Writing Contest Submissions

**Written by: Uttam, 19**

For a cartoon lover like me, Biodiversity is like "Doremon" who with her magical 3-Dimensional pocket selflessly fulfils all my needs and desires poured with love and kindness.

She remains always beside me to help when I need.

When I am suffocated, she gives me oxygen to breath

When I am hungry, she gives me food to eat

When I am thirsty, she gives me water to drink

When I am tired, she gives me Shelter to sleep

When I am sad, she makes me smile with her colours

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Care for every desire I have.

**Written by: Ester Lepere Oloije, 21**

I am Ester Lepere Oloije (21) years old currently studying at the College of African Wildlife Management (MWEKA) pursuing my Bachelor Degree in Wildlife Management year Two. I was   born in the village called Malanja just beside the very famous Ngorongoro crater. I come from a pastoralist family. I have lived all my life interacting with wildlife.  I am the third born in the family of six. When I was 13 years old I was able to join my brother and my sister escorting our cattle down the crater for salt licking and  I felt so proud of myself as I was able to walk inside the crater very close to the dangerous animals like the buffaloes and the lions  without even being scared.

 My Dad is a wildlife ranger he has worked as a ranger for almost 27 years now at Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority my mom is local business woman. We have lived all our lives with our cattle inside Ngorongoro Conservation Area. My elder brother is also a ranger at Ngorongoro Conservation Area and my sister is an Administration officer in KOPE LION, an NGO dealing with Conservation and Monitoring of Lions as well as preventing Human- lion conflicts in Ngorongoro Conservation Area. My family has always devoted their lives in Conservation. My Dad once told me he never went to school and he never thought he would one day stand for wildlife conservation. Because growing up as a Maasai warrior killing of the wild animal (lion) was a sign of being brave. So wild animals had to be killed for men to show that they are brave. He also killed animals using a spear when he was a young boy just to demonstrate his courage and because he never missed a hunt and he faced the animals fearlessly he was given a name LEPERE in Maasai which means a “spear man” but when he got employed in Ngorongoro he was forced to love wild animals  but as time passed he started seeing the benefits of conservation because the employment made him get a chance to join college, it also helped him support his family, and he is also happy that he was employed during the time in which animals like rhinos were in few number due to poaching  but due to the efforts made by him and the other rangers made it possible that the rhino population is increasing.

My Family inspired me to choose a career in wildlife Management and most especially my sister Lillian considering that she is among the few ladies who dedicated their time and efforts towards wildlife conservation and that is why I decided to join Mweka as a first place that can help me achieve my Goals. I also want to be among the ladies who are willing to devote their time and efforts towards protection of wildlife and I would like to encourage young girls in my community to join me in conservation of wildlife because they are part of our lives.

Also nothing makes me feel good in the entire world like a Game drive in the park full of variety of wild animals or a bush walk while enjoying the sounds of various birds moving from one tree to another across the bushes. And because of this I would love those future generations probably my grand kids and others will be able to enjoy this beauty of nature and that is why I dedicated my life into wildlife conservation.