Newsletter MamboSteunPunt June 2024

We are happy to inform you about the progress of our projects around Mambo. This time we especially want to inform you about the situation around our host MamboViewPoint and also the Rabies vaccination program and more.

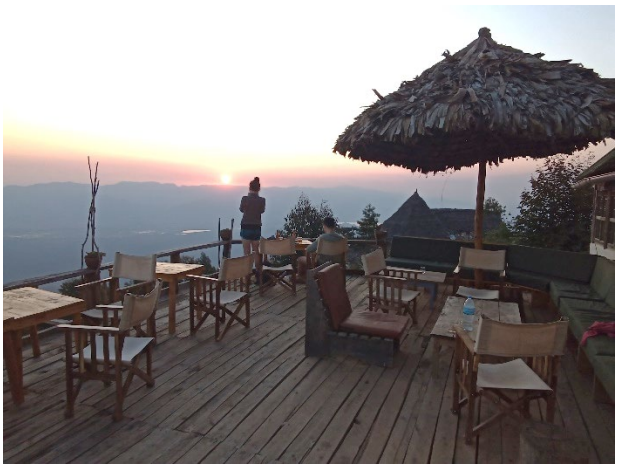
MamboViewPoint in full swing!

From December MamboViewPoint started under a new management. We built a new restaurant including a terrace with a breath taking view and also the reception was rebuilt. From July MvP has also a new, professional manager.
You are most welcome to book your next visit!

In March 2023 MamboViewPoint decided to stop the lease agreement with ADViews management (tenant of the lodge that time), due to serious breaches of the lease agreement and malpractices by ADViews and their directors (Dagmara from Poland and Abdul from Tanzania).

Unfortunately ADViews refused to leave. Besides a series of court cases they started, it came to a climax in which wrongly informed people put the main building of the lodge on fire during the forced eviction of ADViews.

In 4 court cases all malpractices of ADViews/Dagmara were exposed, like a huge tax evasion, embezzlement of community funds, use of violence against the owners and misuse of scholarships. All 4 court cases are lost already by ADViews.



New terrace @ MamboViewPoint

Onehealth – stop Rabies by 2030

Starting in February 2014 the “One Health Usambara” project started to vaccinate all of the estimated 600+ dogs in the area. This year we expect to vaccinate even more since Tanapa, the Mkomazi park owner, did not vaccinate the dogs in Mnazi. Consequently Mnazi has been adopted into the program.

Rabies vaccination of dogs is a critical public health measure that protects both human and animal health, preventing the spread of a fatal disease, and supporting global health objectives. It is a cost-effective and essential intervention to ensure the safety and well-being of communities worldwide.

Rabies remains a significant public health challenge in Tanzania, with an estimated 1,500 human deaths, among them 600 children, annually, although the actual number might be higher.
In Mambo there are reports of people who died within days of being bitten by an affected dog.

Achieving the critical 70% vaccination coverage necessary for controlling rabies has been difficult. In some areas, vaccination rates have been lower than needed, primarily due to logistical challenges, cultural practices, and limited resources.

In 2018 the WHO launched the Zero by 30 global strategic plan, targeting to end dog-mediated rabies by 2030. Before this already, in 2014 Linda Glenn from the Glenn Vet Clinic near to Belfast, N.Ireland and her son Owen, started to support the people around Mambo by setting up a free Rabies vaccination program for dogs. In the original area, there were a few hundred dogs located which were kept mainly for hunting and guarding. None of them were vaccinated because of lack of resources, lack of education and lack of income to pay for it.

To implement this vaccination program, cooperation from the local veterinarians was needed and five local people were trained as Auxiliary Officers. They were trained in safe dog handling, and vaccination techniques. During the vaccination all dogs also got a general health check ensuring only healthy dogs were vaccinated

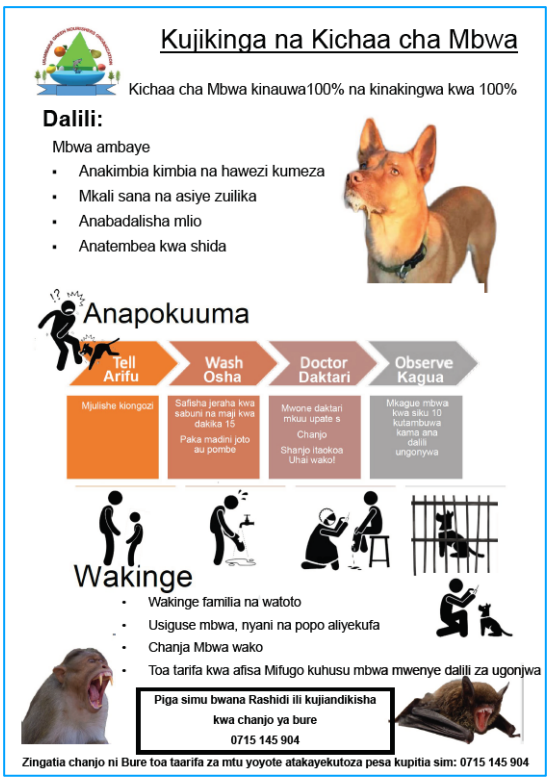
The number of vaccinations has increased from 117 dogs in 2014 till over 600 dogs in 2024. In 2022 also the area around Rangwi and the plains area in Mnazi were included. The last became necessary after it became known that various dogs had contracted rabies from the wildlife in the nearby Mkomazi national park. With this, a total population of around 50,000 inhabitants in the Mtae division and another 15,000 in Mnazi division have been protected. Among the latest were many Maasai who are living around the borders of the park.

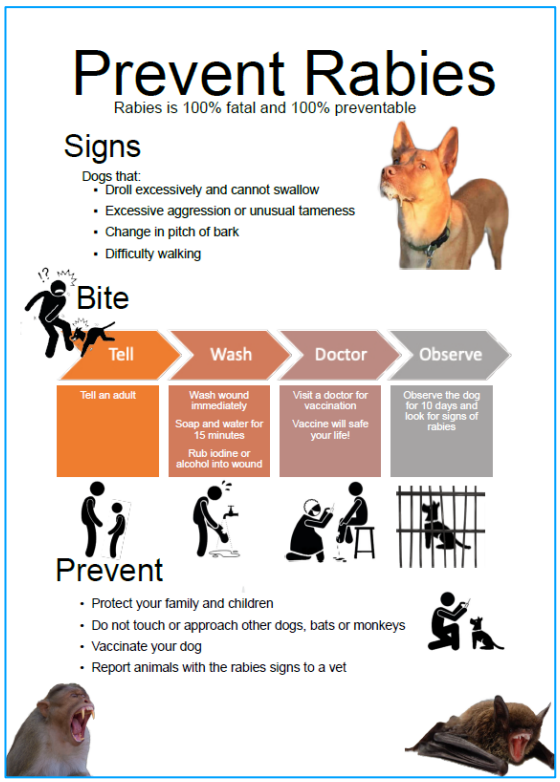
Another initiative and part of the One Health program in 2024, will be to provide post exposure treatment for free for the people who have been bitten. This will be available via the regular health system, aiming to have full courses of post exposure vaccines available in all health centers in Lushoto district, which is covering the Usambara mountains and Mnazi.

In 2024 the project began to work with a new NGO, Usambara Green Nourishers Organization (UGNO) which has provided essential local expertise and knowledge. It was founded for the execution of the program. UGNO managed to address one of the main difficulties to encourage the many dog owners to join the program. Earlier many did not join because they were not informed about the importance of vaccination or there were rumors that dogs died because of the vaccination.
Many challenges have been overcome by a good education program, training of the Auxiliary Officers and local Veterinarians, ensuring all vaccinations are carried out to the highest of standards and all animals are handled gently and safely.
To reach the WHO goal and provide optimal protection, a yearly vaccination has to be maintained. As the program develops and people understand the importance of vaccination, it is hoped that the dog owners will begin to pay for the program. For the time being, your support is very much appreciated.

On Google maps you can see all the locations with pictures where has been vaccinated.
https://goo.gl/maps/nVMmQeb6o5RLbLyd8

You can donate to this project via MamboSteunPunt with the remark “Rabies”.





Short news from the other projects:

Sanitary pads

We were lucky to get a donation from the “Wees een Kans” Foundation. This made it possible for the women group Kiwajate to bring washable sanitation pads for all the girls to the Sunga secondary school and Upendo secondary school. This will happen one of these days.

Dentist room

The first clients are already treated with the new dentist equipment. Momentarily it is facing some technical issues but we hope this will be resolved soon.

Treeplanting

For the tree planting the good news is that the new MamboViewPoint manager also is working for the Fairtree foundation. This is bringing all aspects to make this a fruitful cooperation to boost the treeplanting in the Usambara mountains.

Ubuntu
For October a training program will start for hotel workers under the name of Ubuntu. This kind of education was not available in the Lushoto district but tourism is raising and it can give many local kids a chance for a good job. The training will be done on site with MamboViewPoint and the Lawns Hotel and the students that pass will receive official, national recognized certificates.

Scholarships
We are still looking for 2 donors for scholarships for 2 bright children who were unjustly kicked out a scholarship program by our former tenant, despite it was paid already by donors.
If you want to assist please contact us via info@mambosteunpunt.org

For additional information see https://www.ubuntuleadershipprogram.nl/

MamboSteunPunt foundation

Donations can be transferred to:

https://www.mambosteunpunt.org/donations/

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Gifts are tax deductible in the Netherlands

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