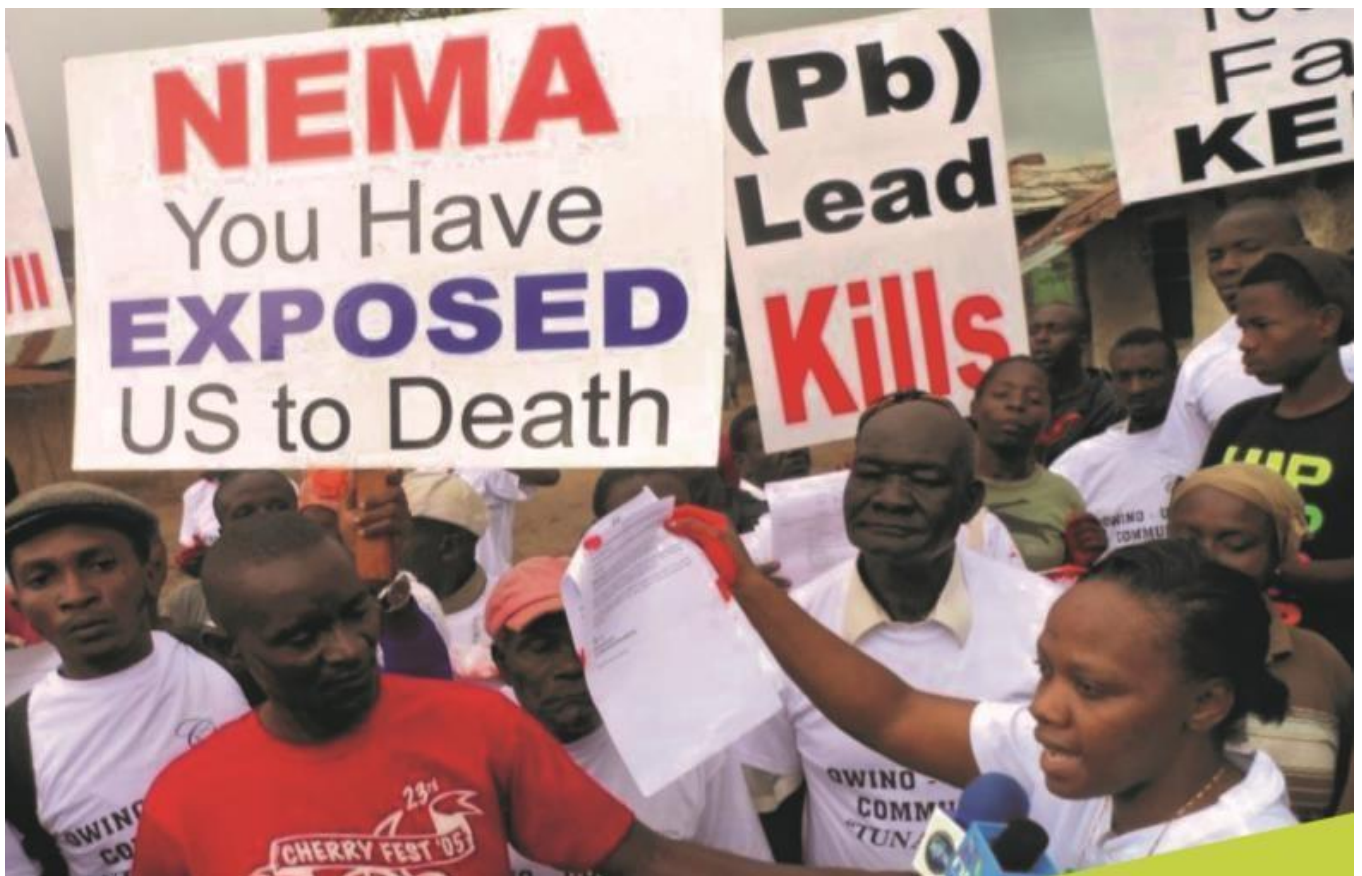




Center For Justice Governance And Environmental Action

CENTER FOR JUSTICE GOVERNANCE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION
STRATEGIC PLAN



2019-2024



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ACRONYMS

CJGEA-Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action
KIOS- The Finnish Foundation of Human Rights
CDC-Center for Disease Control
SDG- Sustainable Development Goals
ED- Executive Director
HR-Human Resource
WHO-World Health Organization
PEL-Permissible Exposure Limit
ULAB-Used Lead Acid Batteries
LEDs-Land and Environmental Defenders
EPZ- Export Processing Zone
EPZA – Export Processing Zones Authority
DPP-Director of Public Prosecutions
UNGA-United Nations General Assembly
UNGA-United Nations General Assembly
UNEP-United Nations Environment Programme
OHCHR-Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
EMCA ACT-Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act
IPOA-Independent Policing Oversight Authority
KNCHR-Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
BHR-Business and Human Rights
KFS- Kenya Forest Service
CECs-County Environment Committees



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FOREWORD

As CJGEA celebrates its achievements, it still recognizes that environmental human rights are a fairly new concept both in Kenya and internationally. CJGEA is privileged to be among the pioneers of this concept. It remains factual that there are close linkages between the environment and the enjoyment of human rights that justify an integrated approach to environment and human rights. The extractive industry in Kenya, for instance, is a powerful method of growing the economy. However, if the sector is mismanaged and exploitation precedes carelessness, natural resource extraction is accompanied by corruption, inequality, human rights violations and irreparable environmental damage, which poison the sources of livelihoods of people for generations. This is best depicted in the case of the Owino Uhuru community.

If the environment is not protected the first casualty of the repercussions becomes those that depend directly on the environment for livelihoods e.g. farmers, fishermen, etc. This essentially is CJGEA's clientele base. There are three main dimensions of the interrelationship between human rights and environmental protection.

- The environment as a prerequisite for the enjoyment of human rights (implying that human rights obligations of states should include the duty to ensure the level of environmental protection necessary to allow the full exercise of protected rights)
- Certain human rights, especially access to information, participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters, are essential to good environmental decision-making (implying that human rights must be implemented in order to ensure environmental protection)
- The right to a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced environment as a human right in itself (this approach has been adopted).

Moving forward CJGEA is committed to ensuring that the journey to environment protection which begun in 2012 is sustainable and successful. I wish to urge our existing partners to continue journeying with us and welcome onboard new partners that wish to make our communities access their rights, especially to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Phyllis Omido
Executive Director CJGEA
Phyllis Omido Founder CJGEA



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01. INTRODUCTION

Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action is a grassroots environmental and human rights organization that was founded on the principles of Business and Human Rights with a bias on environmental governance and protection. CJGEA works with communities and environmental/ human rights defenders in the five coastal counties of Kenya i.e. Mombasa, Kilifi, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Kwale.

CJGEA was founded in 2009 in response to challenges facing the Owino Uhuru community residing around toxic extractive industries in the Kenyan coastal region. It is registered as a community-based organization and its operations are guided by its constitution overseen by its Board of Governors drawn from the civil society in Kenya.

To enable the running and operations of the organization, CJGEA had developed a finance manual, human resource manual, media and communications manual that guide its staff members.

Vision: To have molded a generation that understands, respects and integrates human rights and the environment in the next decade.

Mission: Mainstreaming a human rights-based approach to environmental protection of marginalized and ignored communities around extractive industries, toxic sites and mining sites.

The mission statement pursued by the activities such as:

- ❖ Supporting and creating space for its communities in their course to challenge the responsibility of the state and non-state actors towards environment protection and access to socio-economic rights to eradicate poverty, injustice, and inequality that surround communities around extractive industries.
- ❖ Building capacities and awareness of community issues by organizing public picketing and media campaigns and educating communities on local and international instruments available for advocacy e.g. through the dissemination of information, publications, media work, campaigns and organizing events etc.
- ❖ Participation in international networks and supporting communities to do the same.
- ❖ Influencing political decision-making that affects the creation of better policies and decision making on environmental issues.

Core Values:

- Respect for the environment.



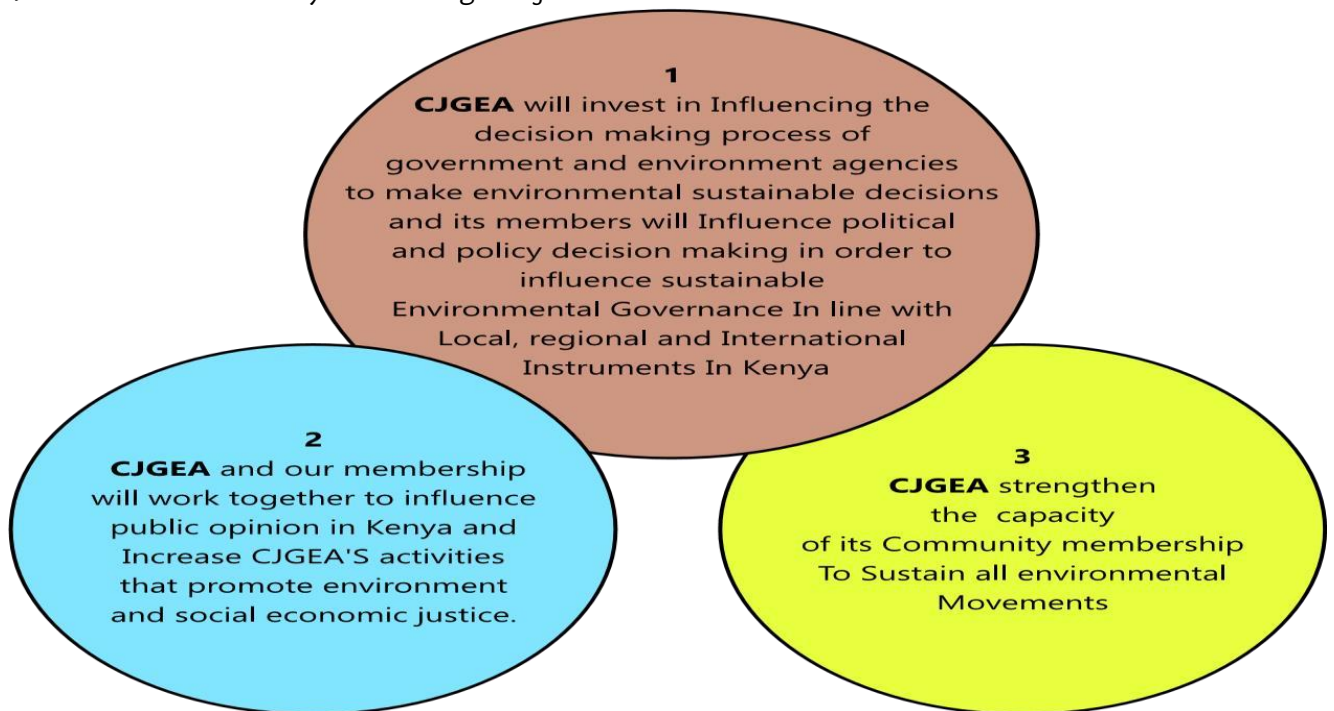
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- Respect for human rights.
- Activism and service through volunteerism.
- Commitment to justice, equality and the rule of law for all.
- Solidarity with the poor and pro-poor individuals and agencies.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2024

The following strategic objectives were identified during the planning period.

CJGEA's 2019-2024 five years strategic objectives



Activities for the achievement of strategic objectives

- Organize Kenyan, Ugandan, Tanzanian grassroots communities as well as Civil Society Organizations working within the mandate of environmental governance to form a strong and sustainable environmental movement/network.
- Empower local economically marginalized communities to protect their communities and environment from pollution and risky extractive activities as well as shared community knowledge on Climate change adaptation practices as well as mitigation measures to ensure resilience to the effects of climate change.
- Advocate for effective implementation of environmental laws and policies.



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- Challenge the responsibility of the state and duty bearers towards the protection of communities from individuals or businesses that pose a risk to their health and the environment.
- Raise and provide judicial precedents through strategic litigation on cases of pollution and environmental degradation.
- Challenge the Land and Environment (LED) network members to advocate for strong climate justice policies and frameworks in Kenya.
- Advocate for safer spaces for environmental human rights defenders poor and rural areas.
- Leverage on media as a tool to influence public opinion on environmental governance and justice.
- Work to restore community's marine ecosystems around the five coastal counties.

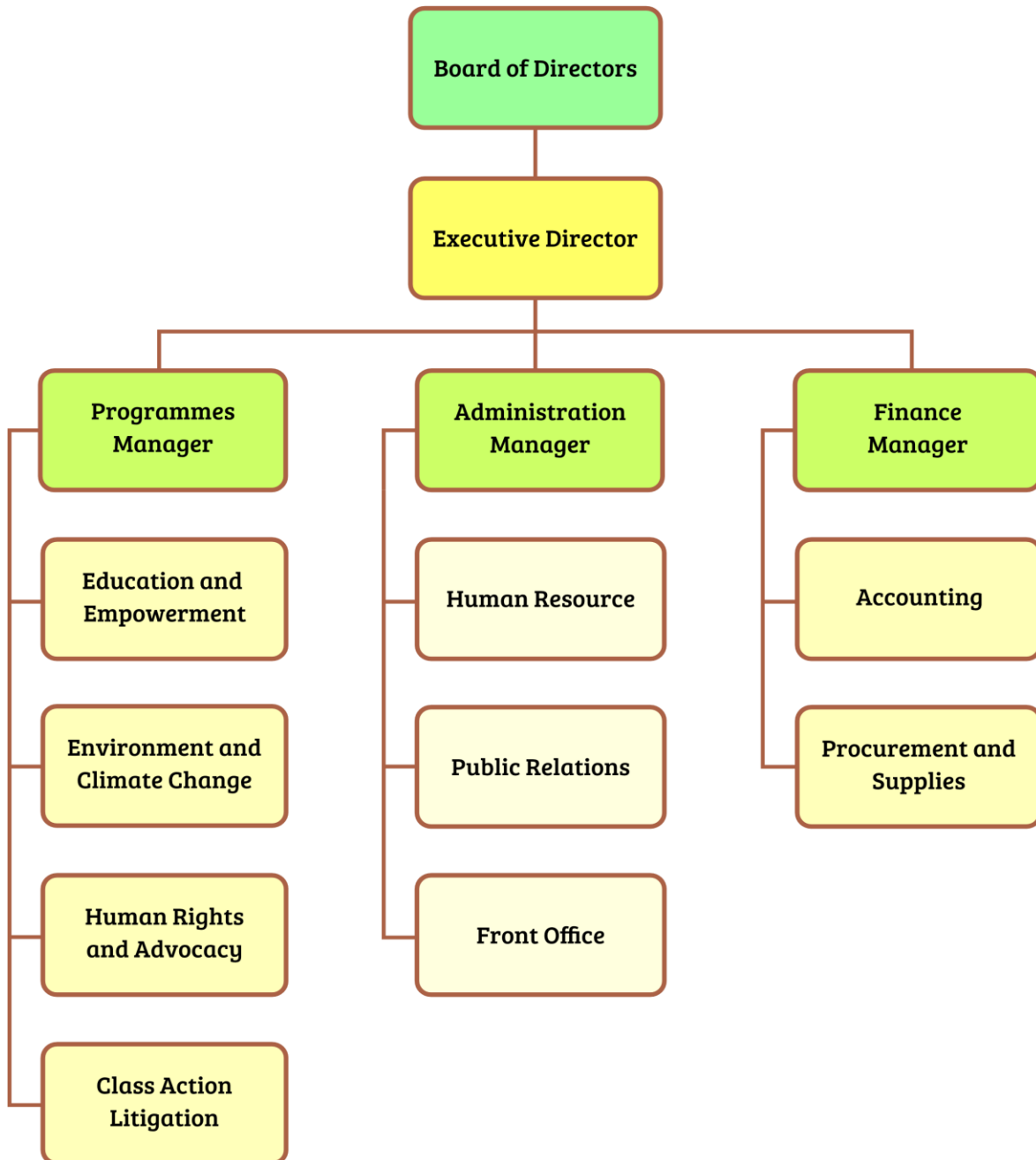
The organization's running programs.

- Public interest litigation cases.
- Lobbying, advocacy, and human rights protection.
- Documentation of socio-economic and environmental impacts of contentious development projects and extractive industries in the five coastal counties.
- Media fellowship and capacity building projects for the members of the LED network.
- Environmental conservation and climate change projects.
- LEDs protection and documentation of their security situation on matters criminalization of LEDs in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania).



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Organization Structure



02. CJGEA PROGRAMS

I. “Tuna Sauti” Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Access to justice as a right.



Figure 1 Owino uhuru community members at the Mombasa High Court

Over the years CJGEA with the support of KIOS- The Finnish Foundation for Human Rights, The Hopper Dean Foundation Via the catalyst Foundation and the UN- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, has successfully implemented the project entitled “Tuna Sauti” using media as a tool for environmental Justice and socio- economic rights. The project aimed at building on and harmonizing the ongoing work on the impact of environmental impunity on social welfare and human rights of Kenyans with a focus on access to socio economic rights, access to medicines, access to water and access to a generally clean and healthy environment. Although the component initially supported by KIOS was focusing on ensuring media engagement, it also greatly supported our litigation work on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

We are undertaking a major constitutional case on the right to a clean healthy environment which also has a strong human rights and socio - economic focus. This project has provided a basis for our work on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and has enabled us to work with the wider civil society groups to promote this right in Kenya. In addition, the projects have also enabled us to penetrate the key processes and systems of government which are key for the realization of the right to a clean environment. Our work in the next couple of years will focus on building these synergies and having major impacts on holding the government accountable towards its citizens in the area of the right to a clean environment and other procedural rights to the achievement of these rights.



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Overall Objective

To use [Litigation](#) and media engagement strategies coupled with civil society activism to challenge violations occurring in the environmental governance system; inappropriate state and non-state action and provision of specialized services to the indigent and marginalized groups to promote their right to a clean environment and other socioeconomic rights in Kenya.

This project thus had the following objectives:

- Building on the past work of engaging the media in the discussions on the right to a clean environment and human rights including interesting the media in the wider concept of business and Human rights
- To promote access to justice of the right to a healthy environment and other socioeconomic rights in Kenya through framing political and moral demands in the language of legal rights and constitutional obligation and application of the legal tools such as legal analysis, litigation, and advocacy strategies;
- To build on, harmonize, strengthen and resource the networking, coordination and leadership of institutions at national level to share information and strategically analyze and respond to challenges of non-observance of the right to healthy environment with a specific focus on advocacy around holding the state and non-state actors accountable on its human rights obligations towards a healthy environment.
- To domesticate regional and global discussions on the right to a clean and healthy environment including the building of the national CSOs capacity to understand and advocate for the right to a clean healthy environment.
- Build capacity of communities to understand climate change, resilience and mitigation.

Project Goal:

Mainstreaming a Human Rights-Based Approach to Environmental protection in communities affected by the Extractive Industries in Kenya drawing synergies of awareness on climate change, mitigation and carbon Emissions.

Geographical Area

The affected village of Owino Uhuru is located in the outskirts of Changamwe Location, Mombasa County in Kenya's Coastal region of Kenya.

Summary of progress updates 2016-2023

Venue: Mombasa High Court.

The office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Hopper Dean Foundation/CIEL/Catalyst foundation and KIOS Finish Foundation have partnered with CJGEA to actualize the litigation for the Owino Uhuru community. Many milestones were achieved as documented in the [court progress report](#). In July, 2020 a [judgement](#) was issued by the High

CLASS ACTION

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Court of Mombasa (Environment and Lands Court) recognizing violations of the fundamental rights of Owino Uhuru residents among them the right to a clean healthy environment guaranteed by the constitution of Kenya 2010 and they were awarded 1.3 Billion Kenyan shillings for compensation 700 Million Kenya shillings to CJGEA to coordinate the remediation/ clean-up the environment in Owino Uhuru in the event that NEMA defaults in carrying out the exercise from within 120 days of the judgment. In its nature, the judgment is a tool for protection of environmental, human rights enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and the rights enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights as well as in the sustainable development agenda. The judgment was appealed by 2 state agencies; NEMA and EPZA, a [hearing](#) took place on 20th July 2022 and the judgment will be rendered on 17th February 2023. Since this scheduled date there has been a series of postponement of subsequent scheduled judgment dates the latest being 14th April 2023 to 12th May 2023.

NB This class action litigation case is still on-going.

[Court Pictures](#)





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Figure 2 Court hearing session on the class action suit

II. East Africa Criminalization Project.

LEDs play an important role in environmental governance, climate change action and attainment of socioeconomic justice for their grassroot communities. Even so, they continue to experience criminalization in line of duty despite their critical contribution towards the protection of the earth's natural resources. They face reprisals from powerful individuals and corporations that exploit the environment for profits. These range from physical attacks,

kidnapping, enforced disappearance, judicial harassment through arbitrary arrests, fabricated charges leveled against them and criminal.

records in their names that the government is reluctant to erase, SLAPP suits, surveillance among other violations of their fundamental human rights and freedoms. Most of the time these kinds of violations against LEDs are well choreographed and accompanied by stigmatization and smear campaigns that aim to reduce support towards the work of LEDs thereby increasing their vulnerability and exposure to security risks.

In June 2019, CJGEA conducted a workshop for a [pilot project](#) in emergency and non-emergency support for LEDs in effort to create awareness and spread knowledge among defenders in the network of existing support organizations they can leverage in case of threats or attacks.

To help support LEDs against criminalization, CJGEA in partnership with the World Resources Institute through Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders ([ALLIED](#)) are implementing a project that focuses on addressing criminalization of LEDs in the East Africa region. The aim is ensuring there is fairer reporting on, coordination of support organizations, and rapid response to criminalization of defenders in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Implementation of this project activity commenced in June 2022 and will end in June 2023. The [reports](#) document the progress made in the project implementation, successes and areas of improvement.



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III. Geographical expansion of the “Tuna Sauti” Movement

“Tuna Sauti” is translated to mean amplifying voices. This is a continuous campaign meant to amplify the voices of the voiceless. Most of CJGEA’s work at the moment is concentrated within the coastal counties. The project offered an opportunity to scale up CJGEA work and have a nationwide impact by involving LEDs from other counties to take part in the class-action suit.

CJGEA began by training field officers and carried out a baseline survey on the coastal Counties and currently seeks to continue expanding its work to other Counties in Kenya

by carrying out a rerun of the [baseline survey](#) on County Environmental Committees. The project will produce more empowered LEDs for leadership as they will have more recognition and legitimacy by sitting on the County Environmental Committees after being empowered with tools for advocacy and leadership.

CJGEA has ensured grassroots environmental movements become more informed and actively involved in decision making. This has ensured gender balance in grassroots LED representation thereby reducing gender bias, social and cultural barriers to participation.

CJGEA will also promote and support public participation and access to information during commissioning of development project in networks across the Counties for environmental protection thus making positive steps towards sustainable development.

Some media reports

The Standard media

[court case](#)

[Court case – Pulse Live](#)

[court case](#)

[Court case](#)

[Redress- compensation](#)

[court case](#)

[Verification process on News broadcast](#)

[verification process on News paper](#)

Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

[Court hearing](#)

Quartz



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[Advocacy](#)

Nation Media

[Court hearing](#)

[Litigation suit](#)

[advocacy on delayed justice news](#)

BBC

[Demonstrations article](#)

[Demonstrations article](#)

Voice of America- Swahili

[2023 demonstration](#)

The Star

[Demonstrations](#)

Business & human rights resource Center

[Litigation suit](#)

Citizen Television

[judgment postponement advocacy](#)

The major achievements realized include:-

- CJGEA filed a constitutional petition in the form of a class-action suit challenging the responsibility of state and non-state actors towards protection of environmental and socio-economic rights.
- CJGEA Successfully filed and won a class action litigation suit at the Environment and Land court.
- CJGEA made lead poisoning a national issue that triggered discussions nationwide.
- The Owino Uhuru community capacity was extensively built and a random sampling conducted showed that the residents understood their environmental rights, source and effect of lead poisoning including avenues that they can use to access effective remedy using the Kenyan constitution 2010.
- CJGEA received a request for support from 3 communities; Naivasha, Jua Kali in Eldoret and Imara Daima in Nairobi who experience pollution and negative impacts of extractive industries located around them. CJGEA has not been able to directly assist these other communities due to its current funding capacity.
- CJGEA's work was recognized internationally when the Director Phyllis Omido was awarded The Goldman Foundation environmental prize 2015 for Africa, which has put CJGEA on the global map.



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CJGEA won the Owino Uhuru land case, the land was recognized as community land and a [provisional certificate of titles](#) awarded to the community.

IV. Procedural Environmental Rights Project

This project addresses the upholding of right to Access information, right to public participation and right to effective remedy/redress by state and non-state actors in development projects. rights with regard to decision-making relating to the environment in natural resource extraction activities in Kenya and its impacts on social economic and environmental rights. This project is aimed towards particularly addressing the issues facing the communities in the coastal region of Kenya in the wake of development.

Problems statement:

We recognize both the strength of existing international and national access to information and public participation frameworks, and particularly how hard it is for these to be utilized by the people who most need to assert their rights within the environmental governance system. The economy and society are intimately dependent on a healthy environment. We are seeking to frame political and moral demands in the language of rights and constitutional obligation and application of tools such as research analysis, and advocacy strategies so as to enhance, give force and effect to access to information and public participation framework and extend its reach into the communities where the poor reside.

Through this project, we envisage that civil society will unite around the right to access information, public participation, access to effective remedy and foster a national social movement around these rights as the first step towards comprehensive environment protection systems and mitigation of climate change effects.

Project activities and implementation

To support the geographical expansion of the Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action Work in Mombasa, Lamu, Kwale, Kilifi and Taita Taveta Counties.

- Carry out one baseline survey on information needs assessment that can be adopted by state including best practice of communication and dissemination putting into consideration level of education, gender restrictions of host communities in mining and extraction in five counties of Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta and Mombasa National programmes in furtherance of post 2015 Sustainable developmental goals and future climate regime.
- Create/develop one online database of information needs particularly on mining and extraction communities in the coastal belt. We envisage that the database will be free access and it will provide a platform for public participation through laws, regulations and agreements and process. This activity plus costs will be outsourced to HURIDOCs to develop the database.



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- The success of this objective will necessitate the formation of coalition clusters of 30 LEDs along the coastal belt of Kenya that will form collaborations on the project and further after.

This project seeks to empower communities through participatory action and research to explore dimensions of (and impediments to the delivery of) access to information and public participation as a tool for Peace, cohesion and climate change mitigation in five rural poor counties of the coastal belt of Kenya.

- 1 capacity building session for the 6 trainers (LEDs) in each of the 5 communities
- Publish and upload Findings of the baseline survey to mining and extraction database developed and maintained by CJGEA and share the links widely.
- Engage 1 Information Technology consultant to upload 3time in a month for 1 year
- 10 community meetings to Create networks for information flow within the 5 counties.

Strengthen the participation of communities in national processes on environmental governance by promoting cohesive opinion sharing in forums that represent the community concerns as a single voice.

- 5 training sessions to train 30 stakeholders from Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta and Mombasa on CJGEA access to information and public participation model in environmental governance.
- Assist the community in drafting 2 petitions to relevant national assembly committees and attend the sessions to share their views. Working with the Senate on the passing of recommendations on corporate accountability towards the citizens' procedural rights focusing on the right to a clean healthy and sustainable environment
- Draft 2 petitions to be presented at the county level
- 3-day training seminar retreat of 20 participants from state agencies, corporates, and LEDs aimed at creating space for the communities to engage the duty bearers and corporations on concerns.
- Disseminate materials to 1500 citizens through 10 public forums on the mining and extraction of minerals in Kenya and the advantages of participation in the processes
- 3 training sessions to empower 30 LEDs to train communities on:-
 1. Innovative ways to receive and respond to information
 2. How to form a cohesive opinion as one group and singular voice.
 3. How to have constructive meetings, what questions need to be asked.
 4. Breaking down the roles of different duty bearers for the communities.
 5. Strategic methods of getting sympathetic state agencies
 6. Identifying the specific state agencies within the new constitution to address specific Issues e.g. NEMA would address, pollution, setting up of industry, commissioning and decommissioning of industry, ensuring participation of communities before commissioning while National Land commission could address



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historical land injustices and lack of property ownership rights to community land and the effects

7. What questions need to be asked or addressed to certain state agencies for effective participation and lobbying?

Mainstream procedural rights into environmental governance systems for climate regime in Kenya

- Carry out a 2nd research on situational analysis on the links in the communities between lack of participation and access to information with violations on land management and pollution and identify ways to integrate solutions that preserve environmental assets and ensure land productivity for communities.
- Disseminate findings of the research including effects on development and climate change to stakeholders in letters and sharing links from the database
- Promote and support communities to be part of a global and local information network for sustainable development.
- 3-day seminar for 20 state and non-state actors to discuss research findings and compare and share the good and best practices in other jurisdictions

To scale up platforms for socio-economic rights empowerment, leadership development in communities in Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Taita Taveta, and Mombasa Counties

- Formalization of a coalition of Environmental LEDs
- Develop partnerships for the 5 counties through fact-finding missions with 5 community meetings where the 30 LEDs interact and share experiences with each other's communities.
- Establishment of a fully functional secretariat with one full-time person supported by the Executive Director and the rest of the team at CJGEA.
- Hold 1 coalition meeting of 30 participants to discuss the access to information and publish a participation model to spell out its purpose.
- Hold three half-day follow up coalition meetings of 30 participants
- Holding CSO meetings of 30 participants to finalize reports to be input into the database on the state of procedural rights and effects on the right to a clean healthy and sustainable environment.
- Empower LEDs as trainers for the communities in procedures for public participation including a platform for communication and consultation among stakeholders that allows women, men, youths, persons with disabilities, local and indigenous people submit oral and written submissions, comments and questions and facilitates the development of consensus.

Develop and implement an advocacy strategy

- Conduct a 3rd expert and scientific baseline study as a tool to support the community's case. The baseline research will focus on Industrial Waste and



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discharge in communities and investigate their effect on the environment (climate change, land, and fishing) and livelihoods of communities.

- Through 10 lobbying sessions, ensure space is given to stakeholders including civil society groups to present alternative reports on activities undertaken by governments to ensure information flow and evaluation of their effectiveness including on financial commitments. This will focus on the existing political and environmental governance systems in place.
- Implement the activities of the coalition of LEDs in the Mining and Extractive communities on the coastal belt aiming at reducing practical threats to their work and to strengthen and connect community structures to state and non-state actors by improving community-level advocacy, knowledge, and attitudes regarding socioeconomic rights. This will include monitoring and documentation of the LEDs activities (See attached document)
- Through 30 radio sessions to share challenges faced by LEDs and form a listener's club aimed at increasing the number of communities that provide safe spaces for Environmental Human Rights Defenders and reduce risks from harmful narratives and attitudes that put them at risk.
- 5 meetings with relevant state agencies, to enhance coordination and leadership of institutions at the national level to share information and strategically analyze and respond to challenges of non-observance of the right to clean and healthy environment with a specific focus on advocacy around holding the state accountable on its procedural rights obligations towards the environment;
- Engaging the wider public and media in procedural rights through social media platforms.
- 10 Community dialogues on environmental justice and procedural rights 2 in each of the 5 counties

Proposed Outcomes

CJGEA has developed a tailored public participation and access to information model that will address the specific needs of coastal communities taking into consideration the culture, gender and language needs with an aim to encourage the participation of all community members in environmental governance. This will be enhanced by the database accessible by communities and other stakeholders. Information will mainly be disseminated through Text messages that are the cheapest, most convenient and widely accessible.

Expected outcomes

- The tool will integrate essential elements of procedural rights and post 2015 development goals.
- Proactive participation before decision making rather than reactive participation that is happening after tensions and hostilities have already flared up.



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- Develop a mechanism that encourages early participation and gathers continuous feedback such as setting up information desks and appointing and empowering information desk officers at the local level.
- Encourage public's access to free, timely, understandable and relevant information; and integrate access to information in all environmental goals and reporting cycle.
- Address gaps in information dissemination in a language most suitable for the targeted audience including local people, women, children and persons with disabilities and adopt the most suitable method of dissemination for each target audience.
- Remove gender, social and cultural barriers to participation
- Promote and support local participation and information network for sustainable development.
- Establish procedures for public participation including a platform for communication and consultation among stakeholders that allows women, men, youths, persons with disabilities, local and indigenous people to submit oral and written feedback, comments and questions and facilitates the development of consensus.
- Better land use that promotes sustainable development and mitigates climate change

How will it work? Hinged on the provisions of the EMCA act, the model will take advantage of the existing political and governance structures in place after devolution and constitutional (2010) including the office of the women representative and the local Member of County assembly and the national assembly special committees of senate and parliament this will be enhanced by CJGEA community structures that will gather feedback and relay it to the stakeholders.

Targets include:-

- Reduction in cases of conflicts between state, corporations, and communities around extractive industries
- Reduced carbon emissions and increase commitment to the SDGs
- To see an improvement in participation by communities and monitoring by the government agencies
- Change the casual attitude that ignores community input during commissioning and decommissioning of Industry on environmental protection concerns.
- Proactive and Sustained involvement and interaction of all concerned stakeholders from initial setting up of extractives
- See an improvement in installation standard ISO certified of pollution control plants



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V. Owino Uhuru Land case.

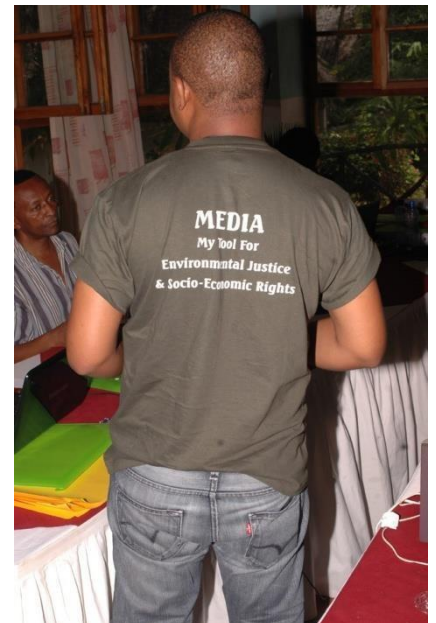
Historical land injustices are a rampant ill in the coast of Kenya. Corruption within the land governance system is a well-known thorn in the flesh for Kenyans. After beginning the campaign highlighting the case of (Pb) lead poisoning and running the media as a tool campaign as part of the Tuna Sauti campaign, the community was sued by powerful interests who had obtained a land title deed that claimed the land in which the Owino Uhuru community has stood on since 1963. Owino Uhuru is a community very near the port of Mombasa and on the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway making it very lucrative for powerful business interests. CJGEA's strategy managed to win the civil case but it was immediately appealed at the court of appeal. We are glad that the court of appeal has upheld the victory for the Owino Uhuru community who now own their land by the ruling of the court citing adverse possession. We celebrate the victory with all who make it possible for our poor and marginalized communities to access socioeconomic justice by your support.

VI. Media as a tool for the realization of environmental justice and socio-economic rights in Kenya.

Access to information as a right

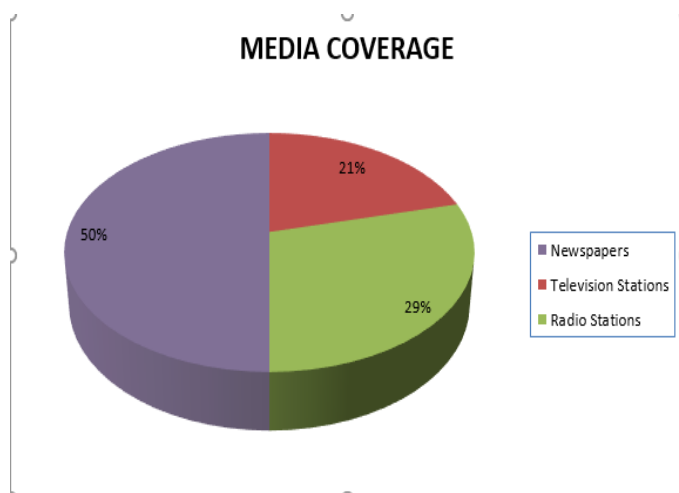
“Media as a tool for the realization of environmental justice and socio-economic rights in Kenya” projects that are a vital component to our environmental litigation and advocacy work. Media is one of the most efficient and trusted sources for disseminating information. Media has an impact on the attitudes and behaviors of all players in society.

This project under education and empowerment programs targeted the Kenyan mainstream media houses and maximizes social media usage. In the course of our work, we have realized that the media reports play a very vital role in the campaigns for the rights to a clean healthy and sustainable environment. However, there remains a gap in the manner in which information is disseminated to the public. This stems mostly from the lack of proper facts and skills to investigate and report on environmental issues. This necessitated CJGEA partnering with KIOS (The Finnish NGO foundation for human rights) to organize forums, press conferences, workshops, training and make presentations on issues affecting the environment in Kenya. We have also published the media pocketbook that will help the media platform understand and guide them when covering environmental and human rights issues. Media has proven to be an important tool of advocacy in our previous work and we continue to use it in our work in other communities in Magarini Sub-county under the “Kurunzi ya Matumaini” project.





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CJGEA has used 14 media houses in covering its activities out of which newspapers represent 50%, T.V stations 21% and radio stations 29%.

Objective 1. Media advocacy to facilitate the community to access blood lead testing and health care. CJGEA focused on the proximate community near the smelter and the former workers that worked in the industry of an approximate population of 3000.

Project Achievements

- Through the media, there was a nationwide outcry of lead poisoning in Owino Uhuru. The standard Media who partnered with CJGEA to produce an expose dubbed “Plague for-profit” aired it for 3 days in English and 3 days in Swahili which was repeated the following week due to public demand. English Version dubbed [Plague of Profit](#) and Swahili Version dubbed [Futari ya Sumu](#)
- CJGEA has successfully linked the community to the media to be able to directly highlight their issues. Recently after winning their land case in Mombasa high court, the community approached media houses which saw the results featured in The Star Newspaper and Radio Kaya F.M
- A senate committee was convened to investigate and provide recommendations to the lead poisoning problem in the community. The [final report](#) recommended the government to clean up the toxic site.
- The hiccup to this final report is that it cannot be used in the community’s litigation case. The list of directors published on the report belongs to a totally different smelter other than the one which was under investigation.



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- Two government task forces were created to investigate the lead poisoning in Owino Uhuru community;
- A [parliamentary taskforce](#) comprised of various government departments (MOH, KEBS, NEMA, WARMA, OSH, Government chemist) that investigated the occurrence of lead poisoning in Owino Uhuru and provide recommendations to the parliament. The taskforce visited our offices to be furnished with all the facts on the ground. We also built their capacity at a second meeting convened in Nakuru by a CJGEA facilitated chemical disease expert. (Since we realized the team in the task-force understood very little concerning chemical disease and especially lead poisoning)
- The reports were concluded and presented to the parliament for discussion but NEMA who was leading the investigation have refused to share the report with the public or even give a feedback report to the Owino Uhuru community. The whole process has been politicized as the community continues to live in a toxic environment.
- The 2nd taskforce was from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions that was mandated to investigate anyone culpable of the crime that led to lead poisoning in the community. The task force requested a desk in our office for three days gathering all the evidence concerning the same. They have recorded statements from NEMA officers concerning an EIA that was issued to the smelter
- Recently the Owino Uhuru community with CJGEA support was able to file a class-action suit seeking justice through the courts. The respondents who are mainly state and non-state actors have been served. The suit will act as a precedent for so many other communities over the country.
- The major challenge to the Litigation cases is the high cost of the legal fee that is associated with such a suit.

Major successes were recorded including:-

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) in partnership with various institutions and agencies such as CDC, KEMRI, MOI University, and government chemists conducted a prevalence study to quantify the contribution of the smelter to the blood lead levels of the community members and the lead concentration in environmental media.
- The standard group as well partnered with CJGEA and funded the blood lead testing of 50 Owino Uhuru residents
- The county government also intervened and facilitated testing of 100 residents of the community and former smelter workers
- Among the population tested in the community, 90% of the population have above the limit of WHO at 5µg/dl. The highest BLL is at 420µg/dl seven times higher than the level found in Flint Michigan water at 35µg/dl. These are very worrying BLLs with the people



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still living in this toxic environment. The community has buried several of its people who had alarming BLLs including a young mother who died after delivering she had BLL of 238 μ g/dl

- More than 2000 community members exclusive of children have not been tested for lead poisoning up to date. Treatment of lead poisoning requires chelation medication which is very expensive for Owino Uhuru residents who are slum settlers without an income to afford. Also, most of the hospitals have not been equipped to diagnose or treat lead poisoning, most times it's misdiagnosed and treated as common infectious disease

Objective 2

To come up with measures to restore the toxic site and access a clean healthy and sustainable environment. This was with the aim of restoring the environment in and around the community so that they can enjoy their right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Major impacts:-

- CJGEA influenced the East African Parliament to pass a bill banning the export of (Pb) lead and lead alloys. This was aimed at the elimination of the source lead exposure to the community. NEMA later intervened to ensure the smelter remained inactive. The national outcry on the Owino Uhuru case forced NEMA to hurriedly shut down other smelters in the country.
- Identified and consulted with experts including Dr. Simba Tirima from Terragraphics (On environmental Lead Poisoning) USA, Dr. Perry Gottesfeld (Occupational hazards of Lead) among many others who furnished us, built the capacity of the community and the state actors on the means of restoring the toxic site which was Remediation.
- CJGEA with experts has started the mapping of the Owino Uhuru community ahead of the actual clean up.
- The process has been delayed by the fundraising and mobilizing resources that has been slow as we realized that in Kenya environmental challenges are not prioritized by many.
- We are also pushing the government to fulfill their bargain as recommended by all the task force and committee reports that the government should clean up the toxic site.

VII. "KURUNZI YA MATUMAINI" PROJECT



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“Kurunzi ya Matumaini” means light for hope for environmental justice and human rights. This project is aimed at mainstreaming the human rights-based approach towards dealing with environmental issues in Magarini Sub-county, Kilifi County. CJGEA empowers marginalized communities by lobbying and advocating for their environmental and socio-economic rights. CJGEA under this project has accomplished the following:-

- Conducting a baseline study of the environmental and socio-economic effects of the salt mining activities in Magarini community.
- Empowering the Magarini community to challenge the duty bearers, non-state actors i.e. salt mining corporates responsibility of the state towards their rights according to EMCA 1999 and Kenyan constitution 2010. We have done extensive advocacy work through photo and video documentation of the injustices ongoing in the area including writing letters to the UN special rapporteur office, national land commission, inspector general, etc. informing them of the situation on the ground.
- Conduct a 3rd Expert and Scientific baseline study as a tool to support the community's case.
- CJGEA has also facilitated the filing of a constitution petition of HRD 001/2015 against the violation of his fundamental rights.
- CJGEA has successfully linked the community with the media to be able to highlight their issues as an advocacy tool.
- CJGEA has facilitated the community to attend the public participation forums convened by the national land commission to address the historical land issues in Kilifi County.



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CJGEA also intends to ensure that this will not only be a reminder of the voices of the victims of human rights violation but also an indication that private businesses are willing to change and embrace human rights best practices. This project is also a highlight of development being a priority at the cost of conservation. The mangrove trees have been cut down to an estimate of more than 100 acres of mangrove forest, found along the Kenyan coastline. This is a catalyst to climate change within the coastal region.

Objectives

To conduct a baseline study of the environmental and socio-economic effects of the salt mining activities.

- A baseline study was conducted and a [report](#) written under the CJGEA programs department.

To challenge the responsibility duty bearers and non-state actors i.e. salt mining corporates for the environmental and socio-economic injustices ongoing in Magarini.

The major injustices in the area include- historical land injustices, forceful displacement, water scarcity due to river diversion, deforestation of mangrove forests, livelihood deprivations and human rights violations including extrajudicial killings, harassments, threats, and intimidations. Most of these violations are to the community by hired goons, salt mining corporate security guards and the local police.

CJGEA has been able to do the following under the objective:-

- Produce a short film dubbed “Salt of Death” for the National Land Commission hearing.
- From the experience in Owino Uhuru, CJGEA has done advocacy work in Magarini inclusive of photo and video documentation of some of the injustices ongoing, writing letters to various authorities including the UN special rapporteur, national land commission, inspector general, etc.
- The advocacy has resulted in the National Land Commission requesting a forum in Malindi to address the historical land issues in the county.
- CJGEA is currently facilitating one of the LEDs in the community to seek justice through the judicial system by filing for a constitution petition in the high court following forceful evacuation from his ancestral land, harassment, and threats to his family, serving jail terms, etc.
- CJGEA also has a good relationship with the local media that is a major tool in highlighting the injustices in Magarini. We have conducted advocacy both through the mainstream media (News dailies, TV and Radio) and social media



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To empower the Magarini community to amplify their voices and advocate for their environmental rights and socio-economic justice through the creation of safer spaces. The objective additionally focuses on empowering the Magarini community to be able to advocate for their environmental and socio-economic rights through capacity building forums, community dialogue sessions, training, etc.

CJGEA has done the following concerning the objective:-

- CJGEA has successfully linked the community to the media to be able to highlight their issues as an advocacy tool.
- LEDs from the area have been incorporated in CJGEA security protocol that is inclusive of training on human rights work and avenues available for advocacy. CJGEA has also facilitated the LEDs to attend training under the Natalia project by Civil Rights Defenders on digital and physical security.
- Due to the wide length of the area, CJGEA has made contacts on the ground forming clusters on specific locations to facilitate communications and empower the rest of the community.

To build the capacity of the Magarini community, state and non-state actors to understand the importance of procedures of environmental governance in EMCA 1999 especially covering the procedural rights (Public participation in represent activities, decision making and access to information).

- CJGEA always disseminates information intercepted from the media that concerns the community as the highest population cannot access most of the communication services. Ensuring that the communities access information in time and be informed like the rest of Kenyans.
- There is a communication gap that we have identified that doesn't address concerns of poverty, literacy, people with disabilities, and gender among others. CJGEA is currently developing a communication model that covers all these gaps.
- CJGEA facilitated some members of the Magarini community to attend a public participation forum organized by the National Land Commission to address the coastal historical land injustices. CJGEA attended the forum and shared informative video and documentation on behalf of the community.
- CJGEA always encourages the community members to lay their issues directly to the duty bearers. CJGEA recently accompanied IPOA to the scene in an investigation of extrajudicial killing that occurred a few months ago. We furnished the authority with the incidents occurring in the community but as well had a one on one talk with the community members.

The major challenges that we are facing in this area are:-



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- The high level of poverty and illiteracy in Magarini community makes the residents vulnerable to compromise and harassment by the corporate security guards or even the local administrative authority.
- The salt mining corporates that have existed for more than a decade now have managed to penetrate the local authorities and some CSOs who they use to instigate harassments to the community who do not comply with their terms to the extents of killings, arrests and physical injuries/beatings making it very difficult for the community to access effective remedy through the judicial system in the area
- Coastal historical land injustices still highly exist in Magarini community with many living on their ancestral lands but without the title deed.

VIII. “MITI KWA VITUKUU” (4-K CLUB)



Figure 4 school Student engagement with CJGEA staff

“Miti Kwa Vitukuu” meaning “trees a heritage for our grandchildren” project entails mainly capacity building on the importance of environmental conservation. The project goal is to stop logging without mitigation and promote afforestation as a tool for climate change mitigation targeting the future generation. The program fits in the organization’s overall vision of molding a generation that understands respects and integrates human rights and the environment. Through schools, CJGEA team has helped to set up environmental clubs named 4-k clubs.

4-K;

Kulinda_ protect the environment

Kuhifadhi_ to conserve the Environment

Kutetea_ to defend the Environment

Kenya_ our country

The clubs participants are motivated to stay active by owning a tree they planted and taking care of it until it grows to equip them with important values of life. Activities like clean up and tree gifting are encouraged. The members will be made environmental scouts and future environmentalists through training on issues of the environment.

- CJGEA published and disseminated a [teacher's workbook](#) and [student workbook](#) manuals that will help the young generation realize that despite the global modernization and industrialization, natural resources must be used thoughtfully to ensure sustainability. These customized curriculums equips the teachers as well as the young pupils with knowledge of the environment, its importance and the need to take care of it.



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- We have partnered with twenty primary schools in Kilifi County and the Owino Uhuru community in implementing this conservation program. Other partners include Kenya Forest Service (KFS) who provide seedlings and consultancy services and the Environmental department of Pwani University who provide volunteers.
- CJGEA has planted 60 seedlings in 10 schools in Kilifi County and Owino Uhuru community, issued exercise books and the developed curriculums and CJGEA t-shirts to 20 environmental scouts in each school.
- 200 environmental scouts were inducted into the pilot program as an extracurricular activity

The project has however been challenged by:-

- Uneven school calendar that has been frequently interrupted by teachers' strikes.
- Deforestation and forest degradation have a major influence on our climate and the impacts have extensive consequences to the economy, environment and health. Climate change still remains a major concern locally as is global.

IX. ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION PROJECT



The plight of the Owino Uhuru Community still remains in jeopardy years after the commissioning and closure of the lead smelter metal refinery EPZ Ltd. Blood Lead Level (BLL) above 5ug/dl (revised WHO standards) causes harm to human, animals, and plants and are persistent in the environment for several years before it's eroded by natural mechanisms.

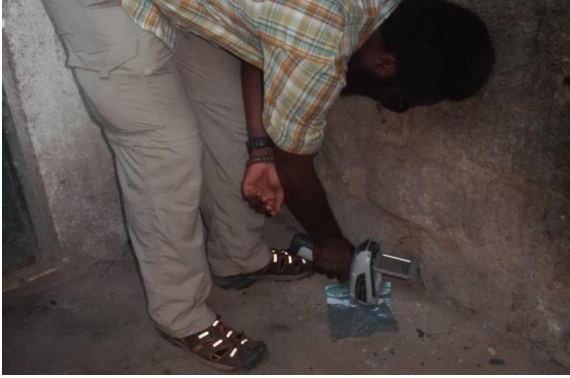
This initiative; environmental remediation objectively aims to identify and remove any lead from environmental media such as soil and water. It involves generating a specific framework that adheres to the needs of Owino Uhuru community in order to not only identify, but also evaluate, and extradite remains of this abandoned lead smelter site so as to mitigate the effects that this unlawful past practice caused. Owino Uhuru remediation will set a precedent for other states, communities that are facing the same consequences of environmental pollution.

- CJGEA has conducted comprehensive research in chemical diseases and consulted and brought experts who have furnished us, built the capacity of the community during community dialogues, the state actors (Owino Uhuru taskforce) in a convened meeting in Nakuru on the means of restoring the toxic site.



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- CJGEA has started mapping of the community as part of the cleanup and set up avenues to fundraise and mobilize resources for the cleanup.



- Our advocacy work has helped in making several milestones including government intervention by creating a parliamentary taskforce of various state departments. The task force recommended remediation to be budgeted by state. We were also met by challenges such as the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) refusal to release a public report on the investigation of the parliamentary task force.
- In 2022 CJGEA developed a remediation [concept note](#) and facilitated consultations with lead experts nationally and globally in view of setting up a remediation task force ahead of implementation of the court judgement. We invited expressions of interest from various identified stakeholders and we were able to set up an advisory committee which will provide guidance to the remediation taskforce (the organization will be selected by CJGEA board members from the applications we have received) in the anticipated environmental clean up. This activity was conducted in partnership with KIOS Foundation. Further details are in the [report](#) CJGEA conducted a verification exercise at the Owino Uhuru community as well to ascertain the number of residents who lived in the community between 2009 when the smelter began operations to 2014 when it was decommissioned.

The remediation process is meant to result in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for the Owino Uhuru community with a significant drop in their Blood lead levels (BLLs). We expect that this intervention will result in extensive awareness and consciousness towards chemical poisoning.

X. USED LEAD-ACID BATTERY (ULAB) RECYCLING PROJECT-KENYA

The ULAB recycling project is part of the larger project ongoing in Africa and we were fortunate to conduct it in Kenya. The project which is a partnership with other countries in Africa, purposes to raise the profile of the issue both locally and internationally-with the long term intention of developing solutions for the environmentally sound recycling of lead-acid batteries and the protection of human health.

The project officer and a field officer have covered the fieldwork by visiting other smelters that existed in Mombasa County and Nakuru County that existed before they were shut down. The area residents and former workers of these smelters as the case of Owino Uhuru still suffer



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from the aftermaths of the recycling of lead-acid batteries. One of the smelters, the case of Naivasha is still intact and the residents live in fear that they could wake up one day and find it operating and actively polluting the environment again. The leaders that represented the victims of the pollution all mentioned that their people are still ignorant of lead poisoning and forums to create awareness and inform such people were necessary.

The programs department completed the [ULAB report](#) which is a study into the used lead acid battery recycling and documented [findings](#) in partnership with Oeko institute. This was used by the UNEP major groups in consultation with CJGEA to push for a [UN resolution](#) on used lead-acid battery recycling in Africa. The resolution passed in UNEA 3 where CJGEA was represented lobbying for the success of [the resolution](#).

XI. LAND & ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS PROTECTION PROGRAM

Human rights defenders are the people whose legitimate work for human rights creates the building blocks of societies based on the principles of justice, equality and human rights.

Many LEDs are uncomfortable with a focus on their own protection because their purpose is to defend the rights of others. However, precisely because the LEDs are on the frontline defending other people's rights, they often find themselves being targets of prosecution. If there is no security for LEDs to undertake their legitimate work then there will be no effective protection of the rights of anyone. Kenya voted against the UNGA resolution on the protection of LEDs which puts them in more risk.

Global witness in it exposes "Deadly environment" terms Environmental rights defenders as the most at-risk group of LEDs. The appointment of the 1st Ever UN special Independent mandate on Human Rights and the environment Dr. John Knox further illustrates the nature of seriousness.

The nature of CJGEA work in the environment and human rights has necessitated the need for an LED protection program as most of the grassroots rights defenders we work with at communities are in constant risk from the local authorities and powerful corporations.

LEDs that we work with at marginalized communities around extractive corporations have been exposed to socio-economic impacts, denied access to justice and fair judicial processes, threats and harassment by hired goons and local authorities and extra-judicial killings.

Currently, we have three LEDs that are under our protection with a security protocol in place under the rapid response office. The security protocol involves training on how to minimize risks, advocacy tools available to continue with their environmental human rights work and an evacuation plan in case of danger.



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XII. PROMOTE THE PARTICIPATORY RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT OF THE COMMUNITIES NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION IN THE COASTAL REGION OF KENYA.

The project began in 2017, with the project area being communities residing at close proximity to extractive and mining industries, specifically along the coastal belt of Kenya's five coastal counties: - Taita Taveta, Kwale, Kilifi, Lamu, and Mombasa. CJGEA carried out a baseline survey in the five Counties to ascertain the access to information relevant for environmental management by the local communities and ensure public participation.

By conducting a capacity building training, CJGEA was able to create a platform for LEDs to share experiences and learn more about Environment and Human Rights which developed their capacities, skills, and competence relevant to their work in their respective communities. CJGEA was also able to expand its territory into the 5 counties both in terms of grassroots presence and gaining recognition by the duty bearers in each of the counties.

CJGEA has provided a platform for the network members to gather knowledge on business and human rights through annual LEDs workshops that have been taking place since 2017. They were trained on laws, policies and practices, such as the Sessional Paper number 3 of 2021 on implementation of [National Action Plan and policy](#) on business and human rights. There have also been learning sessions on [Community Development Agreements](#) that came to be as a result of the [Mining Act 2016](#).

One of the LEDs network members from Kwale shared lessons from the successful implementation of the CDACs framework in their 3 communities in Kwale with a mining company- Base Titanium. CJGEA will continue to influence other extractive companies in the coastal region to adopt CDA framework as it ensures socio economic rights of marginalized communities are not infringed by multinational/national companies. CJGEA has conducted lobby sessions to ascertain the activities undertaken by governments to ensure information flow and evaluation of their effectiveness including financial commitments. CJGEA was able to create awareness and participatory action through social media and radio sessions and conducting community dialogues on environmental justice and procedural rights in each of the 5 counties. CJGEA seeks to empower LEDs to become trainers for their respective communities in procedures for public participation including creating a platform for communication and consultation among stakeholders.



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XIII. PROMOTING AN ALL-INCLUSIVE APPROACH PRINCIPLE TO PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS.

- Formation of a Network of Land and Environment Defenders.

The project aims to create a countrywide network of Land and Environmental Defenders (LEDs) working under different grassroots environmental movements by bringing them together to create a united front in advocating for environmental justice and mobilization of environmental rights. There is an urgent need to create a network purely for LEDs in Kenya that will link grassroots movements so that they can be heard and play a part in influencing the decisions and actions of the state in matters of Environment. CJGEA acknowledges the existence of a national human rights defenders coalition in Kenya but there is a need to have a coalition unique to LEDs as they face the most danger in their line of work. Through a networking approach, the coalition will ensure sharing of experiences and combining efforts to address LED issues of concern. It will create a platform to amplify voices of grassroots communities so that they can be heard by national decision-makers.

The need for a coalition of environmentalists is as a result of the shrinking space for LEDs locally and globally. The coalition will increase the legitimacy, safety, and effectiveness of individual activists as well as foster the working of partner organizations under this umbrella body. The coming together of activists from the entire 47 counties of Kenya will enhance safety during CJGEA's public interest litigation by having many organizations giving progress statements on it. The coalition aims to reduce the threats directed to individual activists, environmental movement leaders or single organizations such as CJGEA. This by allowing the coalition to be the face of the sensitive projects, for example, being present at the Owino Uhuru litigation hearing and offering press statements and updates. Essentially CJGEA will allow the coalition to adopt a national face for the litigation project. Speaking in one voice will also challenge systems of Government to act swiftly for the interest of human rights and the environment at large. CJGEA has expanded the network regionally to cover Uganda and Tanzania as well. A milestone was achieved when in the Annual LEDs workshop in 2022, the network members elected their leaders and board members.

With the partnership of KIOS the Finnish foundation for human rights, CJGEA has already mobilized through an entry baseline study of the 5 Coastal Counties, 20 members from the 5 counties of the Coastal belt of Kenya. This project seeks to scale up its membership to 47 LEDs with a mission of reaching activists from the entire 47 counties by the end of 2019. The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) Amended 2015, made a provision for the formation of County Environmental



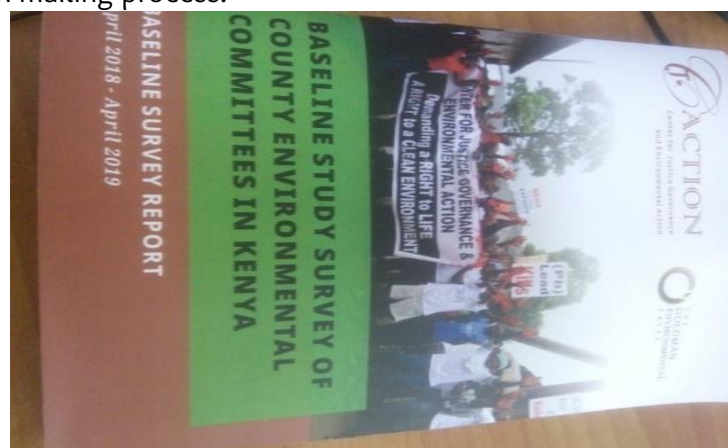
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Committees to factor in the new devolved system of government under Kenyan constitution 2010. The act makes provision for civil society members. The coalition envisions having one of our members sitting in the County Environmental Committee at

each county level and bringing the views and ideas in the strategic county planning with an objective of enhancing environmental governance monitoring. This will give members some leverage and influence over the County environmental governance Mechanisms. This will, in turn, increase the legitimacy of the LEDs and thus increase their protection.

- Status of County Environmental Committees in Kenya

CJGEA carried out a baseline survey to establish the number of counties that have actualized the EMCA ACT on the constitution of County Environmental Committees CJGEA has facilitated an entry baseline study to identify the progress of the County Environmental Committees in Kenya to factor in the new devolved system of government. CJGEA in the past facilitated an entry [baseline study of the 5 Coastal Counties](#) and through it we were able to identify some of the participatory needs of Environmental Human Rights Defenders and we found that there was need to find ways to involve the LEDs in environmental governance at the County level which would be necessary to create a link between the Communities and the Government agencies. This would ensure that affected communities are consulted widely and informed of upcoming development projects before they would be initiated and in turn reduce environmental conflicts in the country. Rather this would ensure proactive rather than reactive participation in environmental decision making. Some of the challenges the LEDs were encountering in the course of their work would easily be solved by incorporating them into formalized platforms that recognized the legitimacy of their work and allowed them to take part in the decision making process.



CJGEA has done extensive work in environmental rights mobilization and lobbying with the state actors to ensure environmental justice is served along the Coastal belt. Through its work with LEDs, CJGEA identified County Environment Committees (CECs) as a platform to ensure



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citizen engagement, inclusiveness, participation and information access on matters of the Environment.

Following extensive research and consultations, CJGEA established ways through which LEDs could be legally involved in environmental governance and this was by tapping into the current devolved system of Government in Kenya which takes into account the need for citizen engagement in sustainable environmental governance; policy and decision making process regarding matters environment and subsequently provides for the establishment of County Environmental Committees across all the 47 Counties as per the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) Act. The EMCA Act is an Act of Parliament to provide for the establishment of an appropriate legal and institutional framework for the management of the environment and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto and which gives provisions for the establishment of the Count Environment Committees. Under section 30 of the EMCA act, the County Environment Committees shall be responsible for: (a) The proper management of the Environment within the County for which they are appointed (b) Developing a County strategic environmental action plan every 5 years (c) Performance of additional functions as prescribed by the act or as may, from to time, be assigned by the Governor by notice in the Gazette. The structure of the committee includes among others two representatives of the public benefits organizations engaged in environmental management programs within the Counties.

CJGEA aims at forming a partnership with the committees and to empower grassroots environmental movements by giving them a chance to be part of the decision making processes in relation to their environment through membership in the committees. CJGEA is working at creating a coalition of LEDs that envisions having one of our members sitting in the environmental committee at each county level and bringing the views and ideas in the strategic county planning with an objective of enhancing environmental governance monitoring. This will, in turn, give members some leverage and influence over the County environmental governance Mechanisms. This will, in turn, increase the legitimacy of the LEDs and thus increase their protection.



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XIV. REINFORCING THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM SECURITY CAPACITIES OF CJGEA AND ITS EXECUTIVE STAFF.

CCTV CAMERA INSTALLATIONS, MONITORING, AND MAINTENANCE.

The project was aimed at reinforcing the short and long-term security capacities of CJGEA to support and protect CJGEA staff and Environmental Human Rights Defenders (LEDs) that are working on environmental rights. The project also aims at enabling CJGEA staff to do work on environmental and land issues at local/national level, to take cases to the relevant national, regional or international human rights bodies and equips us with mechanisms to apply in terms of internationally recognized frameworks, safeguards and guidelines in the defense of land and environment, with respect to exercising our right to due diligence and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

The project facilitated the purchase and installation of 20 CCTV cameras, and 2 CCTV monitors and has had a great positive impact on CJGEA staff as we can now work without fear of possible intruders as every move in the office and outside can be monitored as well as visitors visiting and leaving the facility. It has also subsequently improved security at the home of the executive director as the cameras were installed there too.



CJGEA offices have been raided severally, sometimes covertly where we have found our offices broken into and crucial documents were taken. In another incident, our Organization's gate was flung open. However, upon noticing the CCTV cameras, the perpetrators fled. CJGEA has so far been able to keep the CJGEA class action suit going through its research and essential documents and it is critical that these remain safe. The CJGEA Executive Director has also been secured as she remains the driving force behind the litigation case and thus her activism threatens the respondents in the court case.

The project has strengthened the working capacity of CJGEA staff as human rights defenders as it has provided security tools necessary for us to undertake our day to day activities in the office which include handling delicate matters pertaining to fighting for human rights defenders and court cases without fear of possible attacks and interference by the concerned



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parties. It has created a sense of security at the workplace and it has also created a working environment that CJGEA staff find conducive to function peacefully and to full capacity.

XV. Enhancing Security around the Class action suit and LEDs relocation.

The project will document the security situation of the Individual environmental rights defenders in terms of civic spaces, interactions with the government when presenting issues and the percentage of the 47 LEDs admitted into the county environmental committees. This will be done with a view to enhance the security situation around the Class action litigation and reduce attacks on individual activists by allowing the coalition to participate in press updates of the class action suit presenting a united front around the suit.

The 47 LEDs joining the coalition from the 47 counties will be able to leverage on each other's experiences and get empowered through the capacity building on their environmental rights advocacy and digital and physical security while carrying out their legitimate work. CJGEA conducted one digital and physical security training for the Owino Uhuru Environmental defenders and hopes to carry out the same to be attended by the 47 LEDs that will enhance their strengths and experiences of environmental rights defenders to enhance their security by gathering feedback from the participants of each training session. CJGEA will also monitor the behaviors and attitudes towards LEDs by analyzing to see whether there will be safer spaces, more tolerance and understanding of the work of LEDs at the county level.

XVI. Assessment of emergency and non-emergency support needs for Land and Environmental Defenders.

This project was conducted in partnership with LED coalition and the main objective was to identify concrete steps that will enable the Coalition to contribute to the promotion, protection, and respect of the rights of Land and Environment Defenders (LEDs) who play a vital role in defending land and environment.

In order to achieve the above objective and further the promotion, protection, and respect of defenders rights including by preventing attacks to their lives and integrity, the LED Coalition needed a better characterization of the threats, attacks, criminalization and other violations against the LEDs in Kenya. It also needed a better understanding of existing support, protection mechanisms, and resources, and how these are accessed in the Kenyan context and elsewhere.

There was a need to develop a clearer understanding of the violations against LEDs to better define advocacy strategies and recommendations to protect defenders. In addition to



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strengthening data collection, there was also a need to gather evidence-based information on existing support and protection mechanisms.

CJGEA identified the organizations that provided emergency and non-emergency support to the LEDs both locally and internationally and was uploaded to CJGEA's and LED's database. This was done so to ensure easier access to information by the LEDs on finding support. Data on incidents that were leveled against the LEDs were also collected and shared with the coalition. The data will be used by the coalition to push the Kenyan government to take action on perpetrators of violations against the LEDs. It will also be used as evidence by the coalition to rally the Kenyan government to come up with better legislation on protection of the land and environment defenders in line of their duties.

XVII. Annual LEDs Workshops

This project began in 2017 and it is an annual event. These workshops are used as avenues to capacity build the LEDs on procedural environmental rights and offer them a platform to network and engage with different key stakeholders and structures in the environment sector. Key partners that have made possible the workshops are OHCHR, UNEP, WRI, LED Coalition and Global Green Grant. Each year the defenders come up with thematic areas that form part of the discourse during the meetings.

In June 2019 CJGEA in close collaboration with OHCHR, UNEP, LED Coalition and Global Green Grant held its 3rd annual conference for Land and Environmental Defenders (LEDs). The workshop was on engagement with County Environmental Committees and assessment of emergency and non-emergency support needs for LEDs. The workshop brought together LEDs and government officials.

This was a very important platform for the LEDs as they managed to challenge the government officials on their responsibility in protecting the environment. The LEDs also express the challenges they face as defenders and requested for possible intervention from the government to help remedy their situation. As a result, the government officials present at the workshop made commitments to the LEDs to fully support them in their work. The [workshop report](#) entails the resolutions on the proper constitution of the CECs was. A joint Universal Periodic Review report for Kenya was also submitted by CJGEA on behalf of the organizations that were part of the workshop.

have been working together for various years and already cooperated on the issue of lead-acid battery recycling. Recently, we extended this exchange to questions around energy policies and nuclear power: While Germany has extensive experiences on the political, societal and scientific debate about the pros and cons of nuclear power (including alternatives such as renewable energies), the government of Kenya is developing plans to set-up nuclear power plants in coastal regions with minimal knowledge, skill expertise and resources for such operations



Center For Justice Governance And Environmental Action



Figure 5 LEDs at the 3rd annual workshop

Below are the subsequent annual LEDs workshop report.

[Fourth annual workshop report](#)

[Fifth annual workshop report](#)

[sixth annual workshop report](#)

XVIII. Nuclear Energy and Policy in Kenya.

Kenya is developing plans to set-up nuclear power plants in the Coastal region of Kenya with minimal knowledge, skills/expertise and resources for such operations. [Nuclear Power Energy Agency](#) (Nupea) the state agency mandated to implement the project released a [report](#) of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) accompanying this anticipated development project. Public participation especially among the host communities was done inexhaustively hence, CJGEA is building advocacy around this seeing the potential threats/risks such a project poses to the health of the citizenry, environment and how the project will impact ongoing climate change mitigation efforts in the country. We have engaged [Oeko-Institut](#) whom we've been working with for a number of years and already partnered with on the issue of lead-acid recycling. Currently there are no nuclear energy experts locally. Oeko Institut has a team of nuclear engineers with the technical capacity to review, dissect and submit recommendations through a published report on the SESA report that was released by Nupea. This will come in handy for advocacy as a competent body will have conducted the review and the recommendations given will be credible. CJGEA will facilitate consultations between experts from Oeko Institut and the local nuclear scientists and scholars who will work with the nuclear engineering experts in reviewing the report and assist with final dissemination of the published report to the public through media and also take part in media. They will also take part in media engagements and give critic from an expert point of view. CJGEA has submitted a [concept note](#) to Heinrich Boell Stiftung (HBS) Foundation and estimated period of implementation is 6 months estimated to kickoff mid of the year 2023

SWOT ANALYSIS -

CJGEA seeks to examine the environment within which the organization operates both the internal and external environment. We examine constraints, both legal and institutional that promote or impede the effective implementation of CJGEA projects.

Internal Environment

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strength	Weaknesses
<p>CJGEA has enjoyed a very strong grassroots presence as was seen during the senate visit to Owino Uhuru. It was noted that most community members trusted and relied on CJGEA to make decisions concerning the way forward for the environmental and human rights issues in the community. CJGEA also addressed the Senate Committee on Health in Nairobi as part of the advocacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a very grassroots Non-profit it's still challenging to earn donor trust in order to get them to partner with us financially. However we retained our old funders. KIOS has partnered with us since 2016-2024
<p>CJGEA also enjoys a strong international presence having worked closely with the UNEP, UN systems especially the UN special mandates and the office of the high commissioner for human rights among other international organizations on community advocacy Issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to continuously improve on existing financial systems that will give donors the confidence to fund our projects.
<p>As the 2015 Goldman Environmental prize winner CJGEA has earned legitimacy both locally and internationally and therefore advocacy is easier than at inception in 2009.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased recurrent costs, medical bills, and support for legal fees have weighed on the budget of CJGEA. During the organization's inception phase, community members were engaged in sensitization and awareness programs. Growing demand from the interventions as the Owino Uhuru community members fell ill and succumbed. This, therefore, led to the need to invest in medical and laboratory tests and legal fees.
<p>CJGEA enjoys very cordial relations with the media both locally and internationally, therefore this makes all the projects receive wide media attention and makes the dissemination of information easier</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an organization months after inception, the organization had to close its offices after harassment from the police claiming to investigate the organization; this caused the workers to be scared and finally fled and the Landlord who also asked the organization to vacate their premises citing security reasons.

<p>Diversity of our board has ranged from the business community, minority groups, community members and civil society actors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many older NGOs have viewed CJGEA with suspicion having been born purely out of the Owino Uhuru community and not through the existing NGO structures. Typically all coastal NGOs are born out of the older NGOs by people in the NGO community. CJGEA was uniquely founded with people outside the NGO community and therefore cutting our niche and earning our place has required much effort.
<p>We have made great milestones in the area of environmental Litigation with recorded success in the area. We are also training other communities and have produced a report on the same that communities and activists can rely upon when litigating for nature.</p>	
<p>We have successfully challenged the responsibility of state and nonstate actors towards the observance of the right to a clean and healthy environment in Kenya</p>	
<p>When we took up the Issue of county environmental committee's for example, only 6 out of 47 counties had them in place. At the end of our advocacy all the 47 counties had put in place county environmental committee's. These however are weakly constituted and not resourced at all and therefore there is need for further advocacy on the same.</p>	
<p>The place of Land and Environment defenders is rarely recognized in the context of the achievement of the right to clean and healthy environment for communities. CJGEA's continued advocacy for LEDs is earning them recognition with a pending bill in parliament by the former Cabinet secretary for environment that calls for the recognition of the vital work of LEDs.</p>	

<p>There is still big gaps in the environmental governance systems in Kenya however the response to reports of environmental violations by communities have greatly improved since we began and more communities are reaching out to us for guidance on challenging the state and businesses on protection of their rights.</p>	
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<p>These board members are grouped into committees that are at every decision making and program implementation. E.g. the HR committee which is in charge of recruitment, The finance committee which oversees the implementation of the finance manual and the dispute resolution committee that gives a mechanism to resolve both internal and external disputes.</p>	
<p>CJGEA has the strong ability to stay focused on its mandate as has been seen with the Owino Uhuru case where the Tuna Sauti project was run from 2009 to 2019 where different Phases were implemented with a view to exploring access to an effective remedy for justice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>CJGEA has a strong existing financial and human resource policies to guide its operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

External Environment

Weakness

OPPORTUNITY	THREATS
<p>CJGEA is the pioneer and first-ever environment and human rights/business and human rights-focused organization in the coastal region. Others have come after CJGEA and therefore CJGEA has more Knowledge and wider experience in the environmental/human rights movement.</p>	<p>IMPEDIMENTS AND CHALLENGES TO OUR WORK</p> <p>1. CORRUPTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most government agency representatives are suspected to have received and accepted bribes at the initial setting up of Industries thus are compromised. They have remained reluctant to take corrective and punitive action against the industry/Business as required by the law.

<p>The country's realization of the long term goal on poverty eradication with the main objective to make Kenya as African's oil, minerals production, logistics, trade, services and manufacturing hub. (<u>Captured on vision 2030</u>) is perceived to be much closer with these new discoveries. In the vision's Medium Term Plan (MTP), covering the period 2013- 2017, key flagship Progress has been made in the review of the legal and regulatory frameworks and institutional restructuring in the extractive sector such enactment of the <u>Mining Act 2016</u>, Mining and Minerals Policy 2016 and the <u>Energy Act 2016</u> and Energy and Petroleum Policy that proposes several institutions for the management of oil and gas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very often the Business entities also bribe of some of the community members and they, in turn, become hostile to the members that are standing against business interests thus weakening our progress.
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<p>Experienced countries suggest that extractives if not well managed can be a curse leading to violent conflicts, volatile economic growth, limited job creation, corruption, environmental degradation, gender violence, relocation of families to make way for the extraction of natural resources. Thus the anxiety and hope in equal measure in the public concerning uncertainties about the environment and social-economic impacts, particularly among local communities living in close proximity to the discovered natural resources, to which most of it if not all are found in remote marginalized areas where CJGEA works.</p>	
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<p>Strategic partners, regionally and internationally. CJGEA has positioned itself and had the very rare and coveted opportunity at the regional and international level to mingle with the policymakers and therefore has a wider influence. E.G CJGEA was the first-ever and only environmental grassroots to be invited and be on the panel of the 3rd UNITAR-Yale Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy on Human Rights, Environmental Sustainability, Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the Future Climate Regime on 5-7 September 2014 at the Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States Organized in partnership with UNEP, UNDP, and WRI CJGEA enjoys a close working relationship with UNEP and the OHCHR</p>	<p>1. BUREAUCRACY IN GOVERNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government officers have a negative attitude and sometimes it is very difficult to engage in an event of lodging a claim for action against the corporate violations. There has been a feeling that they are trying to cover each other's backs. The government officers have in some cases been hostile to the community members e.g. Owino Uhuru and the project activists sending a signal that nobody has a right to question them.
<p>CJGEA enjoys a wide range of networks locally regionally and internationally having represented Kenyan grassroots Human rights and environmental movements in many forums E.g we link our LEDs to international partners and networks for sustainability of their work</p>	<p>1. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communities lack knowledge on their rights within the new constitution 2010 in regards to the Human Rights and environmental rights. They have lost their bargaining power, due to overreliance on those people with financial power. They have therefore become less informed on their environment and human rights.
<p>The 2015 EMCA act reviewed creates an opportunity for the formation of county environmental committees. These committees are an opportunity for CJGEA and it's members to leverage on and make it possible to influence the environment and human rights agendas at the county level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There exists a knowledge gap of government Lead agents who lack knowledge and Expertise especially extractive industrial waste management, heavy metal pollution, and emission management. They do not Know under what environment such business should operate in regards to the local, regional and international treaties e.g. the Basel convention, Rio 20+, etc.

<p>The devolved system of government gives an opportunity to its members to reach decision making bodies quicker.</p>	<p>2. IGNORANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some government agencies are aware of the Kind of problem being created but they just don't care. They display a clear show of ignorance on the bill of rights, especially on the procedural environmental right that is core to the achievement of the right to a clean and healthy environment. • Some community members and workers of the extractives know the danger they are exposed to but choose to ignore for a bid to get handouts and mediocre jobs that result in death.
<p>Existence of constitutional oversight mechanisms like IPOA and KNCHR makes it easier to address issues of rights violations</p>	<p>3. GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND STANDARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kenya Government has no set standards of emission and pollution control. This means that they do not have a clear policy on where they are borrowing their guidelines for industries and companies that emit toxic waste. For example, the WHO, Centre for Disease Control, Basel convention. There's a need to engage and advocate for the government to set clear standards. • There's overlapping responsibility within government ministries, therefore there's no clear format for implementing the existing policies. There is negligence in most cases since each one will claim the other should enforce the existing laws. • The Overzealous government in a bid to fight with terrorism has introduced the new Security bill which curtails a lot of our freedoms as civil society and makes it harder to exercise others.

<p>The development of the Business and Human Rights (BHR) and public participation guidelines by the national government. With increased development and infrastructure projects, there is an increase in human rights violations especially the right to a clean and healthy environment, land rights and other socioeconomic rights. There is need for further monitoring and advocacy around this area</p>	<p>Shrinking civil society space: Arrest and intimidation: Many of our members are perceived as a threat to business and therefore attempts are silencing them. ¹ Global witness in its exposes “<u>DEFENDERS OF THE EARTH</u>” terms Environmental rights defenders as the most at-risk group of LEDs with all efforts focused to silence them. Environmental Activists have come under threat even from the loss of life in Kenya the situation has escalated over the past few years as seen by Kenya’s voting against the <u>UNGA resolution</u> on protection of Human Rights defenders.</p>
<p>Kenya through the mining Act 2016 requires mining companies to enter into Community development agreements with host communities. Kenya’s biggest mining companies have however found ways to keep evading this. There is need to partner with communities in both advocacy and litigation to ensure this is implemented by the businesses as it is a great avenue for economic empowerment for communities as well as environmental protection.</p>	<p>· Legal constraints: Public interest litigation generally, and environmental litigation, in particular, is a new phenomena in Kenya. Previously the legal and institutional framework that had existed in the country since colonial times is one that has not been at all conducive to the effective use of public interest environmental litigation as a means of securing environmental and natural resource rights. However, with the new constitution and the revamped judiciary, there is a ray of hope for Kenya. The limited scope of common law remedies available for environmental degradation and the personal nature of those remedies have been a major legal constraint to the widespread use of public interest litigation to enforce environmental rights. However, with the new constitutional provision guaranteeing a healthy environment creates hope in the enforcement mechanism. The system still needs to be tested.</p>

¹ In April 2012, Phyllis Omidu, CEO of the CJGEA, was arrested together with 16 resident of a village in the Mombasa area following a demonstration the CJGEA had co-organized against a local lead processing plant. After receiving the support, protection and visibility of international organizations (such as Frontline and ASF) they were acquitted on November 9 of the same year.

<p>The situation on climate change is dire. Farming communities are still largely dependent on rainfed agriculture at a time when the rains are very unreliable. There is a need to work closely with local communities on avenues for adaptation. There is also a need to challenge the implementation of state funded climate projects as they mostly do not align with the community needs. Kenya for example is subsidizing fertilizer at a time when the greatest need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional constraints: The situation has changed rapidly as there is increased awareness both in and outside the government of the need for environmental stewardship as an input in the development process. Reforms in the legal framework and the governance system are beginning to translate into opportunities for increased use of public interest litigation to advance environmental and natural resource rights.
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<p>There is an increase in the rise of Land and Environment defenders thus needing urgent identification and training of these defenders to enable them perform their important work safely and effectively.</p> <p>Women LEDs especially and Land and environment defenders in general at the grassroots are scarcely resourced and equipped there is need for advocacy towards this.</p>	<p>Nevertheless, there is a critical need for capacity-building initiatives to ensure that these opportunities will be translated into benefits for environmental and natural resource governance. Such capacity-building should aim at providing resources and ideas, sharing experiences from elsewhere and creating institutional frameworks for public interest litigation within judicial institutions, and the entire legal profession in Kenya.</p>
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Stakeholder Analysis

CJGEA has a wide range of stakeholders with whom it must collaborate to ensure the achievement of its strategic plan.

Stakeholder	Mandate	Areas of Collaboration
<p>1. The UN -</p>	<p>Mandated with monitoring the implementation and compliance with the human rights instruments and treaty bodies and providing recommendations.</p> <p>Fellowship programs for human rights organizations.</p> <p>Promotion and protection of human rights by ensuring international human rights instruments are implemented.</p>	<p>Monitoring government compliance with human rights instrument</p> <p>monitoring state implementation of</p>

2. International protection agencies	Offer protection for CJGEA environmental rights defenders at the frontlines	Provide capacity building, referral, and coordination in cases involving land and environmental defenders information sharing joint advocacy strategies and international solidarity.
3. Development partners.	Provide funding and technical assistance, equipment and capacity building and identify areas of government intervention when necessary	Providing support for human rights defenders profiling of land and environmental defender's cases, capacity building and facilitating implementing of funded projects and diplomatic engagement with duty bearers and environmental rights issues
4. Regional human rights organization	Protection of environmental rights defender's capacity building and advocacy of human rights monitoring and	implementation of regional instruments sharing of best practices the best ability joint advocacy strategies

<p>5. Relevant constitutional commissions.</p>	<p>Promotion and protection of human rights. Monitoring of the implementation of the constitution. Documenting and investigating environmental rights violations and holding violators to account.</p>	<p>Investigate and document human rights violations and also hold violators to account. Monitoring of environmental rights issues investigation of specific cases sure in public participation in policy and legislative processes.</p>
<p>6. Kenya National Commission on human rights</p>	<p>Provide coordinating and facilitative supportive support to enhance promotion and protection of the right to a clean and healthy environment. To write to research on ETA compliance and reports on kraits standards and best practices corner to contact Human Rights did you Kaisha and training and investigate and provide an address for Human Rights violations in Kenya.</p>	<p>Investigation of environmental rights violations affecting communities</p> <p>Developing national protection policies for environmental rights defenders.</p> <p>Promote and protect the environment to a rights defender's engagement with duty bearers</p> <p>Engagement with the state institutions.</p>
<p>7. National human rights organizations</p>	<p>Advocacy on human rights issues.</p> <p>Research documentation country of governments compliance with institutions with the Constitution</p> <p>Regional and international human rights instruments, capacity building, legal aid, and Class action litigation.</p>	<p>Joint advocacy strategies and research, focusing strategies, research capacity building the legal representation of Environmental rights defenders.</p>
<p>8. Judiciary</p>	<p>Adjudication of disputes, formulation of precedence's, providing advice or opinions establishing new jurisprudence in public interest litigation cases interpretation of the law.</p>	<p>Sensitization of environmental rights issues</p>
<p>9. Office of the director of public prosecutions.</p>	<p>Prosecution of criminal cases, including those involving environment rights defenders and handling the criminal appeal</p>	<p>Sensitization and human rights and environmental issues</p>

10. The police.	Prevention of crime, investigation of criminal cases, enforcement of security measures	Sensitization on human rights, human rights defenders issues and follow-up of reported cases
11. County-level	Capacity building, awareness-	Sensitization and training and
NGOs	raising on environmental rights Issues, Monitoring documentation and reporting on Environmental rights Issues at the county level. County level risk assessment and advocacy work	human right and environment and environmental rights defenders issues monitoring documentation and reporting of environment rights defenders violations and violations environment
12. Individual Environmental rights defenders.	promotion and protection of environmental rights, monitoring environmental violations and reporting	community sensitization on environmental mobilization for advocacy monitoring violations
13. Media.	We aim to ensure responsible media engagement throughout the litigation process. Media is one of the most efficient and trusted sources for disseminating information	It will contribute to swaying public opinion and become the main source of information for the Kenyan public. This would, in turn, increase public involvement in protecting their environment. We aim to ensure that the media is empowered with tools to prioritize, disseminate and arouse the awareness on the CJGEA litigation and other cases of environmental Impunity in Kenya

<p>14. Legislature Senate</p>	<p>The Senate participates in the law-making function of Parliament by considering, debating and approving Bills concerning counties, as provided in Articles 109 to 113 of the Constitution;</p> <p>The Senate determines the allocation of national revenue among Counties, as provided in Article 217 of the Constitution, and exercises oversight over national revenue allocated to the county governments; and</p> <p>The Senate participates in the oversight of State officers by considering and determining any resolution to remove the President or Deputy President from office in accordance with Article 145 of the Constitution.</p>	<p>Community petitions to the senate to inform policy</p> <p>Make recommendations on environmental disputes and carry out investigations and produce reports investigation to inform state intervention</p>
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15. Parliament	<p>Reviewing legislation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Reviewing and approving the budget and expenditures for the execution of governance; (iii) Scrutinizing governance activities, policies, and programs, assessing whether they meet the intended objectives of the legislation, policy frameworks, and development plans; (iv) Conducting investigations on special issues; (v) Vetting and approving executive appointments; (vi) Providing a platform for public participation in the execution of a specified business. 	Community petitions to parliament regarding environmental/climate change justice and socio-economic change for marginalized communities.
16. County governments	Ensuring and coordinating the participation of communities in governance at the local level and assisting them to develop the administrative capacity for the effective exercise of the functions and powers and participation in governance at the local level.	Integration of LEDs in various county environment programs for better informed environment policies and frameworks.
17. Government chemist	Provide scientific reports on public interest cases. Blood tests for Owino Uhuru residents.	Conducting community health assessments when pollution occurs.
18. Ministry of health	Ensure highest health standards for all Kenyans. partner in carrying out prevalence studies in the community. Enforcement of the of the health act 2017	Partner in conducting prevalence studies in communities.

<p>19. Communities residing around extractive industries and smelters in Kenya</p>	<p>Safeguard their fundamental rights. Hold to account duty bearers mandated to uphold their fundamental rights. Mitigate effects of climate change in their communities through shared indigenous community knowledge and adoption of better climate change practices</p>	<p>Awareness creation on fundamental climate change, adaptation and mitigation measures to build their resilience to the impacts of climate change. Community education on their rights in conjunction with environmental governance and justice in their areas.</p>
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Board Members

1. Nixon Paloma (CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD)
2. Phyllis Omido (FOUNDING MEMBER)
3. Gladys Oguga (TREASURER)
4. Sandra Liani (SECRETARY)
5. Jimmy Shabaya (MEMBER)
6. Anastasia Nambo (OWINO UHURU COMMUNITY MEMBER)
7. Leila Tiji (YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE)