



Center For Justice Governance And Environmental Action

EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS:

Pilot project in Kenya



LAND AND ENVIRONMENT DEFENDERS COALITION

SURVEY RESULTS AND WORKSHOP REPORT

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Prepared by:
Tom Bicko Ooko,
Project Officer.

ACRONYMS

CBO - Community Based Organizations

NGO - Non Governmental Organizations

LEDs - Land and Environment Defenders

CJGEA - Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action

OHCHR - Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

UNEP - United Nation Environment Programme

EHRD - Environmental Human Rights Defender

UNDP - United Nations Development Program

CEC - County Environment Committee

IPOA - Independent Police Oversight Authority

KNCHR - Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

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1.0 Background

Globally, Land and Environment Defenders (LEDs) increasingly suffer grave violations of their rights as a result of defense of land, environment and indigenous rights. Recent global statistics indicate high number of killings of the LEDs. They come from different backgrounds and work on different issues. Some are lawyers or journalists but many are ordinary people living in remote villages, forests or mountains, and are people who may not even be aware that they are acting as LEDs. In many cases they are representatives of indigenous peoples and traditional communities whose lands and ways of life are threatened by large projects such as dams, logging, mining or oil exploration and extraction.

The role of Land and Environment Defenders in the protection of the environment cannot be gainsaid. In Kenya, they engage in many activities, including monitoring and reporting on human rights violations in the context of environmental harm, availing professional representation of victims in the judicial process, lobbying authorities and advocating greater efforts by the state and non-state actors to respect Kenya human rights obligations. They also protect water resources, human health, indigenous rights, and wildlife against deforestation, pollution, hazardous waste, and other ecosystem destruction.

The work they do is critical for the protection of land, environment and human rights; their work can also be crucial to helping governments ensure compliance with environmental regulations. Instead of receiving support for this important work, however, they have received backlash from the same people who are supposed to protect them and the communities they come from, thereby leaving these groups vulnerable to attacks and intimidation. In Kenya, LEDs have been subjected to killings and detention, threats and intimidation, stigma and criminalization from state and non-state actors when they were simply trying to exercise their rights and protect the environment.

The pilot project has occurred at an important time in Kenya, as County-level institutions are in the process of being developed. Devolution in Kenya has been seen as a positive process, but the transfer of duties and responsibilities related to the environment to the County has been slow and disjointed. Much depends on the political will of the County Governor, and the engagement of local organizations. The conversation among Kenyan environmental defenders is therefore very focused on how to make the County governance structures strong, open, inclusive, and effective.

1.1 Project Objectives

Land and Environment Defenders in Kenya have continued to face a myriad of challenges arising from the nature of work they do. The challenges range from gross violations of their fundamental rights to threats, intimidation, murders and disappearances among others. This has made Kenya one of the most unsafe places globally for LEDs. They are constantly under attack because of their fierce defense and hard stands on matters pertaining to land and the

environment. This has put the lives of most of them at risk with very serious consequences arising from their activism work.

Putting all these factors into consideration, the LED coalition decided to implement a pilot project in Kenya as the lead country in Africa, with the main objective of identifying concrete steps that will enable the Coalition to contribute to the promotion, protection, and respect of the rights of LEDs.

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 Coalition sought 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.

Addressing the needs of the LEDs worldwide should be looked into keenly with special considerations accorded to them as it is very evident that the support these group of individuals need is very unique and differs from those of other defenders. Their support needs have been overlooked and generalized in the context of other defenders, when they actually have specific needs that are unique to them and do not apply to the other defenders. It is hence critical to come up with solutions to the crises currently faced by LEDs worldwide in a manner that corresponds to the socio-economic, political, environmental and cultural contexts. Solutions should be drafted according to the specific needs of the LEDs. The project aims at identifying methodologies and actions that can be applied in Kenya, as well as in other regions and countries where the condition of LEDs is also grave.

1.2 Research Methodology

Through, the LED Coalition was able to conduct a successful research on defining the emergency and non-emergency support needs required by LEDs in Kenya. The research study was conducted through desktop research and surveys. The Defending Land and Environmental Defender Coalition (LED Coalition) supported a pilot project in Kenya to better understand the threats facing defenders, their protection needs, and implement more targeted support to LEDs in Kenya. The pilot project, in partnership with the Center for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA)¹ included an analysis of support organizations working in Kenya, an assessment of data collected on attacks against defenders, and a workshop.

¹ Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA) is a Civil Society Organization in the coastal region of Kenya that is working closely with LEDs in protecting and defending Land and Environment.

1.2.1 Desktop research/review

This involved scanning the existing literature recorded last year on incidents leveled against LEDs, analyzing secondary data online such as media reports, and creating a reference list so that all data was organized and easily accessible to all team members.

We also used desktop review to conduct online research on organizations that offered support to Land and Environment Defenders both locally and internationally. See Appendix 1.

1.2.2 Field study

This involved booking of appointments with organizations and institutions that recorded the LED incidents in 2018 and conducting visits to their premises to physically get the data they had recorded the previous year to ensure that they were authentic. In total we managed to source for more than 50 incidents that were leveled against LEDs in the country last year. During the field study we were able to interview the persons in charge of data recording on these incidents thereby garnering more information on these incidents.

1.2.3 Surveys

We came up with a [questionnaire](#) form to help us collect more information that we required on the incidents that we were able to collect from the organizations that had recorded them. This was to give us better insight of what the incidents looked like and also made our work during data collection much easier. We had the questionnaires in both soft and hard copy and disseminated them to our target audience in the field to fill them up for purposes of thorough analysis by us.

From the data gathered, we compiled a list of support organizations and designed an online and offline survey in the form of a questionnaire called the monkey survey. The survey questionnaires were distributed among the participant organizations that attended the LED workshop among other relevant organizations identified during the initial research phase. The filled in questionnaires aided us with the analysis of the emergency and non-emergency support offered to Land and Environmental Defenders in Kenya.

1.2.4 LEDs meeting in Mombasa, Kenya

A workshop in Mombasa brought together environmental defenders from multiple counties to discuss their challenges and build stronger networks for coordination and advocacy.

In June 2019, approximately 56 people gathered for an in-person workshop. The workshop brought together Kenyan land and environmental defenders from different counties, Kenyan CBOs and NGOs, and International support organizations. The workshop was also supported by the UN OHCHR, Global Green Grants, UNEP, the LED coalition and attended by a representative of UNDP and UN Environment. Finally, representatives of the County Environmental Committees (CECs), the National Environmental Management Authority, and the Council of Governors also participated.

2.0 Documentation of Threats and Attacks Suffered by LEDs

The documentation of incidents leveled against the LEDs in 2018 for this project targeted data collected and recorded from the whole country. We sourced for information from all the organizations that collect and record this data countrywide. The prevalence of incidents was higher in the coastal region as compared to other parts of the country. The best explanation for this was that the coastal region of Kenya has experienced and still experiences historical land injustices. This makes the coastal region face a lot of conflicts arising from land related issues. This status quo has brought with it several consequences as most of the dwellers in the coastal region of Kenya are squatters on their lands.

The Kenyan government claims ownership of a huge chunk of the coastal region land as opposed to the indigenous people who have lived in these lands and known them as their ancestral homes for ages. The situation has led to perennial evictions from these lands to pave way for development projects or mining activities by both the state actors and private investors. Serious violations of the rights of the people who defend their lands are committed during these evictions and that clearly explains why the LEDs in this region are under constant attack by these agents. Among the most notable projects and environmental issues that have led to attacks on LEDs are the Lamu coal power plant construction by the government, the massive lead pollution of the Owino Uhuru community land and environment in Mombasa and salt mining in Magarini, Kilifi County among many others. Some of these incidents of violation can be followed in the link provided for the list of incident.

The prevalence of attacks on LEDs was least recorded in the North Eastern region of Kenya. The best explanation for this is that land is readily available considering that the area is also an arid land and sparsely populated with very few people. Though there were attacks in the North Eastern region but they were more of terrorist attacks on civilians and not necessarily targeting LEDs specifically.

The other regions that is Western Kenya including Nyanza, Rift Valley region, Nairobi and Eastern registered prevalence of incidents from high to low respectively in that order.

2.1 Categories of incidents

The following categories of incidents involving LEDs were the rampant incidents recorded in 2018 by different organizations.

2.1.1 Land related incidents

This was the category that recorded the highest number of incidents that involved the LEDs last year. From the data collected, it was evident that many of the defenders were involved in attacks and threats as a result of defending their lands. They were advocating for their land rights from

powerful people who wanted to take away those lands from them forcefully through land grabbing hence resulting into several incidents involving attacks and threats being leveled against them. Most incidents recorded at the coastal region fall under this category because of the land issue mentioned earlier in this report.

2.1.2 Environment related incidents

Environmental issues like pollution and release of toxic wastes and untreated sewage into the environment led the LEDs to be involved in incidents of attacks and threats being leveled against them while trying to fight against such environmental pollution. The LEDs got into trouble with the persons responsible for the heavy pollution when advocating for them to be held responsible. This category recorded incidents such as assault, intimidation, arrests among others.

2.1.3 Violations of LEDs rights

This category of incidents involved the violations of the fundamental human rights and freedoms of LEDs because of their work. LEDs were denied the freedom of association, right to life as some were murdered in cold blood, right to privacy, right to residence among others. Some of these incidents can be accessed in the incident data form in this report.

2.2 Threats faced by Kenyan LEDs

2.2.1 Harassments

This is where the LEDs are constantly mistreated by the security officers who have been influenced by the state and non-state actors. The LEDs are constantly harassed with being arrested and unauthorized searches conducted at their places of work. False charges are leveled against them and all this is geared towards shifting their attention from the ongoing environmental and land injustices to worrying about being/arrested and charged falsely.

2.2.2 Intimidation

This is where the LEDs are intimidated with all manner of threats from arrest, court cases, closure of their work places, death etc. Many LEDs have faced intimidation from the people they work against who are superior to them especially the state actors. The security agencies are manipulated to use dubious means to intimidate the LEDs to water down their efforts of advocating for land and environmental protection.

2.2.3 Death threats

These are threats issued in form of text messages and by word of mouth to the LEDs by the oppressors they target and fight against. They are always meant to instill fear among the LEDs to deter them from properly and confidently doing their work. When someone threatens you with

death, you do not take it lightly and it's normal for one to withdraw/retreat. For this reasons the LEDs end up wholly abandoning their activism work giving room for continued oppression of the marginalized and ignored communities and increased incidents land and environmental injustices.

2.2.4 Attempted murder, murders

Several LEDs were killed last year in the country. Attempts to the lives of some LEDs did not succeed but a good number of them succumbed. Killing of LEDs neutralizes the opposition that investors face when illegally grabbing land and setting up pollution hubs in the name of industries. The killing of LEDs discourages others and it makes them to refrain from carrying out their work for fear of death. The cases of murders of LEDs last year are available in the incident data form in the report.

2.2.5 Other threats

Among other threats faced by LEDs include assault, torture, abduction, displacement, arrests and detention without trial. All these threats have in a big way contributed to the derailment of LEDs work. They have discouraged LEDs from freely conducting their work thereby promoting land and environmental injustices like pollution, land grabbing and evictions from lands. Powerful state and non-actors can take advantage of their position in the society and used the security agencies like the police to mistreat the LEDs.

Many communities face multiple threats. In Embobut forest, for example, the LEDs houses were burnt during forceful evictions from the area; this denied them the right to residency. Some women were sexually assaulted by these security officers thereby lowering their dignity and promoting violence against women.

2.3 Documentation Challenges faced during the study

We faced many challenges in attempting to collect information on the types of threats faced by LEDs, and the frequency with which they happen. This suggests that the documentation that exists represents only a subset of the threats and attacks against LEDs.

2.3.1 Unwillingness to divulge information

Many organizations were not willing to release information to our data collection team. The main reason for denying us this information according to them was that the information was too sensitive and that it may land the persons associated with the stories into trouble. We felt this was just an excuse used by these organizations to refuse us the data we needed from them.

2.3.2 Some incidents could not be verified

Some information collected on the incidents leveled against LEDs in 2018 could not be verified. The data lacked links which could be followed to verify the authenticity of the incidents. The only evidence was that the incidents were reported and recorded by the organizations but they were never publicized or sent out to the media.

2.3.3 Last minute Cancellation of our appointments

This was a common scenario during the data collection. Our appointments to organizations to go and collect data were cancelled last minute by some organizations days after agreeing to our request to visit their offices and even booking us appointments. This really derailed our efforts to collect data and it also wasted our resources which we used to acquire the appointments.

2.3.4 Lack of trust for fear of the unknown

The persons involved in the incidents recorded feared their information to be released as they did not trust what the information would be used for. In Kenya sensitive information, especially the ones that involve the government can land one in big trouble and for this reason there was no trust from the people. They feared their information would land into the wrong hands and in turn put them into trouble with the authorities or the perpetrators of the incidents.

3.0 Accessing Support

One of the objectives of this study was to identify and compile a list of organizations that provide either emergency or non-emergency support, or both, to the LEDs. In Kenya, we identified close to fifty organizations that work in this regard: five Community Based Organizations, 22 local Non-Governmental Organizations and 15 International organizations. These organizations offer different types of support to LEDs we therefore organized the data collected in an excel sheet showing a list of all these organizations that were identified and categorized each organization with the specific type of support it offers to LEDs and how to contact them.

3.1 Local, grassroots support

Defenders stressed that the first outlet for protection is the local community. Local organizing and support networks were identified as crucial for defenders, particularly when they faced threats such as arbitrary detention. For example, one participant recounted how the community gathered and rallied outside the jail after she had been detained, and that the immediate and strong support of the community helped ensure her release. The defender's experience, and the importance of grassroots support, was echoed by others in the workshop. There are active efforts in many regions to create, or strengthen, networks of defenders to share information and support each other when at risk.

3.2 Kenyan NGOs

There are numerous Kenyan organizations that provide a range of support to defenders in different counties. These NGOs are, in practice, the easiest for defenders to contact due to proximity, shared language, contextual understanding, and the speed at which they can respond. Many noted the importance of legal organizations that provide advice and litigation support. In extreme emergencies, the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders does provide safe houses for relocation.

Organizations focused on support for defenders are not always the first point of contact, however. A survey of 15 organizations participating in the workshop showed that the entities identified as “key LED support organizations” were frequently those that were most active in the community, and not always organizations known specifically for LED protection work.

3.3 International support

CJGEA’s research on LED support organizations found that most grassroots groups—particularly in more rural and remote areas—are unaware of opportunities for international support. This was confirmed by participants in the workshop, and they identified a need for further understanding of how international organizations can support their advocacy efforts and protection needs.

3.4 Government support

The government of Kenya has established institutions that offer support to human rights defenders, though we identified only two that offer direct support, the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR). These have also been included in the template and the type of support they offer.

3.4.1 Public Participation

Participants identified challenges for participation in their counties. “Public participation is not an event, but a process. Information needs to be brought to the community and needs to be the right information.” said one participant from Garissa County.

County Environmental Committees (CECs), a new entity which came about after the 2013 elections, are mandated to include participation from the local community and the most direct channel for defenders to share concerns with public officials.² During the workshop, concerns were raised about the small number of CECs that have been formally gazetted.³ Moreover, many that have been officially created are inactive and suffer from lack of resources and lack of capacity. As a UNDP representative noted, there is “no requirement that CEC and environmental action plans get a budget; it depends on the political will of the governor.” The devolution

² EMCA sec. 29 defines specific groups that are part of CEC including farmers, pastoralists, and public benefits organizations. A baseline study by CJGEA found that only 10 CECs of 23 had been gazetted.

³ The Kenya Gazette is where the government publishes notices of new legislation and other information of the public interest. CECs are not formally created until they have been registered in the Gazette.

process has been uneven and there is need for capacity-building at the County level. Moreover, many CECs have failed to ensure participation of an environmental organization in the Committee. Participants felt it was important to increase communication and collaboration between defenders and the CECs, and to ensure that the information and concerns of local communities reaches decision-makers.

3.4.2 Legal mechanisms

Kenya has a progressive legal environment and the Constitution formally recognizes the human right to a healthy environment. However, institutions struggle to effectively implement laws to protect the environment and public officials can be complicit in attacks against environmental defenders. Participants who have filed legal complaints noted that judicial processes are very slow and court decisions are slow to be implemented.

Kenya does not have a specific policy on human rights defenders, but, as noted by one participant, it is a “work in progress.”

Many participants during the workshop stressed that local and national government bodies—including CECs, courts, law enforcement and national bodies with a human rights mandate—are key for protecting defenders and the environment.

In terms of concrete responses from, however, defenders shared mixed experiences working with these public institutions. One participant who has personally been victim of arbitrary detention and numerous threats, said his organization files complaints with both the Kenyan Criminal Investigations Department and go to the police to formally record the incident in an occurrence book (OB), but “there is no evidence of any investigation from the government.”

3.5 The Media

The media was also identified as an entity that offers support to the LEDs in different ways for example they at times are always the first people to highlight the challenges faced by LEDs in certain areas making them public to organizations that may come in and provide support to affected defenders.

4.0 Types of support offered by NGOs

From the survey conducted, we realized that these were the most common different types of support offered by these organizations.

4.1 Legal and/or public interest litigation support

This is a legal practice undertaken to help poor or marginalized people, or to effect change in social policies in the public interest, on 'not for profit' terms (pro bono publico). In general terms it means a legal action initiated in the court of law for the protection of Public Interest.⁴

⁴Nature and Importance of Public Interest Litigation, available at learning the Law

Some organizations specifically deal with this support while others provide it alongside other types of support. In this case, they either pay lawyers who represent communities in courts or take up cases and file them in court hence being responsible for the whole litigation process. Organizations like CJGEA provide litigation support to grassroots communities in public litigation interest cases.⁵

Other organizations like Kituo cha Sheria and Katiba institute offer legal representation where they avail lawyers to represent affected persons especially defenders who are being accused wrongly and they cover all the lawyers costs. This type of support from the findings is mainly offered to very poor, marginalized and ignored communities and LEDs who do not yield the power to stand up against powerful state and non-state actors.

4.2 Financial/resource mobilization support

These are organizations that leverage public and private sources of financing to provide funds towards supporting LEDs. Mainly the local organizations request/apply for donor funding from international donors who are the main funders of programs that deal with LEDs. These donors are usually international organizations that deal with environment and human rights issues and work towards providing funds to grassroots organizations to implement projects relating to environment and land defenders. Certain local organizations are also able to access funding from the government through domestic resource mobilization.

Organizations at the workshop reiterated the need for funding both for general support, as well as for legal organizations to have litigation funds to support defenders facing arbitrary detention and criminal processes. Moreover, many present noted the lack of funding of public institutions and the urgent need to ensure CECs have a budget to implement their duties and to carry out the environmental management plans.

4.3 Capacity building, empowerment, public sensitization and education, trainings

This a type of support where organizations support the LEDs to obtain, improve, and retain the skills, knowledge, tools, equipment and other resources needed to do their jobs competently. It also allows them to perform at a greater capacity i.e. at larger scale, larger audience, larger impact, etc. From the study we conducted, it was evident that many LEDs need this type of support as most of them whose incidents were recorded by organizations last year were unaware of the avenues to follow to seek remedy. By raising awareness of the LEDs on issues that relate to their work, it enhances their capacities allowing them to perform better in an enabling

⁵ Currently it is handling the Owino Uhuru lead poisoning case where they have sued state and non-state actors for polluting the Owino Uhuru community land and environment. Also in 2016 CJGEA represented one LED by the name Joel Ogada from Magarini Kilifi County in a court case where he was charged with incitement to violence when actually he was defending his community land from being grabbed by the salt companies. CJGEA provided and paid lawyers to represent him in this case.

environment where they are knowledgeable and skillful in their work. Some organizations that were identified to be offering this type of support included Malindi Rights Forum, CJGEA, Human Rights Agenda and Haki Africa among others.

4.4 Advocacy, lobbying.

This is support offered by the organizations that aims to influence decisions that involve LEDs within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. Advocacy includes activities and publications to influence public policy and laws by using facts, their relationships, the media, and messaging to educate government officials and the public. Advocacy can include many activities that a person or organization undertakes including media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning and publishing research. Lobbying which is also a form of advocacy involves a direct approach that is made to legislators on a specific issue or specific piece of legislation.⁶ Organizations advocate for the equal rights of LEDs and also lobby the authorities to create an enabling environment where the LEDs can work freely without intimidation. Media publicity is among the most powerful and common ways of advocacy applied by most organizations. Some of the organizations that advocate and lobby on behalf of LEDs include CJGEA, Ogiek Peoples Development Program, and Malindi Rights Forum, among others.

Some organizations present in the workshop had extensive experience building campaigns and coordinating with support organizations in Kenya, and abroad, to increase their impact. Many LEDs, however, work in isolated environments and are unaware of avenues for advocacy support, especially from the international community. As one participant commented, “If EHRDs receive capacity building and training on advocacy, they can be of great help to the CECs and the community.”

4.5 Protection

This is a type of support offered by organizations to LEDs to safeguard them from threats. Protection varies from provision of security for LEDs, installing surveillance cameras, to relocating them to safe houses when under threat of an imminent attack among other related protection support. From the study, we found out that this support is mainly offered by international organizations through the local NGOs and CBOs. Donor support from international organizations enables the local NGOs and CBOs to protect the LEDs when need arises. An example of protection support was the one offered by CJGEA in 2018 for ten LEDs from Owino Uhuru community who were witnesses in the community’s lead poisoning case in court and were under threat of being attacked by the accused persons. Through funding support offered by the United Nations Office of High Commission for Human Rights, CJGEA was able to fully relocate the 10 LEDs to a safe house until after they testified in court. Other organizations that we found

⁶ "Lobbying Versus Advocacy: Legal Definitions". NP Action. Archived from the original on 2 April 2010. Retrieved 2 March 2010.

are offering this support include The National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders, Frontline Defenders, and Civil Rights Defenders etc.

5.0 Learning about Support Organizations

These are the ways or avenues that the LEDs get to learn about the support organizations to enhance their access to these services offered to them freely by these organizations.

5.1 Public outreaches

Organizations usually carry out public outreach programs where they get to visit affected communities and educate them by informing and sensitizing them on the existence of these support organizations. They are usually encouraged to make contact and request for support in case a need for the same arises. CJGEA is a good example of organizations that conduct public outreach programs to sensitize communities on existence of support organizations.

5.2 Public participation or sensitization programs

During public participation programs or sensitization programs, the LEDs and communities in general are able to get information on the existence of these support offered by the organizations as any information that is useful to communities in protecting their environment is always shared in these forums.

5.3 Mainstream, print and social media

The media is a very powerful tool for spreading and accessing information. Through social, print and mainstream media, organizations advertise the kind of work they are involved in and the types of support they offer. LEDs are able to access this information easily through these media platforms and request for the specific type of support they might require at a given point in time.

5.4 Recommendations by word of mouth

LEDs are referred by word of mouth to seek support from these organizations by people who are aware of the existence of such support. Many LEDs have been able to access support through such means. Whenever an LED is involved in a situation that requires assistance, people are always willing to help them find help by referring them to the support organizations in case they do not have information on their existence.

5.5 References by local partners

In cases involving LEDs that the local partners like the CBOs cannot help solve, they usually refer them to superior organizations with much capacity to handle such cases. Local partners have better connections to much bigger organizations that would offer support to LEDs at a much faster rate and through them; many LEDs are able to find consistent support.

6.0 Challenges in accessing support

Our study highlighted some communication challenges between the LEDs and support organizations.

Many grassroots LEDs are unaware of existing support offered to them by support organizations. This lack of Knowledge on the existence of support organizations is due to the fact that access to information on such is very limited in marginalized areas where many LEDs exist as a result of numerous number of land and environmental issues they face in those areas.

LEDs miss out on important support from organizations due to their anonymity. Most support organizations especially the international ones are not able to provide support to the grassroots LEDs because they are not aware of their existence. They are only able to access these LEDs when their issues are highlighted in the media or reported by grassroots organizations while in real sense several LEDs exist and are in dire need of support in their work.

Most local CBOs and CSOs lack enough funds to offer support to LEDs. This is because they always have to source for donor funding in order to be able to support these people. This slows down the rate at which LEDs get help from these organizations. It was therefore expressed by the grassroots organizations that if funding support can always come in handy and at the correct time, then service delivery to the LEDs would improve tremendously.

7.0 Strengthening the Response to Protection Needs

Land and Environmental Defenders in Kenya suffer intimidation, threats, attacks, arbitrary arrests, and sometimes extrajudicial killings. Participants identified a need for increased attention to the specific needs of LEDs alongside other HRDs.

7.1 Strengthening communication and local support

As noted above, there was a strong emphasis by participants on the need to build up and strengthen local networks, both among defenders, as well as between defenders, organizations and government entities such as the CEC. The working relationship between LEDs and grassroots support organizations is one of the most important. This is because LEDs who can access these organizations are able to receive some support when they need it, however little it is.

The workshop itself spurred networking and increased communication across counties. Going forward, national and international organizations can support the strengthening of these networks through trainings and funding, and increased communication between local-national-international networks can allow for more targeted emergency support.

One CEC representative mentioned that sometimes County officials also receive threats, and become environmental defenders in the course of their work. Many participants felt that

highlighting the shared goals of environmental defenders and CECs would provide mutual support and reinforce efforts to protect the environment.

7.2 Digital security

Digital security was identified as a much-needed area of education and training. A detailed session during the workshop was perhaps the highlight of the workshop, as defenders learned about simple steps to take to secure their phones, the communications, and why these steps are important. Further trainings can help prevent digital harassment and other attacks, and can also be employed in response to security incidents.

7.3 Documenting attacks

Participants stressed the importance of documentation of attacks, as well as environmental crimes, so that complaints are well substantiated. There is interest in further capacity building for defenders to strengthen their documentation protocols—particularly in more remote areas where it is more difficult for support organizations to provide immediate in-person support. Many organizations track data on threats and attacks for their own records and for advocacy, but there is not consistent data published against environmental defenders nation-wide. In fact, obtaining data in Kenya is challenging, as many who collect data do not publish it, and public institutions are wary of requests for information.

7.4 Raising Awareness about National and International Support Mechanisms

Organizations can work together to increase outreach, particularly to rural LEDs.

PICTURES OF THE MEETING



APPENDIX 1: LIST OF SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Name of organization	Type of organization	Financial	Emergency	Type of support	Scope (global, regional, national, local)	Priority areas	Geographic focus	URL	Phone	Address
PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL	International NGO	Y	Y	Protection, Advocacy and Capacity building	GLOBAL	Protection of human rights defenders, land and environment conflicts	Countrywide in Kenya and worldwide	https://www.peacebrigades.org	-	PO Box 9201-00100
PROTECTION INTERNATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	Y	Y	Protection, capacity building	GLOBAL	Protection of Human Rights Defenders and civil societies	Countrywide in Kenya and worldwide	https://protectioninternational.org/	32 2 609 44 05	-
HAKI AFRICA	NGO	N	Y	Activism, mobilization of rights, empowerment, legal aid, lobbying.	NATIONAL	Human rights	Countrywide (mostly coastal and north eastern parts of Kenya)	https://haki africa.or.ke/	254 (0) 20 222 0814	P.O. Box 42950-80100 Mombasa
CENTER FOR JUSTICE GOVERNANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION	CSO	N	Y	Advocacy and capacity building, Litigation, lobbying	Regional	Environment	Coastal region	https://www.centerforjgea.com/	254 772 967888; 254 772 807 384	P.O. BOX 97379-80112
KNHCR	INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION	N	Y	Legal Services, empowerment, capacity building.	NATIONAL	Human right Violation	Countywide	https://www.knchr.org/	(041)- 2220468/ 2220584	P.O. Box: 74359-00200 Nairobi, Kenya
KHRC	NGO	N	N	Empowerment,	NATIONAL	Human	Countywide	https://www.khrc.or.ke/	07336290 34/07222	P.O Box 41079-

				advocacy, litigation, capacity building.	AL	rights		khrc.or.ke/	64497	00100
NATIONAL COALITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS	NGO	N	N	Capacity Building	NATIONAL	Human Right	Countrywide	https://hrdcoalition.org/	254-712632390/ +254 716 200 100	P.O. Box 26309-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
INFORMATION	NGO	N	N	Advocacy through media	National	Environmental rights and human rights	Coastal region	www.information.tv	727370492	-
MALINDI RIGHTS FORUM	CBO	N	N	Capacity Building	LOCAL	Environment and Land	Kilifi county	http://malindirightsforum.co.ke/	719736431	P.O BOX 1117-80200 Malindi
SAVE LAMU	CBO	N	Y	Lobbying, Advocacy, sensitization	Local	Environment	Lamu county	https://www.savelamu.org	724760751	P.O. BOX 314-80500
FRONTLINE DEFENDERS	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	Y	Y	EHRDs Protection and Security	GLOBAL	Human Right	Global	https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/	info@frontlinedefenders.org	-
THE GREENBELT MOVEMENT	NGO	N	N	Capacity Building	NATIONAL	Environment	Countywide	https://www.greenbeltmovement.org/	254 (0) 721342696	P.O BOX 67545-00200
KENYA LAND ALLIANCE	NGO	N	N	Capacity Building	NATIONAL	Land	Countrywide	http://www.kenyalandalliance.or.ke/	(+254) 731282207	P.O. Box 2177 – 20100, Nakuru-Kenya
MUSLIM HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE	NGO	N	Y	Advocacy	National	Human rights	Mombasa and other parts.	http://www.muhuri.org/	254 41 2315607/8	P. O. Box 42261 - 80100

ACTION AID	NGO	Y	Y	Advocacy and capacity building	Global	Human Rights	countrywide	http://www.actionaid.org/kenya	254 73333335 2, +254 73333005 3.	P. O. Box 39900, Nairobi
TRUSTED SOCIETY OF HUMAN RIGHTS ALLIANCE	NGO	N	N	legal representation	NATIONAL	Rights	Countrywide	http://kenyalaw.org/	254 718 799 464	P.O Box 10443 - 00100, Nairobi Kenya.
ARTICLE 19	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	Y	Y	Access to Information	GLOBAL	Human Right	Global	https://www.article19.org/	Tel: +44 20 7324 2500	-
HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA	NGO	N	N	Legal Assistance	NATIONAL	Human Right	Countrywide	https://huriana.org/	020 2319001	-
GLOBAL WITNESS	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	N	N	Investigate and expose	GLOBAL	Human Right and Environment	Global	https://www.globalwitness.org/en-gb/	mail@globalwitness.org	-
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION	Y	Y	Advocate for Human Right	GLOBAL	Human Right	Global	https://www.amnesty.org/en/	254-20-4283000	PO Box 1527, 00606 Sarit Centre, Nairobi, Kenya
OHCHR	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION	Y	Y	Protection of human rights	GLOBAL	HUMAN RIGHTS	GLOBALLY	https://www.ohchr.org	Tel. +41 22 928 93 60	-
THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT	International organization	Y	Y	Empowerment and sensitization/education	Global	Rights	Worldwide	http://www.icnl.org/	-	-

LAW										
COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE	INTERNATIONAL NGO	N	Y	Advocating for human rights	GLOBAL	Human Rights	COMMONWEALTH NATIONS	http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/	info@humanrightsinitiative.org	-
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH	International organization	N	N	Advocacy	GLOBAL	Human rights	Worldwide	https://www.hrw.org/	254.730.646.102	P.O. Box 51696-00100
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	International NGO	N	Y	Advocacy and representation	Global	Human rights	Worldwide	https://www.fidh.org	-	-
OXFAM INTERNATIONAL	International	N	Y	Empowerment	GLOBAL	Human Right	Global	https://www.oxfam.org/en	254 722 200417/kenyainfo@oxfam.org.uk	P.O. box 40680, 00100 (GPO) Nairobi
CULTURAL SURVIVAL	NGO	N	N	Capacity Building	GLOBAL	indigenous peoples	Global	https://www.culturalsurvival.org/	(617) 441-5400	
KITUO CHASHERIA	NGO	N	N	Legal Empowerment	NATIONAL	Human Right	Countrywide	http://kituochasheria.or.ke/	0734 874221, 0727 773991	P.O. Box 7483-00300 Nairobi, Kenya.
UJAMAA KENYA INITIATIVE	NGO	N	N	Empowering Women	REGIONAL	Women	Global	https://www.ujamaa-africa.org/mukuru	254 799 187594	P.O. Box 18265-00100,
FOR LAW AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE	NGO	N	N	Legal support	Regional	Rights	AFRICA	http://ilegkenya.org	254 20 234 9141/254 799 030748/2 54 737 879772	

HAKI SHERIA INITIATIVE	NGO	N	N	Civic engagement; mentorship; empowerment; public interest litigation	LOCAL	Human rights	Garissa county	http://hakina sheria.org/	254 724 227 113	
OGIEKS PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS	NGO			Advocacy, capacity building	LOCAL	Environmental, land and human rights of indigenous people	Nakuru, Narok, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Kericho and Bungoma	http://www.ogiekpeoples.org/	254-51-2213803	P.O.Box:424-20115, Egerton, Kenya
LAMU YOUTH ALLIANCE	CBO	N	N	Lobbying and advocacy	LOCAL	Rights	LAMU COUNTY	http://www.lamuyouthalliance.org	042 4633169	P.O. BOX 55-80500
SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PROGRAM						Indigenous peoples				
FOREST PEOPLES PROGRAM	NGO	N	Y	Advocacy, Empowerment and capacity building	GLOBAL	Indigenous peoples	worldwide	http://www.forestpeoples.org/	44(0)160 8 652893	586974AX
INDEPENDENT POLICE OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY	GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION	N	N	Litigation, Public education and Awareness, Empowerment	NATIONAL	Investigate Violations of human rights by officers of the law	Countrywide	https://www.ipoa.go.ke/	254 20 490 6000	P.O. Box 23035 – 00100
MID RIFT HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK	NGO	N	N	Advocacy	LOCAL	Rights	Worldwide (RIFT VALLEY REGION KENYA)	https://midrifthurinet.org/	254 702 520894	P.O. BOX 16326 – 20100

Chepkitale Indigenous People development Project	International organization	N	Y	advocacy, practical projects and capacity building	GLOBAL	Indigenous peoples	RIFT VALLEY REGION	https://www.forestpeoples.org	44(0)1608 652893	info@forestpeoples.org
Natural Justice	NGO	Y	Y	Legal empowerment with social mobilization to support communities	Regional	Environmental and human rights law	AFRICA	https://naturaljustice.org/	27 21 426 1633	gino@naturaljustice.org
Katiba Institute	NGO	N	N	Public interest litigation, land reform, lobbying, legislation	NATIONAL	leadership and integrity, human rights, devolution, gender and electoral issues to appropriation of land and evictions of indigenous people	NATIONWIDE	https://www.katibainstitute.org/	0704 594963/0704 594962	info@katibainstitute.org
ILC Africa	International Organization	Y	Y	Empowerment, Mobilization and creating awareness	GLOBAL	Land and Environment Rights	Worldwide	https://www.landcoalition.org	info@landcoalition.org	4400142 - Rome, Italy
International Commission of Jurists - Kenya	International Organization				GLOBAL			https://www.icj.org/	info@icj.org	info@icj.org
Freedom House	GLOBAL			Advocacy, empowerment		Freedom, democracy	Global	https://freedomhouse.org/		

				ent, support to frontline activists		and Human Rights		country/kenya		
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project	Regional				Regional		East and North East Africa	https://www.defenddefenders.org/	256 393 265 820	info@defenddefenders.org
Open Society Institute of East Africa	Global							https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/regions/af-rica		