Land Rights Struggle for 2.5 Decades

The Story of People of Loliondo
What about?

- History of Maasai Land Tenure
- History of violations of our land rights
- Our struggle to keep our rights
- Eventual Results of our struggle
- Way forward
Brief History of land problems in Loliondo

- The Masai lived in Serengeti/Loliondo in 1900 as communities
- 1951 – 49 game controlled areas were established
- 1959 – Serengeti was declared a national park and people were evicted
- 1974 – Loliondo was declared a game controlled
- 1978 – villages were officially registered across the country
- 1990 – ten (10) were issued village land title deeds
- 1999 – Land law was passed
- **1992 – Arab company was imposed on village land in Loliondo**
- 2006 – Ololosokwan village was issued certificate of village land
- 2009 – New Wildlife Law was passed
- 2013 – Ministry of NRT declared 1500km a new GCA
Types of conflicts challenging the Masai of Loliondo

• Conservation vs the Masai
• Hunting Tourism Investment vs the Masai
Conservation vs the Masai

• Historical –
• Contemporary conservation models not friendly the Masai
• Conservation excludes, sees the Masai as enemies
• Seeks to expand and evict
• Cultural and traditions of the Masai ignored asset – conservation

*Contemporary conservation models are not friendly*
Tourism Investment vs the Masai

• Tourism investment
  • Photographic
  • Hunting

Want Maasai ancestral/pasture land
Force the gvt to evict the Masai
Village Land Certificates
1992 & coming of OBC in Loliondo

• OBC was imposed on village lands by the government without community approval
• Villages refused to enter into agreements with OBC
• Government entered in the agreement on behalf of villages
• OBC’s allegiance was to the government and not with villages
• It easily violated human and land rights
So, for 26 years the conflict has been between ........
about LAND

VILLAGES

GVT

OBC
Bad Results of this conflict for 26 years

• Land rights/tenure violations for the local community
• Abuse of women, youth and adults
• Arrests, detaining and charging community leaders and activists
• Loss of life and property
• Betrayal on pat of some people in the community
• Branding and labelling pple as immigrants on their ancestral lad
Forceful eviction
Forceful displacement
630 cows were confiscated

Example of the beatings
This is how bomas were ransacked.
Good Results of this conflict for 26 years

• Unity –
• Recognition and appreciation of the role of women
• Enhancement of knowledge and skills for advocacy and lobbying
• Skills to connect with national, local and global supporters
• Increased level of understanding – to uphold government accountable
• Use of media and legal avenues
Our message to the gvt for 26 years

• Loliondo is ancestral land
• Compensation after we left Serengeti
• Land is legally owned by the villagers
• No other place to go
• 55,000 people depend upon this land
• 784,000 livestock depend upon this land
• Maasai people are natural conservators
So what?

- Villages should continue to own land as before
- Gvt to drop the idea of annexing village land
- Together formulate a collaborative approach
Results of our action for 26 years

• 13 ministers have either been sacked or removed
• Parliament investigated the violations
• PM stopped the 2013 order
• PM stopped the 2016
• The gvt formed a joint committee to propose the best model
• President sacked the Wildlife Minister
• New Minister stopped the operation
Most important of all

- OBC have been refused hunting license – could pack and go
- Wildlife director is fired and investigated for corruption
- OBC Director is being investigated as well
- 1st time MNRT recognized land as village land
Wayforward

• We have seen HUGE change at the side of the gvt
• GVT wants to ensure fair management of land in Loliondo
• Support Masai community to adopt a practical long term solution to sustainable land management.
Lastly………

• Please stand by us and support our cause
• We still need a dignified and sustainable livelihood
• We still need to conserve our natural heritage Eastern Serengeti
• Efforts have started paying off (for the better)
• Kindly support our cause for and better planet and the people.
So that Serengeti & the Masai Shall Live
Pastoral Women’s Council

Ujamaa-Community Resources Trust

The Eastern Serengeti Trust
Thank You!!
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