

LAND RIGHTS DIRECTORY

KENYA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
A project of the Land Rights Programme

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

This Directory was initiated after identifying the need to produce a directory of organizations, groups and individuals who have ongoing programmes, provide services and have taken initiatives and actions concerning land issues. It is in no way fully representative, given that almost all the organizations in this directory are based in Nairobi. Eventually we hope to build and develop the directory to get a complete overview of existing organizations in Kenya. The process is ongoing and we welcome any input.

Our aim is to produce a directory to be used for easy access to information on services and assistance available and which will serve as a resource guide for NGOs and other groups.

Land is one of the most crucial issues in Kenya today. The number of land disputes, displaced and landless people is increasing rapidly. Therefore, there is an acute need for victims, aid workers and the general populace to have at their finger tips, access to information and services.

ADVOCACY AND LAND

ABANTU for Development

Sebeteyiet House

Tel: 570342 Fax: 570668

31 Ngong Road

E-Mail: Abantu@arso.sasa.unon.org

P.O. Box 56241, Nairobi

Contact Person: Stephen Mugambi

Abantu is a non-governmental organization, founded in 1991 by African women. Its main focus is on training, providing information and advice on mobilising resources towards sustainable development in Africa. Abantu works with a people centred philosophy and its approach is both African and gender centred. Through training, information and the efficient management of resources, Abantu aims at empowering African people to participate at local, national and international levels in making decisions which affect their lives, enabling action for change. Women have a vital role to play in the development of their communities, yet there are few African women with the necessary education or experience to enable them to fulfil this role.

Abantu deals with land rights through their training sessions, addressing issues such as access to land, ownership, inheritance, land laws as they relate to women and how land ownership is distributed within households. Abantu responds to the needs of communities and facilitates training and mobilize resources for those organizations or communities who require their services.

Action Aid

AACC building, 2nd floor

Tel: 440444/4/9 Fax: 44843

Waiyaki Way

E-Mail: AAKEN@Africaonline.co.ke

P.O. Box 42814, Nairobi.

Contact Person: Irungu Houghton

ACTION AID works with some of the poorest communities in twenty countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. ACTION AID is committed to working towards building a just and fair society for all people to enjoy basic fundamental rights. The organization works towards enabling the poor and vulnerable communities to critically analyse poverty. In doing so, they use several strategies such as working directly with rural/urban poor people. ACTION AID also undertake research and advocacy. It works in partnership with local NGOs and network among existing organizations as well as capacity building.

ACTION AID is concerned with the insecurity of livelihood in relation to land and livestock for communities throughout Kenya. There are several Action-Aid working groups on land issues, currently operating in Kariobangi, Merti in Isiolo and Kapsokwany. The programmes work on rural and urban land use and control as well as long term development. ACTION AID also focusses on analyses of laws and policy procedures that regulate land use.

Gender Sensitive Initiative (GSI)

Agrwings Kodhek Road, Hurlingham

Tel: 714975/712058

P.O. Box 28115, Nairobi

Contact person: Gertrude K'opiyo

Gender Sensitive Initiatives is a national NGO registered in 1993, concerned with different disadvantaged groups in society such as children, women and people with disabilities. It believes that poverty reduce peoples capacity to the full utilization of their resources. GSI has programs on population and family planning awareness, primary health promotion and on poverty and the youth.

Poverty is one of the causes of land rights violations and the GSI is particularly concerned with poor women's lack of access to land. Women do not own land, yet they are the ones who utilize it. Poor land productivity, food production and lack of family security are issues which will not be resolved as long as women are denied the right to land.

The management of land under wildlife usage is a major concern of GSI, because the inhabitants of wildlife reserve areas and their rights in terms of the land are interfered with. The GSI is also concerned with environmental issues as it relates to land such as desertification of land due to cutting down of mature trees and the use of pesticides and chemicals in the coffee and tea areas.

Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC)

Valley Arcade, Gitanga Road
(Opposite the shopping centre)
P.O. Box 41079, Nairobi

Tel: 576066/574998/9 Fax: 574997
E-Mail: khrc@elci.sasa.unep.no
Contact Person: Odenda Lumumba

The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) was formed in 1992 and is an advocacy and monitoring organization. The mission of the KHRC is to protect, monitor and promote the enjoyment of internationally recognized human rights in Kenya. KHRC monitors the human rights situation in Kenya, publishes reports, briefs, journals and other written materials on various issues to create public awareness.

The Land Rights project of the KHRC was started in 1995. Through this project the KHRC advocates on behalf of individuals and communities in matters regarding land rights issues. It aims at articulating the problem of land in Kenya today.

The project work includes monitoring and researching issues related to land rights and their impact on society and advocating for people oriented land policies. The project hopes to deal with questions related to land ownership in Kenya in terms of what percentage is foreign, local, individual and communally owned; the proportion of landless people in Kenya and the usage of land for tourist, agricultural and pastoral purposes.

Up to date, the project has carried out research on land clashes, land abuse, grabbing and corruption in land and its impact on development; women and land issues and the question of squatters, slum dwellers and marginalized people. So far, it has published and circulated the following reports: *Behind the Curtain; Ours by Right, Theirs by Might*; dealing with squatters and slum dwellers and land clashes respectively and *Who Owns This Land*; A guide on trust lands.

Kenya Pastoralists Forum (KPF)

P.O. Box 30776, Nairobi

E-Mail: kpf@arcc.or.ke

Tel: 603303/606598 Fax: 606599

Contact Person: Abdi Umar

Kenya Pastoralists Forum (KPF) is a membership organization consisting of over 300 institutions, researchers, NGOs, Government representatives, development agents, donor representatives and individual pastoralists.

The organization promotes linkages among all groups involved in pastoralist's issues in order to improve the quality of their life and well being. The group seeks to improve the image of pastoralism as a way of life and as a viable production system. It also seeks recognition of the contribution of pastoralism to the national economy.

KPF seeks to establish, maintain and continuously update information resources on pastoralism. The KPF has initiated a campaign on land tenure and access to resources in the pastoral areas of Kenya. KPF also organizes regional meetings, special workshops and arranges visits by journalists to specific areas as well as exchange visits by pastoral groups.

National Council of NGO's

Chania Avenue, House # 3
Off Ring Road Kilimani
(Behind Yaya Centre)
P.O. Box 48278, Nairobi,

Tel: 560877, 562323, 562312

Fax: 568445

E-mail: ngocouncil@elci.sasa.unon.org

The National Council of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kenya (NGO Council) is a collective forum for registered NGOs. It was launched in April 1993 and is an independent, non-partisan, self-regulatory organ of member NGOs. Organizations do not apply for membership directly to the council, it is automatic upon registration under the provisions of the Section 23 (1) of the NGO Act.

The NGOs Council deals with land rights issues together with Kituo cha Sheria, KHRC and the *Mazingira Institute* through *Operation Firimbi*. Operation Firimbi's aim is to gather information and promote civic education for ensuring commitment to the rule of law, just governance and protection of the management of public lands. Through this network, the NGOs Council seeks to sensitize the public on issues regarding land rights, ownership, public utility land and private property land.

On an average, the NGOs Council receives ten reports per day from all over the country, the majority from areas such as Kilifi, Kiambu, Diani and Kwale. Information on public land grabbing is communicated to *Operation Firimbi* through the Fax hot-

lines (Nairobi): 568445, 712414, 444643, 574997, 553860 or through P.O. Box 48278, 7483 or 14550 Nairobi. Once the information is received, Operation Firimbi organizes advocacy, media exposure and aid in mobilizing the residents for effective action on the issue. For legal assistance, clients are referred to Kituo cha Sheria.

National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK)

Church House

Moi Avenue

P.O. Box 45009, Nairobi

Tel: 338211

Fax: 224463

The NCCCK is a non-profit advocacy umbrella group of protestant churches in Kenya. The organisation has over three hundred projects all over the country, dealing with socio-economic issues.

Under the Human Rights Awareness Project, the NCCCK deals with cases concerning land rights. It has an office in Eldoret which deals with land rights abuses and land clashes. NCCCK assists squatters, refugees, internally displaced people and land clash victims by providing shelter, food, medical and assists in seeking resettlement. Resettlement programmes have been established in Uasin-Gishu and Nandi districts. Other initiatives are based in Turkana for landless children and refugees where they assist their clients with formal education to promote self-independence.

NCCCK provides legal assistance to their clients in land rights issues especially in Burnt Forest area, Western Kenya and Rift Valley. They have also managed to fund-raise to be able to purchase land for some communities. The NCCCK publishes a monthly bulletin "Clashes update" highlighting abuses of land rights.

Release Political Prisoners (RPP)

Nacico Co-op Chambers, 3rd floor

Tel: 240300

Mondlane Street

E-Mail: rpp@iconnet.co.ke

P.O. Box 50613, Nairobi

The Release Political Prisoners is a pressure group, which was formed in 1991, with the objective of working towards the release of all political prisoners. However, its activities are not limited to this since it believes that as long as there is unjust distribution of resources and continued violations of peoples' rights, everyone is a prisoner whether on the inside or the outside of an individual jail.

RPP addresses the issue of land rights through organizing, mobilizing and advocacy. The group supports communities who are being evicted by organizing them around their demands and by facilitating legal and medical aid when they are arrested and brutalised by the police. The RPP has been and is involved in the communities of Soweto-Spring Valley, Kibera and Korogocho among others.

Other activities involve the organizing of cultural activities to raise awareness on various issues, workshops and the production of a newsletter called *Mtetezi*.

Social Development Network (SODNET)

Off Argwings Kodhek Road

Tel/Fax: 713262

Near Yaya Centre

E-Mail: sodnet@arcc.or.ke

P.O. Box 63125, Nairobi

Contact Person: Professor Edward Oyugi

The Social Development Network (SODNET) was launched in July 1994 under the name of KINGA. It is an advocacy group and serves as a communication network, which lobbies together with other NGO's on issues related to social policy development, research, communication and information exchange.

The organization has participated in workshops and seminars dealing with the most critical stake-holders such as clash victims, pastoralists communities, urban slum dwellers, evicted squatters etc. It has also initiated a sustainable Peace and Reconciliation process aimed at building new and durable bridges between state sector, civic society, business and other sub sectors.

SODNET's main programme activity is electronic networking aimed at influencing policies and create a forum with member NGO's to discuss and create awareness on issues regarding environmental, civic, legal and human rights as it relates to social development. They also hold workshops on employment in connection to income - generating projects within the community.

THE LAW AND LAND

Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA - K)

Mucui Drive, off Ngong Road

Tel: 717169, 711853, 714629, 718370

P.O. Box 46324, Nairobi

Fax: 716840

E-Mail: FIDA-Kenya@Africaonline.co.ke

Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA) is a membership organization which was formed in 1986. It is a non-profit, nonpartisan NGO based in Nairobi. The organization aims at enhancing the status of women through legal awareness, legal aid and lobbying for law reform.

Women's lack of access to land is due to the general lack of knowledge of their rights and the existing laws. Through advocacy, lobbying for law reform, in particular the Succession Act, the Married Women's Property Act and the Matrimonial clauses and legal aid, FIDA advocates for women's land rights.

The organization has several committees dealing with women's property rights, democratization and gender violence, displaced women, the girl-child, reproductive rights etc. The committee on women's property rights studies laws related to women's property rights and has made recommendations to the task force on laws related to women. They also produced the client guide for FIDA.

Kituo cha Sheria

Mbaruk road,
off Muchai Drive, Ngong Road
P.O. Box 7483, Nairobi

Tel: 712414/712428

Fax: 724383

Contact Person: Jane Weru

Kituo cha Sheria is a legal aid centre which provides legal aid and advice to those who can not afford legal costs. Kituo also publishes legal education materials aiding in enhancing legal literacy in the country.

Land rights issues are a major concern for Kituo. Many of their clients report cases related to inheritance or eviction by land grabbers. Another important aspect of Kituo's work is to network with other groups to lobby for constitutional changes regarding the Land Law.

Kituo provides services at a national level, for those who can not afford to travel to Nairobi. One of their focus area outside Nairobi is the coastal region, specifically with the people of Majaoni. In this area land grabbers attempted to evict a group of Mijikenda farmers who had formed a cooperative society known as Majaoni at Mtwapa Creek. Kituo represented their case in court. Involvement in this case lead to the bombing of the former offices. Currently, Kituo is involved with the evictions of the people in Soweto slum village at Spring Valley among others.

Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)

New Waumini House, 1st floor

Tel: 447135/446902 Fax: 446902

Waiyaki Way, Westlands

E-Mail: lrif@elci.gri.org

P.O. Box 67171, Nairobi

Contact Person: Mburu Gitu

Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) was formed in 1994 as a result of public outcry against violations of land rights and the need for communities to come together and collectively organise against these violations.

Such violations include land grabbing within urban areas of public and private utilities land, evictions of squatters, non-maintenance and neglect of the present public lands. As a result of these issues, there was a need to educate and advocate for the protection of both land rights and human rights as they are closely interlinked.

The organization assists in organizing training sessions, workshops and provides legal advice. LRF has organized public rights awareness programmes in schools and colleges. It has also used drama as a means to raise awareness on human rights issues. LRF have published manuals from workshops and posters to educate the public on various issues such as human rights, women's rights etc.

Public Law Institute (PLI)

Villa Justice, Othaya Road, Kileleshwa

Fax: 565926

P.O. Box 52011, Nairobi

E-Mail: pli@arcc.or.ke

Tel: 561437/565967

The Public Law Institute (PLI) is an NGO established in 1983. Its mandate includes fostering and promoting the rule of law and human rights, and consumer protection.

PLI works through a legal machinery and legal institutions in its efforts to redress public wrongs or check encroachment of public interests either on its own behalf or on behalf of interested persons or groups. The organisation also provides legal representation to disadvantaged individuals and groups.

Three primary strategies have evolved in PLI's work: public research and advocacy, public interest litigation and civic education. On land rights, the PLI completed a research project on control of trust lands where a lot of land had been alienated to politically connected individuals, groups and companies against the interests of persons ordinarily resident on Trust lands. Through Operation Firimbi, PLI works with other NGO's such as Kituo Cha Sheria and KHRC to advocate against the grabbing of public trust land.

EDUCATION AND LAND

Civic Resource and Information Centre (CRIC)

Ole Odume Rd

Tel: 571274/574406 Fax: 571298

House # 15

E-Mail: cric@arcc.or.ke

P.O. Box 28472, Nairobi

Contact Person: Donald Deya

Civic Resource and Information Centre (CRIC) was formed in 1994. It is a non-profit, nonpartisan NGO based in Nairobi with activities on a national level. The organization aims at educating the public through civic education, civil awareness programmes, radio programmes, trade unions and other affiliated lobby group.

As a result of being involved at many levels, the organization encounters many land rights issues through seminars, workshops, educational training and civil rights awareness. The areas covered include Nairobi and its environs, Narok/Pokot, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru etc.

Education Center for Women in Democracy (ECWD)

Amboseli Road, off Gitanga Road

P.O. Box 62714, Nairobi

Tel: 562304 Fax: 561316

E-Mail: ecwd@arcc.or.ke

ecwd@arcc.permanet.org

Contact Person: Paddy Onyango

The Education Center for Women in Democracy is a non-partisan organization which assists women who aspire for political office at all levels through research, communication, training and civic education. It assists women to develop relevant and efficient campaigns, provide more effective services to their communities, foster more development and serve as genuine leaders who participate fully in helping shape and implement Kenya's national policy agenda.

The ECWD collected evidence from clash-victims and advocated for court action on land issues. The organization has organized peace and reconciliation workshops which deal with the victims in Uasin-Gishu and Itete. At the national level, ECWD has coordinated seminars on legal awareness, advocacy and training secondary school students on rights awareness.

Institute for Education in Democracy (IED)

Off Elgeyo Marakwet Road
P.O. Box 43874, Nairobi

Tel: 566871

The Institute for Education in Democracy (IED) is a public non-profit making organization registered in 1993 to promote and further democracy through education in the society on rights and responsibility of both leaders and citizens. Its aims, fostering an environment in which people realize their full rights in the use and application of the productive resources for improved socio-economic development of the nation.

On land rights, IED works closely with other human rights NGOs in fighting for fundamental human rights abuses such as land grabbing, misuse or unfair distribution of trust lands and evictions of landless people and the unchecked mass grabbing of land in general.

IED also carry out election monitoring to ensure that elections are free and fair. In this regard they have established an election monitoring network of trained poll watchers and monitors in the country. It collaborates and networks with other local, regional and international NGOs. It has focused its attention on groups of citizens whose rights have often been ignored such as women and displaced persons.

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND

Centre for Environmental Policy and Law in Africa (CEPLA).

P.O. Box 780,

Nakuru, Kenya.

Tel: 254 - 37 - 214200

Fax: 254 - 37 - 212865

Email: ochieng@arcc.or.k

Contact person: Michael Ochieng Odhiambo

Centre for Environmental Policy and Law in Africa (CEPLA) is a research, advocacy and training based organisation which seeks to promote the sustainable utilisation and management of the environment and natural resources in Africa. It is committed to the formulation and promotion of policy and legal options for the sustainable use of natural resources. To achieve this, Cepla conducts comparative policy and legal research on the following areas: Law and the legal process in management of the environment and natural resources; training in environmental policy and law and environmental law and institutions in Africa

CEPLA also conducts research on the implication of natural, regional and international trade on the African environment. The objective of this is to reconcile trade with the quest for sustainable development. The project operates at national, regional and international levels.

EconewsAfrica

Mbaruk Road,

Tel: 712423

Off Mucai drive, Ngong Road

E-Mail: econews.africa@gn.apc.org

P.O Box 76406, Nairobi

Contact Person: Naftali Onchere

EcoNews Africa is a sub-regional organization registered in Nairobi. Its goal is to bridge the information gaps on environment and development issues to ensure the participation of local people in Africa. EcoNews target groups are NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and community leaders/activists.

EcoNews has a program on desertification which deals with issues related to development in arid and semi-arid areas. It works around the UN Convention to Combat Desertification which was adopted at the 1993 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. EcoNews lobbied for the inclusion of community based views to be reflected in the convention such as access to land, land rights, tenure and management. The project spans the sub-regional countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Tanzania and the Sudan.

EcoNews seeks to implement the convention through advocacy, lobbying, awareness, community radio, newsletters, participation at local, national and international forums.

National Coordinating Committee on Desertification (NCCD)

P.O. Box 30776, Nairobi

Fax: 606599

Tel: 603303/606598

E-Mail: kpf@arcc.or.ke

The National Coordination Committee on Desertification (NCCD) is a member organization of over 70 NGOs and groups. It was formed following the adoption of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) at the 1993 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The NCCD's role is to raise awareness, coordinate and facilitate efforts in implementing the CCD in Kenya.

The NCCD organizes workshops through community extension workers. Though the NCCD has limited capacity to respond to issues and requests, it tries to lobby for policies regarding food security, land rights and the implementation of the CCD. The organization advocates on behalf of the communities in these areas. NCCD is in the process of producing a radio programme concerning the Trust Land Act. This programme will be produced and aired in various languages such as Borana, Maasai, Somali, Rendille, Burji and turkana.

Kenya Energy and Environment Organisation (KENGO)

P.O. Box 48197, Nairobi
Tel: 749747/748281

Fax: 749382
Contact person: Achoka Awori

Kenya Energy and Environment Organisation (KENGO) is a membership organisation of non-governmental, grassroots organisations and institutions concerned with sustainable environmental management in Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa. Founded in 1981, Kengo aims at improving the quality of life for people of Sub-Saharan Africa by improving ideals, technologies and initiatives on the sustainable management of natural environment.

Kengo's has organised a series of workshops, brainstorming sessions and consultative sessions with various resource people in preparation for the United Nation's Conference on environment and development in 1992. Since then, it has gone beyond the concept of sustainable development into promoting the ethic of sustainable livelihoods based on the people's cultural heritage. This thinking forms the basis of the organisation's newly developed ECO-cultural model for Sustainable Livelihoods and Natural Resources Management - UHAI.

Therefore, Kengo is in the process of establishing its avenues of advocacy mechanism on matters pertaining to the management of natural resources in the country.

PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND LAND

Gitonga Aritho Associates

Property and Assets Valuers Agents & Environmental Impact Assessment.

Maendeleo House, Room 904

Tel: 222828/229843

Monrovia Street

Fax: 223690

P.O. Box 57940, Nairobi

Contact Person: Aritho Gitonga

Gitonga Aritho Associates is a professional firm of Property and Assets Valuers, Agents and Environmental Impact Assessment consultants with its registered head office in Nairobi.

The partners of the firm are full members of the Institution of Surveyors of Kenya and are registered and licensed to practice as Valuers and Estate Agents by the respective statutory registration boards in accordance with the provisions of the Valuers Act and the Estate Agents Act Caps. 532 and 533 Laws of Kenya respectively.

Gitonga Aritho Associates's principal fields of specialization are; appraisals and calculation of worth for land and development, environmental impact assessment, valuation of property and assets for secured lending and disposal purposes, property rental market assessment to ascertain valuation and conditional surveys of assets and properties valuation and conditional survey of plant and machinery estate management & agency

Isaac Lenaola

Maina Wachira & Co Advocates, Commissioner for Oaths, Notaries Public

Agip House, Entrance B, 4th floor
Haile Selassie Avenue
P.O. Box 59694, Nairobi

Tel: 221817/220095
Fax: 211077

Isaac Lenaoola, Maina Wachira & Company is a professional firm of advocates. They are full members of advocates of the High Court of Kenya.

Mr. Lenaoola who is from Samburu district has encountered a lot of land rights cases mostly in areas such as Narok, Kajiado, Samburu, Turkana, Maralal and neighbouring districts. He provides legal services and free help to individuals, groups and organizations. Mr. Lenaoola has represented individual cases in court, public awareness on land rights cases through NGOs, groups and workshops in the pastoralists districts.

Mr. Lenaoola is also a consultant with NGOs such as Research & Training Consultants Co Ltd, now operating in 10 pastoralists districts to recover the semi-arid and arid lands. He translates the land rights laws into local languages (Maasai) so that they can understand the land rights laws well and in order to provide easy access to the law. He coordinates workshops and seminars to educate people living in nomadic/pastoralists lands on land rights awareness. Working together with NGOs such as the Nomadic Pastoralists Peoples Organization, Mr. Lenaoola facilitates general awareness of land rights and in creating a working programme that will minimize future land disputes.