



Expedition: The Women's Beekeeping Initiative

Field Study: Conservation and Economic Empowerment

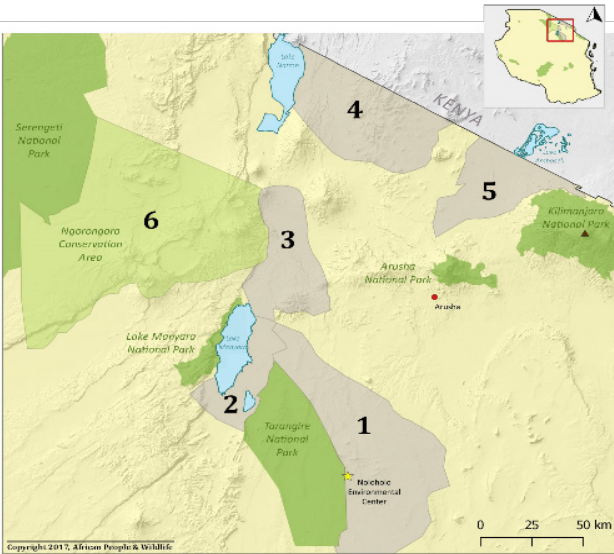
Summary: Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld is the co-founder and chief executive officer of African People & Wildlife, a conservation and community development organization in Tanzania. Through the Women's Beekeeping Initiative, African People & Wildlife works with more than 950 women, many of whom are part of the Maasai tribe, to help them earn sustainable livelihoods. After completing entrepreneurship training, participants are eligible to apply for micro-grants to launch their own beekeeping businesses. By selling local wild honey, the women develop sustainable revenue streams to help them support their families, send their children to school, invest in health care and reduce their families' environmental

THE EXPEDITION

African People & Wildlife's Women's Beekeeping Initiative empowers rural women to harness the financial benefits of wise environmental protection. Using microgrants provided by African People & Wildlife, local women's groups mobilize to start their own beekeeping businesses. When the wildlife-friendly honey is sold to local stores and tourism camps, the women earn a sustainable revenue stream they can use to support their families, develop additional businesses, and become true entrepreneurs. This project serves innovatively links women's economic empowerment with environmental protection: wherever beehives are hung in the wild, Tanza-



Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld with participants of the Women's Beekeeping Initiative



nian policy prevents the cutting of trees or cultivation in the vicinity of the hives. This has the added benefit of protecting pastures for the Maasai people's livestock and also for wide-ranging wildlife species.

EXPEDITION GOALS

The goal of African People & Wildlife's Women's Beekeeping Initiative is to explicitly link rural women's economic empowerment with on-the-ground environmental protection via the production of wildlife-friendly honey.

CHALLENGES FACED

Beekeeping can be a challenging activity with very little regularity or consistency in terms of the timing or amount of honey production. Hive productivity is highly dependent on local conditions and weather patterns, which vary by community.

Many women have taken the initiative to

WHO

Laly Lichtenfeld, Ph.D.

WHAT

An initiative that provides entrepreneurial training and microgrants to women to help them develop environmentally-friendly beekeeping businesses

WHEN

Ongoing

WHERE

Northern Tanzania

WHY

To empower local women to earn sustainable revenue streams they can use to gain independence and care for their families while protecting critical wildlife habits



Laly Lichtenfeld, Ph.D.

reinvest early profits in one another by loaning small amounts to others in their respective groups and helping individuals to start additional businesses. As such, there is great potential for the women to explore new sustainable business opportunities through this program and to help drive its growth.

EXPEDITION RESULTS

The Women's Beekeeping Initiative currently provides support to more than 950 women in 52 groups across three communities of the Maasai Steppe in the Simanjiro District of Northern Tanzania. Microgrants have supported the women in purchasing more than 900 hives and associated beekeeping equipment. Hung in critical wildlife areas, the hives support habitat protection in these locations while improving the economic status of the women. More than \$7,000 in profit has been returned to the women's groups in the early stages of this program. Sales are expected to rise in coming years as increasing market linkages are established.



ABOUT THE FLAG CARRIER

Living in Tanzania, Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld co-founded African People & Wildlife to help rural communities conserve and benefit from their wildlife and natural resources.

Laly first traveled to the continent with the National Outdoor Leadership School in 1992. Moved by

the remarkable wildlife, cultures, and landscapes of East Africa, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to evaluate a community-based conservation project in southern Kenya. Laly received her Ph.D. from Yale University in 2005 for novel research on human-lion interactions in northern Tanzania.



Today, with 20 years of on-the-ground experience in East African wildlife conservation, Laly specializes in human-wildlife conflict prevention, species conservation focusing on lions and other big cats, community empowerment and engagement in natural resource management, conservation education, and the development of conservation incentives for rural people. An accomplished speaker, Laly is a Distinguished Alumni of the Yale Tropical Resources Institute, a National Geographic Explorer, and a recipient of the 2016 Lowell Thomas Award for Open Space Conservation from the historic Explorers Club.

EXPEDITION TEAM

Team Leader

Laly Lichtenfeld, Ph.D.

Supporting Members:

Mercy Sadock, Conservation Enterprise Program Officer

Samson Beah, Beekeeping Program Officer

The African People & Wildlife Team

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