



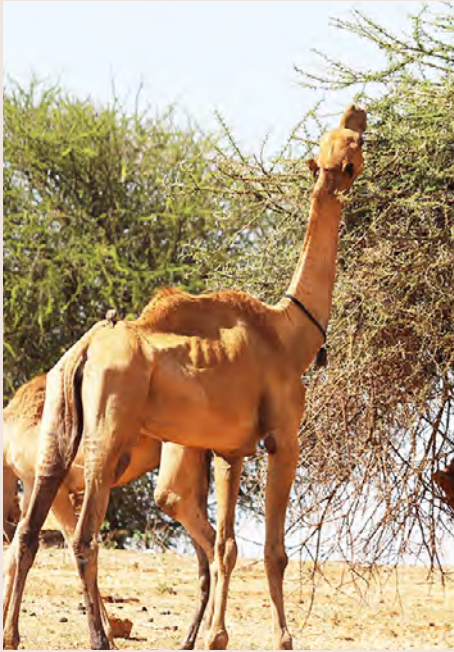
# THE Indigenous

## Actualizing Indigenous Women's Land Rights



Positioning women for property ownership  
and decision making





## OUR VISION

We envision a society that recognizes; promotes and protects the fundamental rights and freedom of women and girls; and ensures full participation of indigenous women in their own development.



## OUR MISSION

We exist to empower pastoralists' women and girls to claim their human rights, strengthen their capacity to influence local and national policies, and address harmful cultural practices through integrating the role of women as decision-makers in the community.



## OUR GOAL

We seek to build and enhance indigenous women and girls' capacities using diverse strategies and approaches that are not in conflict with pastoralists cultural practices. Address traditional harmful practices that subjugate women position in the society and their roles.



## OUR CORE VALUES

- Accountability and transparency
- Innovative and Action oriented
- Passion for human rights
- Respect for culture
- Gender equality
- Professionalism
- Integrity



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## PREAMBLE

# Towards empowering indigenous women to manage, own and control community lands



**Indigenous women for decade have shown rich and valuable knowledge when it comes to natural resource management and community development initiatives. During negotiations on land that traditionally were entrusted to men in the community, women still missed in the decision making over their land.**

However, indigenous women work has remains unrecognized despite their substantial contribution to stability and long-term development of Kenya. Indigenous women play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being.

Indigenous women undergo multifaceted challenges being that they belong to the marginalized people at the national level, and through existence of patriarchal structures and societal norms which prevent them from fully enjoying their human rights. They are also at a greater disadvantage since they have little access to education, are not economically empowered because their domestic labour remains unpaid, suffer from insecurity issues due to cattle raid as well as harmful cultural practices leading to physical and psychological trauma.

Historically, indigenous communities have been facing the lack of possession of their lands and natural resources. The massive loss of ancestral lands and natural resource is central to the persistent discrimination and exclusion that indigenous peoples encounter. When the Community Land Act was enacted in 2016, it was said to be a huge step towards tenure security for the indigenous community lands. However, after the adoption of the law, it took more years for the policies under the act to operationalize and there still exist gaps in its implementation such as lack of awareness creation in the grassroot communities.

Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop, and control their own lands. However, their main source of livelihood is increasingly being threatened by the growing demand for their community lands. They are particularly affected by the many powerful forces that are interested in their lands. For instance, emergence of the government mega projects such as the LAPPSET which is said to be largest project in East Africa has mapped out a big chunk of the indigenous community's land. This caused increased fear of displacements from their lands to pave way for these projects with little information and guidelines used to govern compensation of the affected communities.

The state is obliged to fully involve the indigenous peoples in consultation and consent before making any development affecting their lands, territories and its resources.

Land rights are particularly essential to indigenous women since they are the backbone of their co-existence in their communities. However, indigenous women lack equal access to own, control and manage their lands. They also, suffer from adverse climatic conditions and disasters which affect their livelihoods, water and sanitation which is vital for their households, and adverse effect on their natural resources which in turn affects their livelihood. In regard, there is critical need for the indigenous women to be fully aware of what is at stake and to fully engage and involve in full acquisition of tenure as well as management of natural resources.

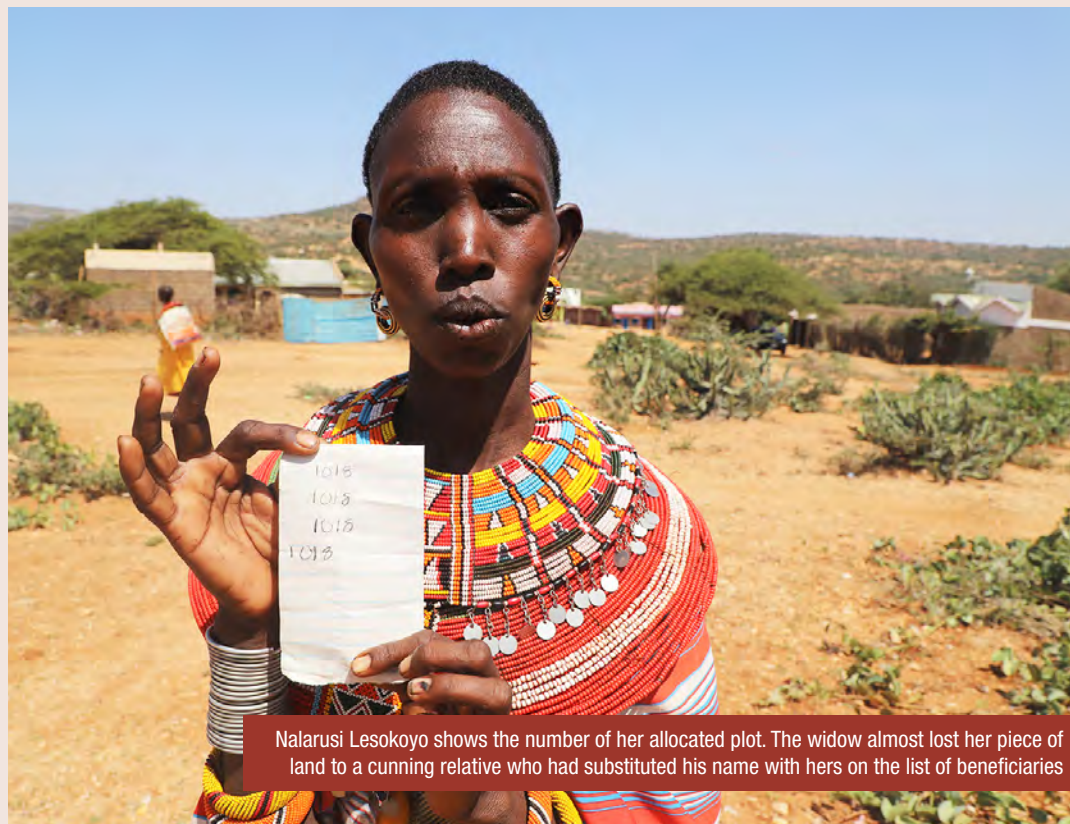
Samburu Women trust identify women needs; capacity build, influence voice to increase voices in order to prepare them on how to deal with these changes as well as influence different spaces for decision-making on community land discussions. Ultimately, the indigenous communities should ensure they manage, own and control community lands and actively participating in decision making processes for them to attain full control of their land through legal registration.

We have also developed and challenged traditional views, governance structures that have continued to deny women and girls inclusion in decision making by using friendly gender lens approach that encourage rich conversation that give indigenous women and girls priorities to participate effectively in natural resource management. We also build, support and strengthen women and girl's networks that women can depend for long term sustainability.

*Jane Meriwas*

Executive Director  
Samburu Women Trust

# Indigenous women fight for space in new land reforms



Nalarusi Lesokoyo shows the number of her allocated plot. The widow almost lost her piece of land to a cunning relative who had substituted his name with hers on the list of beneficiaries

**Even with the ongoing land reforms aimed at creating gender equity among indigenous communities, it is still a daunting task for women and girls to gain footing in patriarchal societies.**

For years, widows, single women and those with disabilities have endured discrimination on access, management, property ownership and control with a belief that they should not have a voice on sharing of natural resources.

With demarcation of land having started in OI Donyiro Ward early this year, Nalarusi Lesokoyo, an illiterate widow almost lost her entitlement to a piece of land to a cunning relative who substituted her name with his.

“When the adjudication process began, I gave out my personal details to the Isiolo County Government officers. However, a few weeks later, I

discovered that my name had been substituted by that of an in law,” she says through an interpreter.

Whilst land is a valued commodity, majority of women here are yet to understand the value of owning property. After all, land here is communally owned and one has a right to settle in any place without possessing any legal ownership document.

Nalarusi lost her husband in 2006, leaving with the burden of bringing up her four children single-handedly.

“Since the death of my husband, I have been struggling alone with very minimal support from my in-laws. Owning a piece of land legally empowers me to plan how to exploit this natural resource for the benefit of my children,” says Nalarusi.

She admits that she had taken a back seat hoping that the process would go on smoothly until a paralegal officer from

Samburu Women Trust (SWT) convinced her on the need to do follow up.

That is when she discovered of the scheme by a close family member to swindle her she is entitled to.

Ms Joyce Lesoito, the paralegal officer working in OI Donyiro Ward says that women are yet to gain the confidence to confront issues that work to their disadvantages.

“We have been carrying civic education aimed at giving silent women that voice that will rescue them from unfair exploitation.

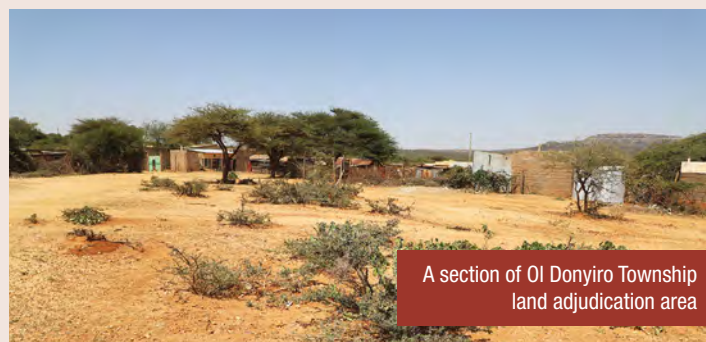
Women are victims of deeply rooted beliefs and culture and they remain submissive even when their fundamental rights are violated,” observes Joyce, also a single mother from OI Donyiro Ward.

Isiolo County Government's Ward administrator in charge of OI Donyiro Ward Francis Lekalasi says the land adjudication process which commenced in February 2022 was an all-inclusive process and factored issues of divorced or single mothers.

“People were cooperative and there was no issue of gender discrimination in this process with no complaints except a few where a few women who requested that the title deeds be in the name of their firstborns instead of the husband. This was to avoid wrangles in case of death of the husband,” explains Lekalasi.

He adds that there were some challenges where families had divorced before the process began and some disagreement arose on who was entitled to the legal land ownership document.

“We eventually resolved the issues through involvement of the local gender balanced committee, the chief, Assistant County Commissioner and my office. I would say the exercise was a success, having managed to address the rising challenges,” says the Ward Administrator.



A section of OI Donyiro Township land adjudication area



## Over 1,500 people are now land owners in Ol Donyiro Ward, Isiolo County



Luiji Lesuuda and a colleague during a visit to KICC Nairobi for photo shoot soon after receiving their title deeds for their pieces of land located in Isiolo County

**Luiji Lesuuda could not conceal her joy on being presented with legal ownership document for a piece of land she has occupied for years, terming this development as a dream come true.**

Luigi is one of the 1,516 residents of Ol Donyiro Ward listed as beneficiaries through issuance of title deeds in an ongoing land adjudication programme.

Being among the first beneficiaries of this programme being undertaken jointly by the National and County Government, she travelled to Nairobi with five other selected members from her locality to attend a function presided over by President Uhuru Kenyatta.

President Uhuru Kenyatta on 22 June 2022 launched issuance of 6 million legal ownership documents across the country with Isiolo County being among the listed counties.

"I am now a proud owner of a piece of land measuring eighth of an acre and located in Ol Donyiro Township. With a title deed, I will be able to develop the commercial plot since this urban centre has been elevated to Sub-County headquarters," an elated Lesuuda said.

Though she now has a title deed for a piece of land she has occupied for nearly two decades, she still remains a member of Ol Donyiro Community Land which is set to be registered under the Community Land Act 2016 and issued with one communal title deed.

The National Land Commission (NLC) has identified and marked out areas for public utilities such as hospitals, schools and police stations in an area where huge chunk is considered public land and is claimed by Livestock Marketing Division (LMD) as holding ground.

The issuance of the title deeds for those residing within Ol Donyiro Township and its satellite was the culmination of a process that started at the beginning of this year following reforms by the National Ministry of Land and physical planning.





The adjudication programme began following directives by Lands Cabinet Secretary Farida Karoney.

**“For some years now, the County Government of Isiolo has been on a tough engagement at various levels with other stakeholders and the leadership on registration of community land. The amendment of the Gazette Notice Number 150 allowed the Lands Cabinet Secretary to gazette some settlement areas for adjudication,”** explains OI Donyiro Ward Administrator Francis Lekalasimi.

According to Lekalasimi, some of the areas targeted in the ongoing adjudication process include Noloroi, Kipsing Centre, Lenguruma, Longopito, Tualle, OI Donyiro, Matundai, Labarshereki and Ewaso Settlement areas.

By end of April, 2022, a total of and 1,516 title deeds had been processed at the ministry level and beneficiaries could walk to the Lands Office in Isiolo to collect the documents.

Target areas are within two kilometers of the township with the task of adjudication involving local community led by a 15-member committee with six of them being women.

The process that has now seen hundreds of people become “proud land owners” is a big stride towards women empowerment among pastoralists where they can now make their own decisions and work towards economic empowerment.

In his speech at Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) during the lunch of the national land titling programme, President Kenyatta stressed on the importance of the ongoing land reforms, which he noted would empower communities economically.

“These programmes will make it possible for Kenyans living in the marginalized areas such as Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit to legally own land thereby empowering them to develop economically,” said the Head of State.

He added: “The 2016 Community Land Act which I signed is a progressive law as it enables local communities to legally register and own land communally. Previously, an estimated 3.5million people had been unable to register their communal lands covering roughly 150,000 square miles or 67percent of Kenya’s land mass but with the new Act, they have been able to successfully legally own their land,” said the president.

Mr Lekalasimi termed the adjudication process as impressive noting that it was a big paradigm shift where women can now own land and where men are now allocating their land to the married and unmarried daughters

“I would like to thank Samburu Women Trust for facilitating public participation meetings. Trough these meetings, women were able to understand the process and I can proudly say a big number of women have either received title deeds or are in the process of acquiring this vital document,” says Lekalasimi.



Indigenous women receive their title deeds at KICC Nairobi for their pieces of land located in Isiolo County

Francis Lekalasimi, OI Donyiro Ward Administrator explains the ongoing land adjudication programme in parts of Isiolo County

## Liberating women from oppressive cultural norms



Joyce Lesoito during an indigenous women's workshop facilitated by Samburu Women Trust

**A few years ago, indigenous women would not have made any contribution when decisions on land utilization were being discussed by men.**

After all, land is communally owned and it's the elders who decide where manyattas are to be constructed, zone off grazing areas, where to build public utilities such as schools or dispensaries and where to establish a market or a shopping centre.

But things are now changing, thanks to reforms being undertaken by the Government following the enactment of the Community Land Act 2016 in line with the 2010 Constitution.

The Act outline the steps to be followed when registering a trust land or community ranches through



Traditionally, elders were the ones who decided how natural resources would be utilized and never involved women while coming up with such decisions



establishment of Community Land Management Committee (CLMC) where women, youth and people with disability are included as per the law.

This development has become an eye-opener for the women, who have now found a voice though majority still need to be educated about the process.

**Initially women from the pastoralist community did not appreciate the value of land. It is only through sensitization by Samburu Women Trust (SWT) that we now know the value of this natural resource. The engagement forums have made us conversant with land rights and why as women, we are entitled to land ownership and it is not a preserve of men like it has been for decades,”**

Notes Joyce Lesoito, a single mother from Ol Donyiro Ward in Isiolo County.

The ward is one of the urban areas where adjudication process is taking place, a joint exercise being undertaken by the Ministry of Lands and the Isiolo County Government.

The exercise followed a declaration by Lands Cabinet Secretary through a gazette notice declaring parts of the ward as adjudication areas.

Joyce says the awareness campaign by SWT was timely since it was carried out a few weeks before the adjudication process began.

“Before the demarcation began, we had been sensitized about inclusivity, something that enabled some of us to be elected to the interim committee which is mandated to work closely with officials from the Isiolo County Government, Ministry of land officers and the local administration led by the chiefs,” explains Joyce.

She adds: “That awareness campaign has taken us a step further and now we are part of the decision-making organ

on utilization of land as a fixed asset. Personally, I have managed to acquire three plots, not through a godfather but through my own initiative since I am aware it is my constitutional right,” says Joyce who also works as a paralegal under SWT programme.

Joyce says she is one of the many women in her locality who are proud owners of pieces of land with legal ownership documents, thanks to the initiative by SWT.

Her prayers are that this awareness campaign be extended to other parts of Isiolo and Samburu counties to empower women to demand for inclusivity and be part of decision makers on utilization of natural resources.





## Changing times: Empowerment of indigenous women gains momentum



**During her youthful days, Matito Leruso could not fathom a situation where men and women would sit together to discuss matters pertaining to the community wellbeing.**

The gender divide is so entrenched in her Samburu community such that women sit at a distance from men during public meetings.

There are no consultations between women and the elders save for husband and wife and any dialogue has to be through an emissary.

But a campaign for women to have a bigger say on matters that affect them has brought a wind of change that is giving them a sense of pride.

"I am an elected member of Lenguruma community's Interim Land Management Committee besides being the chair of an umbrella of four indigenous women self-help groups in Lenguruma

We feel so empowered that we have been able to be elected to take up leadership positions and roles because of the awareness and training by Samburu Women Trust," says Matito.

Kipsing Centre which neighbours Lenguruma village is one of the areas set for land adjudication and where individuals will own plots of land with title deeds.

Besides, a committee has been formed for purpose of community land registration procedure under the name OI Donyiro Community Land.

Matito and other women who have taken time to attend the training cum awareness creation meetings by SWT have gained valued leadership skills and are positioning themselves to be part of the driving force in the Government initiated land reforms.

"We have seen significant transition in our community's mindset such that we are being allowed not only to attend men's meeting but to engage with them and give constructive ideas," says the grassroots women leader.





Indigenous women attending a workshop on land rights in Isiolo Town

Matito, though semi-illiterate is aware of provisions in the 2010 Constitution.

"We appreciate the two thirds gender rule. As a community, we take it as a milestone since we are now being given equal opportunities with men. Unlike previously, we now have opportunities to raise our concerns, voices and participate effectively in community meetings," she says.

She has been using her exposure and leadership skills to fight retrogressive cultural practices that are detrimental to the well being of the girl child and women in general.

"To liberate girls or the future women from the yokes of harmful cultural practices, the first step is to embrace education. This is the avenue we are using to suppress the exploitative culture of girl child beading. In doing so we are molding future women leaders," says Matito.

The other approach is economic empowerment where she gives credit to SWT for this programme.

We have also been empowered economically and now make financial contributions to support our families through provision of basic needs. Sometimes we could only wait for our husbands to sell livestock and give us money to buy food. Today, we have become self-reliant," she says adding that it is through SWT that they received 40 goats as part of economic empowered programme.



We appreciate the two thirds gender rule. As a community, we take it as a milestone since we are now being given equal opportunities with men. Unlike previously, we now have opportunities to raise our concerns, voices and participate effectively in community meetings.





## The Roadmap to community land registration



Nicholas Lesokoyo, chair of Oldonyiro Interim Land Management Committee which has a total of eight women

**Since independence, nearly 70 percent of Kenya's land mass has been held by Government in trust or on behalf of the communities.**

The land spread across 24 counties in northern Kenya, Rift Valley, Eastern and Coast regions is owned communally while in some cases it is registered as community group ranches with a single title deed and managed by an elected community land management committee.

However, the coming of the Community Land Act 2016 following the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution aims at recognizing these portions of land by the Ministry of Lands through issuing of legal ownership documents to the communities.

Once the community gets a title deed for the communally owned piece of land, it is then at liberty to decide, through Community Land Management Committee (CLMC) on how best to utilize these natural resources without interference by the Government.

One of the major benefits of this ongoing programme is that members of a particular community can negotiate for compensation in case the Government earmarks an area for mega infrastructure project such as Lamu Port-South South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor.

This mega transport project running from the Kenya's coast port of Lamu will meander through various counties heading to South Sudan and Ethiopia. Communities are entitled to compensation once it passes their communally owned land; but only if the members have complied with the 2016 Land Act and registered their community land.



Oldonyiro community petition submission on community names to be in the inventory



However, more than five years since the enactment of the Community Land Act, the progress has been slow with less than 10 community lands having been registered today. Lack of political goodwill notably by the County Government has been cited as one of the stumbling blocks towards achieving this goal.

Ethnic polarization, vested interests by political leadership, ignorance of the registration process by mainly illiterate and semi-illiterate members of the community, as well as fear by patriarchal societies to give women mandate to control natural resources has also contributed to the snail's pace in the process.

Community land has been defined as consciously distinct and organized group of users of community land who are citizens of Kenya and share attributes such as common ancestry, similar culture or unique mode of livelihood, social-economics or other similar common interests, geographical or ecological space.

Hence when deciding the boundary separating one community land from another, it is important to consider interests of various ethnic groups particularly in cosmopolitan regions.

Women, youth and people with disabilities have to be included in the interim community land management committees that liaise with Government officials in spearheading the registration process.

**“The Community Land Act 2016 recognizes women and the role they will play as members of the Community Land Management Committee. It is then important to whoever might be uncomfortable to understand this is the law and should be adhered by all”**

Samburu Women Trust Executive Director Jane Meriwas told stakeholders in a meeting on land registration in Isiolo County.



Jane Meriwas, SWT Executive Director stresses a point during a stakeholders meeting on safeguarding the land rights of indigenous peoples

Ms. Jane Meriwas urged both the county and National Government to show commitment to this process warning that should the stipulated time elapse, the community will be the losers since the county government shall continue holding land in trust of communities.

While decrying lack of public participation in the process, the Executive Director cited a case where the County Government of Isiolo submitted inventory of community lands to the Ministry of Land without participation of the affected.

“The inventory submitted was rejected by the Ministry of Lands after objections were raised by the community. In some cases, the name and size of what was defined as community land belonging to a particular

group was not clear or agreeable, hence the petition,” Ms Meriwas explained adding that her organization has been in the forefront sensitizing the community of what the registration process entails through physical interaction and by use of community radio stations.

While submitting the first inventory, the County Government had not strived to reach a consensus with the affected community if the name of the community land would be based on ward or constituency.

For instance, the first inventory had classified Burat and OI Donyiro wards as one community land. This led to protests since communities occupying the two wards have diverse culture and mode of livelihood.

The chairman of the OI Donyiro interim Community Land management Committee Nicholas Lesokoyo laments over the slow process and lays the blame on the desk of the County Community Land Registrar.

“We have prepared the register of our members and forwarded them to the office of Isiolo Community Land Registrar together with CLA form 1 and CLA-3 forms. Weeks have elapsed and nothing is happening and I understand the officers who had been deployed was recalled and is yet to be replaced,” said Lesokoyo.



A visit by representatives of indigenous women to the National Land Commission (NLC) offices for consultation meeting



## Legal steps to register community land

### STEP 01



Complete and submit CLA Form 1 (Application for Recognition of interest/claim on community Land).

The form can be completed by any 10 members of the community and notifies the government that the community intends to go through the process of legally claiming its land.

### STEP 02



Create participatory by-laws for community land governance, membership and rights and natural resources management. The by-laws must be formally adopted by at least two thirds of all adult community members.

### STEP 03



Elect 7-15 member Community Land Management Committee (CLMC). The committee must include at least one third women. An official from the County Government must oversee the election.

### STEP 04



Create a community register that includes the names, dates and birth, and Identity Card numbers of all community members 18 years and older.

### STEP 05



Complete and submit CLA form 3 (Application for Registration of a community). This form should be completed by the Community Land Management Committee. This form begins the process of registering the community land as a legal entity that can sign contracts, sue and be sued and nearly all the same rights as a legally registered company. After the company approves the application, the community will receive CLA form 4 from the Government that shows the community has been officially registered. The community must receive CLA form 4 before it can continue with the land registration process.



**STEP 06**

After the community agrees on its boundaries with its neighbours and recognize historic shared access rights, the CLMC should complete and submit CLA form 5 (Application for recognition and adjudication action of claim on community Land).

The CLMC must include evidence of the community's land claim. This can be a description of the boundaries, a sketch map, or a GPS map.

**STEP07**

The Government will then put an official notice of the community's land claim in local media and will give anyone with a competing land claim time to notify the Government.

**STEP 08**

The Government and community will then work together to resolve any land conflicts or completing land claims.

**STEP 09**

After all land conflicts have been resolved; the community will work with a Government surveyor to create an official map of the community's land.






**STEP 10**

After the map has been processed by the government, the community will receive a title to its land.






# Understanding community land registration process

Detailed roles and responsibilities of community and other stakeholders in registration of unregistered community land


Stakeholders	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>Community</b> 	<b>Register as a legal community entity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for registration in the prescribed forms and provide all the necessary information, accompanying documents and fees</li> </ul> <b>Follow up on the registration process with Community Land Registrar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the registration document in safe custody</li> <li>• Administer and manage the registered community land</li> </ul>
<b>Cabinet Secretary</b> 	<b>Develop a national programme for public education and awareness in consultation with the National Land Commission and the respective county governments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with the relevant County Governments and other stakeholders, undertake community awareness and mobilization programmes, training and induction for the newly elected CLMC</li> <li>• Declare the Community Land Registration Units in accordance with Land Registration Act</li> <li>• Issues public notices of intention to survey, demarcate and register specified community lands</li> <li>• Gazette Land Adjudication Officers to facilitate recording of community land claims, demarcation and delineation of community land boundaries for subsequent survey and registration</li> <li>• In consultation with respective county government constitute additional community land registration units in specific sub-counties for purposes of ensuring reasonable access to land administration and registration services</li> <li>• Develop and publish in the Gazette a comprehensive adjudication programme</li> </ul>
<b>County Government</b> 	<b>Hold in trust and ensure safe custody of all unregistered community land</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive and keep in safe custody on behalf of the communities, any monies paid as compensation for compulsorily acquired community land and royalties paid as benefit for use of unregistered community land</li> <li>• Participate in development of a national programme for public education and awareness</li> <li>• Participate in implementation of the public education and awareness programmes</li> <li>• Prepare and submit to the CS an inventory of all unregistered community land within their jurisdiction to facilitate preparation of a comprehensive adjudication programme</li> </ul>
<b>Director of Land Adjudication and Settlement</b> 	<b>Identify and recommend to CS, officers to be appointed to adjudicate community land</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitute an adjudication team comprising of Land Adjudication Officers, Surveyors and physical planners</li> <li>• Prepare a programme for finalization of ongoing adjudication programmes</li> <li>• Issue certificate of finality for adjudicated community land</li> </ul>
<b>Land Adjudication Team</b> 	<b>Receive record and determine claims from the registered community entity.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive, record and determine together with community; any overriding claims on the community land and respond to the applicants</li> <li>• Delineate and establish the boundary limits of the community claims</li> <li>• Survey, demarcate and prepare cadastral maps and plans</li> <li>• Forward the cadastral map and other accompanying documents to the Community Land Registrar for registration and issuance of Certificate of Title or Certificate of Lease</li> </ul>



Stakeholders	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>Community Land Registrar</b> 	<b>Receive the application of intention to register as a community entity.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue a notice in newspapers, strategic places and any other available means inviting all the members of the community to a first meeting</li> <li>• Preside over the election of the CLMC during the first meeting</li> <li>• Receive application for registration of community entity and issuance of community registration certificate</li> <li>• Receive application for registration of community land and issuance of certificate of title or certificate of lease</li> <li>• Open and maintain a community land register in the name of the community in accordance with section 8 of the Land Registration Act, 2012</li> <li>• Note any transaction within community land in the register</li> </ul>
<b>Community Assembly</b> 	<b>Elect the Community Land Management Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve and adopt the community rules and regulations</li> <li>• Approve commencement of the process of registration of community land by notification to the registrar</li> <li>• Nominate at least 15 members of the community to sign the land claim application forms before the election of CLMC is held</li> <li>• Submit the application to the Community Land Registrar</li> <li>• Approve claims lodged by people with overriding interests on community land</li> <li>• Approve all transactions and dealings in registered community land</li> <li>• Inform the CLMC of transactions within the community land</li> </ul>
<b>Community Land Management Committees</b> 	<b>Implement the programme for public education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day to day administration and management of registered community land</li> <li>• Implementation of the decisions of the community assembly</li> <li>• Inform the registrar of transactions within the community land</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>	Community mobilization and Sensitization



## How dispute over land contributes to conflicts and insecurity among indigenous people



**Ms Salante Lebulkash, a leader at Memirlosho Women Group had great vision on economic empowerment for her group comprising of twenty members.**

With effects of climate change taking toll on the livestock dependant indigenous community, diversification holds the key to better livelihoods.

Until last two years ago, the women group was running an eco-tourism manyatta where they could host visitors eager to learn the Samburu ways of live. Through this project, the women who also rear goats for sale were able to support their families with the income generated.

However, a conflict over land that had been simmering for years erupted at Narasha village on the boundary between Laikipia and Isiolo counties leading to deaths and destruction of property.



"The conflict was over pasture and watering points for livestock. People lost their lives during the conflicts pitting herders from Laikipia and those from Isiolo and in the process houses were burnt down. Our cultural manyatta was reduced to ashes," recalls Ms Salante.

The women leader regrets that the gains they had made over the years were eroded within a day, simply because the authorities have been unwilling to address the underlying problem.

"Whenever conflicts occur, women and children endure much suffering and end up being like refugees in their motherland. I really do not understand why the government has failed to come and resolve the boundary dispute here at Narasha," she wonders.

Ms Salante is also concerned with the slow process of the community land registration saying it would offer the much-needed solution of peaceful coexistence between the neighbouring communities at the common boundary.

**"The conflict began when plans were at an advanced stage of land sub-division. Every resident of this area had identified his/her piece of land though we are still members of the yet to be registered OI Donyiro Community Land," she explains.**

Ms Salante is a member of the interim community land management committee and terms inclusion of women as a milestone towards achievement of gender equality.

"My hope is that even when the OI Donyiro Land Management Committee is elected, it will always prioritize inclusivity of women. This is the time we shall realize permanent peace and stop living on our land like a deer which is always on the lookout for an attacking lion," she says.

Following the persistent deadly clashes between the two communities, the Government has established a camp for General Service Unit (GSU) to maintain law and order.

Though Ms Salante notes that peace has prevailed since the establishment of the police camp by the Kenya Police Service, an amicable and permanent solution will only be realized when the underlying issue of land ownership is addressed through issuance of title deeds.



Ruins of what was once a family house which was destroyed at the height of conflicts between communities from Isiolo and Laikipia counties at the common border

Photo Caption





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