduction: A gap year from 'real' projects

Liana was originally established as a channel for its members to get involved in development initiatives. Since the last donor funded project ended in Mwanga, Tanzania at the end of 2013, no member has wanted to do so. However, small activities have been going on in the old project areas. Due to the nature of Liana activities or the lack of them during these gap years, this report has been kept as concise as possible. The following is the short summary of the activities in 2015. It is mostly based on e-mails sent by Eija and Ric after their visits to Northern Tanzania in January, April, August, October and December.

Liana activities in Mwanga in 2015

Liana started an environmental education programme in eight secondary schools in Mwanga district in September 2014. A set of nine lessons with independent tasks for the students and their club teachers were prepared in January-February 2014 and December 2014 and January 2015. However the following update by Eija in Liana annual meeting in May 2015 explains the challenges encountered by having a project running in Tanzania without a Liana member present there.

"I visited Tanzania at the beginning of January (This trip was reported in the 2014 Liana annual report).

It was good to see that the builders had done exactly as planned and trained the youth in their villages and built the 5 cubic meter tanks as training tanks. They are also so enthusiastic and healthily proud of their profession. I also met the students.

The environmental education project was much more contradictory. I could see severe weaknesses, but also a lot of enthusiasm at the schools. So my main aim was to try to get it going better (though I did consider stopping it as well). All the schools were happy about the project. From their point of view there was nothing wrong. I put in place many improvements for ... reporting, accounting, communications, and understanding the lesson plans and material lists... , and made handouts that can be given out to teachers at schools so that they could better supervise the students and do the exercises as planned. It was agreed that the following two months (February and March) were a probation time. Unfortunately nothing improved and none of the new instructions and plans were followed.

I still think that the lessons are very interesting and the students and teachers would have benefited a lot from them and enjoyed them. It would have been exciting to have so totally different lessons in those Tanzanian rural schools that are typically so poorly inspiring to the students and teachers alike. And I think having an environmental education project in Tanzania would still be the most interesting project for Liana to have in Tanzania given the needs there.

So I needed to go to Tanzania again after Easter, not to see the environmental education project, but to close it.

I did manage to make the trip more interesting and positive by asking the builders to build a jug tank, that is for Ndanu to teach the others how to build this 2000 litre jug tank. So during my stay there they built one tank and on the second last day started a second tank (as builders were divided into two learning groups). I have attached one photo of the newly built tank and I am in a process of making an instruction sheet of how to built such a tank. I took a series of photos of the building process. I predict that this tank type will become very popular. It has done so in Karatu and some other areas.” 11 May 2015 by Eija



Instructions sheets in Swahili of how to build the three different types of tanks (10,000, 5000, 2000 litre tanks) and the two types of stoves (mud stove and brick and cement stove) were prepared by Eija and Ndanu in May, and later placed on the Liana Internet pages. These instructions sheets document the main building related knowledge that was used in Liana projects in years 2006-2015 and makes it available publicly to other projects and builders.

During the January and April trips Eija further explored some ideas and contacts to get the environmental education project going. The key for this would have been to find a person or a group of persons who would have taken the project as their own mission, seen the importance of such a comprehensive environmental education programme at secondary level, and had the capacity to deliver it.

Tank building activities continued when Ric visited Tanzania in August and October for his work. He writes the following:



“I was recently able to visit four of the tank builders who have been working with the Liana project in N Tanzania for several years. Tumaini, Ernest, Elias and Florence have learnt to build 2500 l ‘jug’ tanks (see the attached photo) and have taught others in their village to do so. Now they want to teach in neighbouring villages. They first build a tank as a demonstration, then asked if others would like to learn. The materials for the demonstration tank are paid for by the recipient of the tank, with Liana only contributing the builders’ time. I was able to hand over money to allow this to happen in 4 more villages. I

hope to go back in October to hand over money to allow the training to go ahead.

Although we have no large project funded by a donor we do still have some funds to spend. In addition, we are getting more contributions. This mode of working is very cost effective, and small contributions go a long way – 50 euro is enough to pay the builders to build one of these small tanks. If you know of anyone who would like to contribute, then please let them know that we can still spend the money well!

It was very pleasing to meet these builders again. They are keen, knowledgeable, hard-working and modest. I took a Tanzanian friend with me who comes from the far south of the country, close to

Mozambique. He was so impressed that he is trying to arrange to take some of the builders to his home area so that they can teach tank building there as well.

This seems to me to be real success story for Liana.” 25 August 2015 by Ric

“A couple of weeks ago I could again visit the tank builders in northern Tanzania, and saw some very pleasing progress. The builders had themselves suggested training more builders in neighbouring villages. The plan was to find someone in a new village who wanted to buy a tank and build it. That tank would act as an advertisement so they could recruit student builders. The trainers and trainees would then build more tanks together until the students ‘graduated’. The customers for the tanks are paying for all the materials. Liana is paying the trainers and giving the students a small allowance as they learn.



The process started in August and when I visited in October I met the trainers again, saw completed tanks and met some of the students. Everything seems to be going very well. The builders who have remained with the project are serious and reliable people, as well as good tank builders, and it is very pleasing to see how they manage the work.

Eija and I will be able to visit again in December, and hope that the process can continue. It looks like a very effective use of small amounts of Liana money. Some private contributions have paid for the last round, and as long as we get more contributions the work can go on.” 03 November 2015 by Ric

Six tanks were built in October. Eight new builders participated in training.

Eija and Ric had the opportunity to visit Tanzania in December 2015 for holidays. During the few days in Moshi in-between of their travels they met Ndanu who got together the other fundis, namely Ernest, Musa, Florence and Daudi and their students (three new builder students), to once more reach out to new areas in order to raise awareness of rainwater harvesting, their building skills and the jug tank. Five tanks were built in December. All were in new villages where tanks have not been built before.

Funding and accounts

Funding for these small activities has come from private people and from Liana membership fees. Eija’s travels to Tanzania for the sake of the environmental education programme were covered by Ric and Eija themselves through Liana. It was unfortunate that the effort and funds put into getting the education programme work did not bear fruit (it is still on the agenda for a future activity for Liana). However, to compensate this, the expat costs of the tank activities have been basically zero and all the donations for tank building have been used in the actual building.

The local funding that has gone to building the 15 jug tanks for training and awareness raising is a total of about Tsh 3,000,000 (one tank material cost Tsh200,000 incl transport of materials) which is about €1400.

The following are the Liana accounts for 2015:

Liana ry TULOSLASKELMA Ajalta 05/01/2015 - 08/01/2016		Sivu 1
	05/01/2015-08/01/2016	Summa
Tuloslaskelma / Income and expenditure		
Varsinainen toiminta / Regular activities		
Hallinto / Administration		
Bank fees	-66.48	
Muut hallintokulut / Other admin costs	-116.70	
Projekteja tukeva toiminta / Project support		
Koulutus / Training	0.00	
Fairs, exhibitions, memberships	-51.00	
Projektsuunnitelu / Project planning	0.00	-234.18
Projekti/Project, Mwanga		
Personnel costs		
Finnish personnel, Travel, and accommodation	-3428.14	
Local salaries, allowances and related costs		
Environmental educator	-95.05	
Tank building personel	-1414.45	
Activity costs		
Teaching materials for environmental education	0.00	
Study trips	0.00	
Other (e.g. training for locals)	0.00	
Materials and procurement		
Tank construction (Liana cost of tanks)	-84.76	
Local contributions	0.00	
Equipment for environmental education	0.00	
Operations		
Local travel		
Travel for env educator	-2.85	
Travel for fundis	0.00	
Phone costs	-116.13	
Local printing, copying, bank fees	-42.58	
Exchange rate adjust (local)	0.00	
Administration		
Information	0.00	
Audit	-320.42	
Admin (Finnish money transfer fees, postage)	0.00	-5504.38
Tarinakoru: Learning materials for Simaloi's school	0.00	0.00
Tuotto-/kulujaama (koko toiminta)		-5738.56
Varainhankinta / Fund-raising		
Projekti rahoitus/Project Funding		
Stove project liability	0.00	
Donations received in 2015	792.50	
Donations carried for 2015	3375.00	
Donations received in 2014	0.00	
Donations carried to 2014	0.00	
Mwanga RWMFA 2013 carried to 2014	0.00	4167.50
Jäsenmaksutuotot/Membership fees		
Supporting members	450.00	
Regular members	180.00	
-	0.00	630.00
Tuotto-/kulujäämä		-941.06
Rahoitusuotot ja -kulut		
Korkotuotot		0.00
Omatoinen tuotto-/kulujäämä		-941.06
TILIKAUDEN YLIJÄÄMÄ (ALIJÄÄMÄ)		-941.06