

**Hon. H.E Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete** - President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United Republic of Tanzania. <a href="mailto:jkikwete@parliament.go.tz">jkikwete@parliament.go.tz</a> and

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cc:

- **Mr. Braulio da Souza Dias** Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. braulio.dias@cbd.int
- **Mr. Trevor Sandwith** Director of the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme and 2014 World Parks Congress. <a href="mailto:trevor.sandwith@iucn.org">trevor.sandwith@iucn.org</a>
- **Mr. George Wambura** Executive Secretary of the Community Wildlife Authorised Association Consortium. <a href="mailto:elianshiwanga@yahoo.com">elianshiwanga@yahoo.com</a>
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Bugnaux (Switzerland), May 8, 2015

## Ref: Fourth communication on the proposed eviction of Uvinje community of Saadani

Your Excellency, assisting Excellencies,

With reference to our three previous communications on the matter of the proposed eviction of Uvinje villagers of Saadani to make way for expansion of Sadaani National Park (letters attached for your convenience), may we highlight the following:

Firstly: the ICCA Consortium has received multiple queries from members and associated international agencies and legal aid bodies, as to progress on the matter in reference since our first communication to you in August 2014. Several members of the Consortium will be present next week in Dakar at the *Global Land Forum* (May 11-13) of the International Land Coalition, where the matter will be informally discussed. Regrettably we have not received responses to our prior letters of concern, and we will not be able to convey an official position on the matter.

*Secondly*: we are nevertheless gratified to have noted your personal commitment, Hon. H.E Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, to revisit the issue through redrawing the Park boundaries in absolute accordance with the letter of Tanzanian law. We wish to congratulate you on this constructive decision.

Thirdly: we would like to urge the commission that you have appointed to execute this exercise, to remain mindful that failure to attend to local land rights, however small a number of citizens affected, has proven in many world regions counter-productive to conservation, ultimately necessitating restorative action. This is especially the case where affected communities may, by retaining their lands, be successfully engaged as conservation actors. As an international Consortium uniting organisations and people from over seventy countries committed to both conservation and the land rights that underpin *lasting* conservation, we are mindful of the pitfalls that private interests can engender when they, rather than genuine public interests, appear to be in the driving seat of conservation development. And, as we do not tire of stressing, Tanzania has been a global leader since the 1990s in pursuing strategies that enable citizens to be a leading force in conservation in the 21st century.

Fourthly: the small and very poor Uvinje community has invested considerable time and effort, not only in saving wildlife since the 1970s, but lately also in developing an eco-lodge venture with partners, which helps to underpin their commitment for the long term. The fundamental demand of Uvinje villagers to keep their ancestral lands, of which they have been able custodians, is thus now augmented by personal efforts and economic investments.

Your Excellency, may we express our pleasure in learning from the press that you will be investing time, during your retirement, on conservation matters. This is extremely welcome news. We anticipate that your retirement legacy will be one of which the people of Tanzania will be proud, as having seen their rights secured as a solid path to conservation. We offer you our warmest good wishes for that work.

Yours truly,

Dr. M. Taghi Farvar

President , The ICCA Consortium

Dr. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend Global Coordinator, The ICCA Consortium

Attachments:

Copy of letter of 20 August 2014 and list of relevant annexes. Copy of letter of 27 October 2014 Copy of letter of 5 February 2015