

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 registred 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

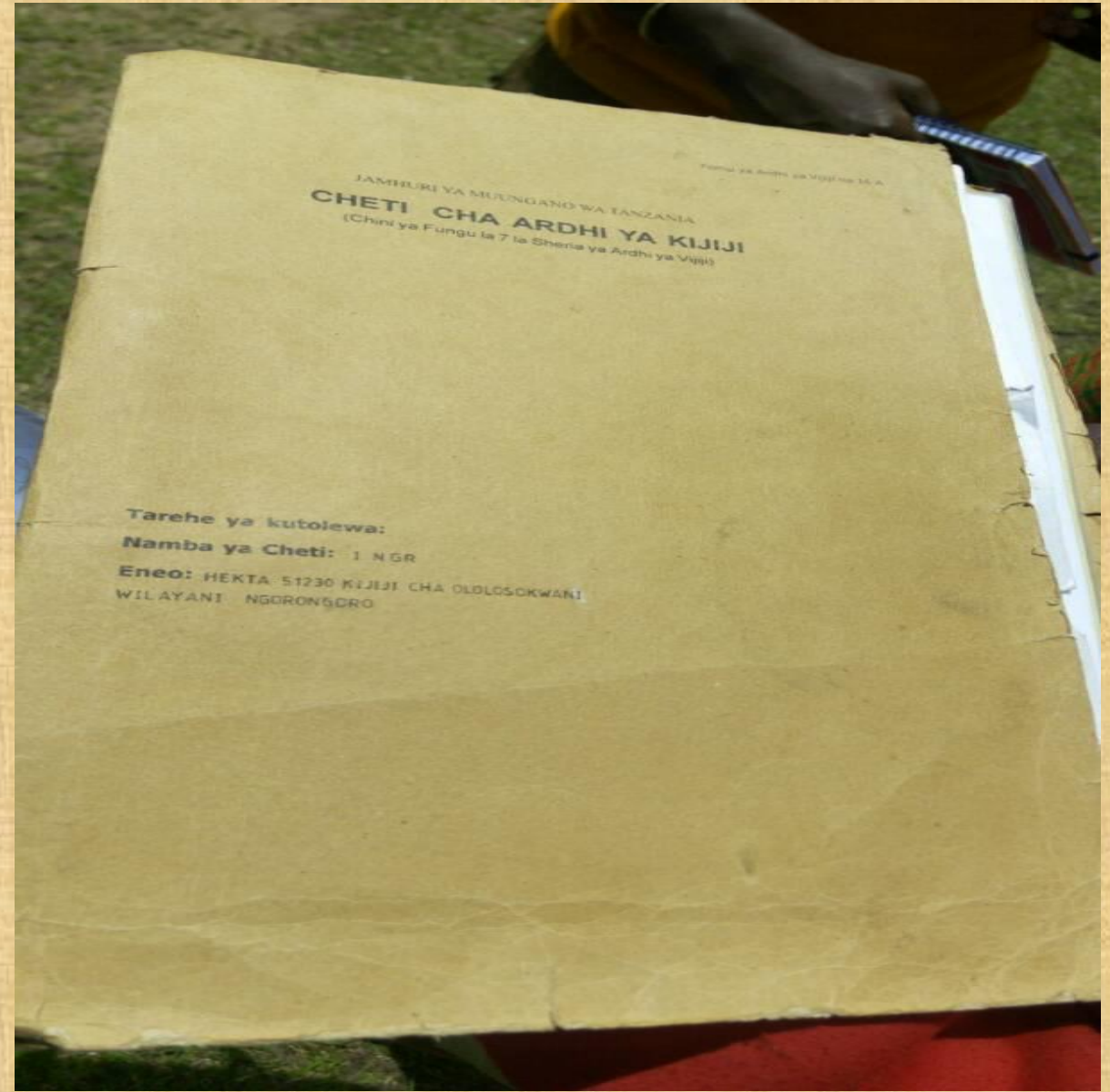
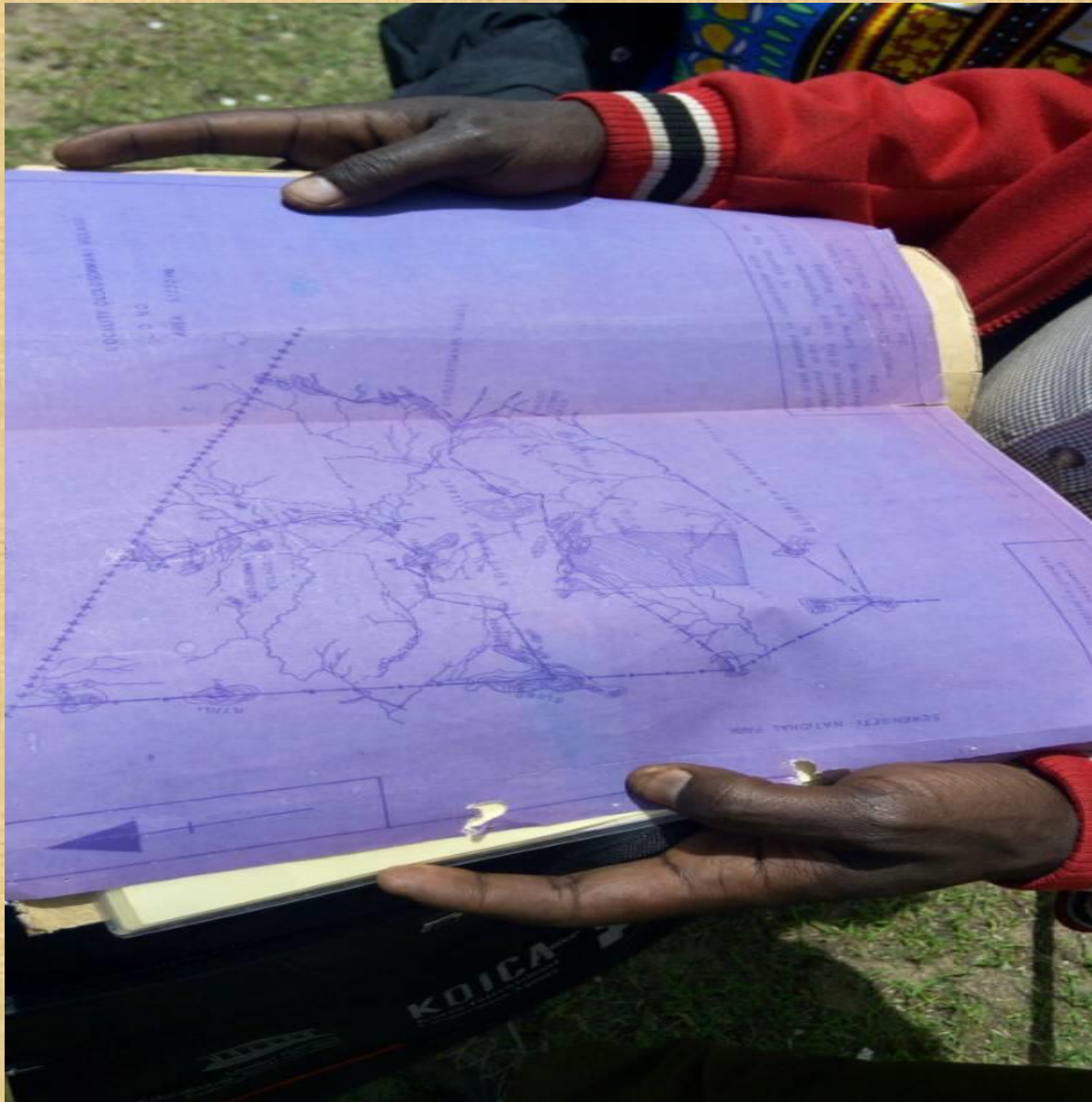
***Contemporary conservation
models are not friendly***

Tourism Investment _{vs} the Masai

- Tourism investment
 - Photographic
 - Hunting

Want Maasai ancestral/pasture land

Force the gvt to evict the Masai

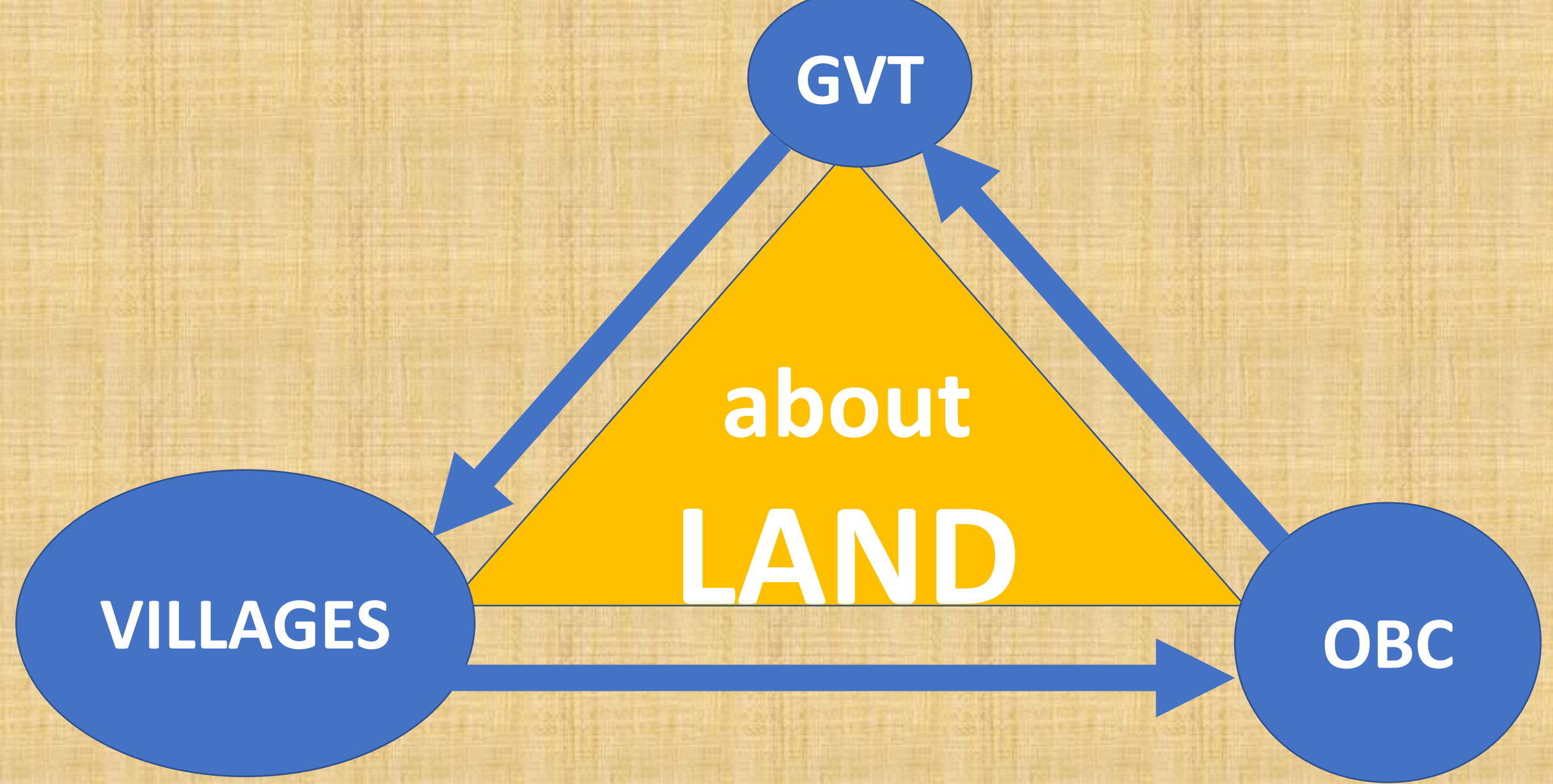


Village Land Certificates

1992 & coming of OBC in Loliondo

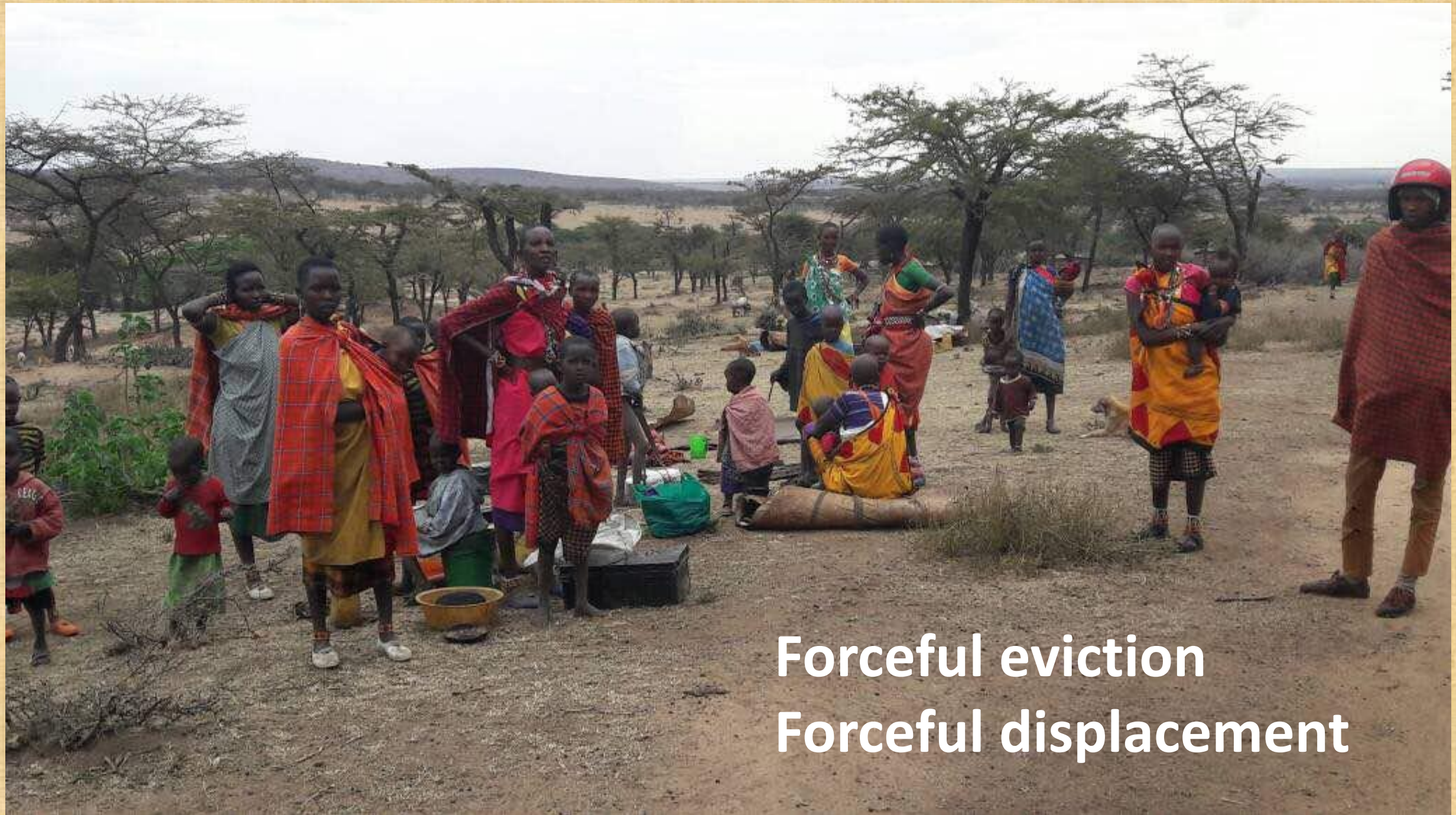
- OBC was imposed on village lands by the government without community approval
- Villages refused to enter into agreements with OBC
- Government entered in the agreement on behalf of villages
- OBC's allegiance was to the government and not with villages
- It easily violated human and land rights

So, for 26 years the
conflict has been
between



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 part of some people in the community
- Branding and labelling people as immigrants on their ancestral land



**Forceful eviction
Forceful displacement**



630 cows were confiscated

Example of the beatings





This 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 govt 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 pple 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 be 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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