

## PASTORALISTS LAND RIGHTS PROGRAMME

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**PASTORALISTS** Land Rights Programme (PLR) is one of the programmes initiated by CORDS to address issues on pastoral key resources particularly land in 1998. The programme came into existence because pastoral resources grabbing became a major problem. This perception is true as it is evidenced by the research carried out by PARDEP in 1997.

The research shows that farmers have grabbed thousands of acres which formerly were grazing areas. Monduli which is one of the areas the programme is based has experienced alienation of their lands set aside for farming and grazing. The alienation is due to extension of National Parks as well as introduction of large scale farming.

Pastoral community from the said areas have brought complains to CORDS seeking for help of taking up some measures to prevent further alienation on their land.

In that case therefore, this programme has been established to enhance security of the resources tenure for pastoral communities in Monduli through demarcation, titling and registration for pastoral land in which pastoralists will have legal basis to defend their land against alienation hence secure a future for sustainable pastoral livelihood.

Since the programme was established the aims and objectives were not deviated remains as to enhance the security of resource tenure of the Maasai Pastoral communities in Monduli.

The strategy has been to achieve this through security of certificates of boundary of acceptance, cadastral village maps and certificates of village land as requirement for legal ownership according to village Land Act 5 of 1999.

The programme sought to reduce resource based (land) conflicts, empower target communities in matter related to land legislations, laws and management which could defend their land against alienation from other users.

The objectives of the Pastoralists Land Right programme are; to restore and protect rights to land of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Monduli, Longido and Arumeru Districts through demarcation, titling and registration and raise awareness of the pastoral communities on land rights through training seminars on land policy, legislations and Act.

The programme also has to ensure support resource poor pastoral communities in their struggle to alleviate poverty as well as the pastoral rights to land ownership and use are enshrined in Tanzania land legal framework and establish village administrative boundaries, locations and records them for use to settle disputes in case of land related conflicts.

Others were to produce cadastral maps those show village parcels of land and village communities that own them and provide a legal tenure framework to shelter a bundle of rights of pastoralists to own natural resources in their indigenous territories.

Pastoralists Land Rights Programme (PLR) is a twin programme operating in two districts as independent projects. There is Mukulat Land Right Project, operating in 24 villages of Mukulat Division in Arumeru District. Monduli Land Right Project operates in the whole district of Monduli, including the newly formed district of Longido.

**(A) Land Right Project (Monduli)**

Through implementation of the activities planned, the programme has achieved to facilitated boundaries agreement meeting for 72 villages and 62 villages surveyed and agreed on their boundaries.

Prepared 62 village certificates of boundary of acceptance and signed by respective village authorities and drawn village maps for surveyed and send it to the Director of survey and mapping for approval.

The Commissioner of Land has certified sixty-two villages thus harmonized conflicts related to boundaries, as village's administrative boundaries are well defined and registered certified villages in different legal registration offices e.g. (Registrar of Titles in DSM and the District Land Officer in the District level).

However the project achieved to handover certificates of village land to 31 villages in Longido District and 31 villages in Monduli district. District commissioners performed the exercise for both districts as guest of honors.

The programme also achieved to organize and conduct workshops for 13 villages on village land Act regulations and policy. This involved village leaders including women representatives, Ward Executive officers, Division Secretaries, tradition leaders, and District Land Officials.

Finally, the project facilitated exchange visit for village leaders in Mbeya particularly in Mbozi District, they learned different procedures on Land transaction e.g. provision of customary right of occupancy as pre requisite for implementation of village Land Act.

**Village statuses in Monduli & Longido Districts.**

District	Number of Villages acquired certificates of village land	Number of villages still in conflicts	Villages supported by others Organization on demarcation and securing of village land certificates
MONDULI	31	6	3
LONGIDO	31	1	-
TOTAL	62	7	3

**The constraints and challenges of the programme:**

The following were the constraints and challenges encountered during the implementation of the programme. Among of its were bureaucratic procedure on approving maps and certificates and lack of awareness on land rights issues among pastoral communities which could gives room for land grabbers to access more land in dubious way.

Lack of confidence among village leaders and villagers to use legal measures to defend their land and demands rose particularly for building village registries that is costly some requirement includes (furnishing, purchasing of cabinets and stationeries for provision of customary rights of occupancy).

Other constraints were inadequate funding especially in area of providing skills on issues pertaining land laws and others training. Statutory conflicts particularly between land legislation and Wildlife Act threaten the mandate of village authorities to govern their resources efficiently. We are appeal to Advocacy agencies to address and influence legislative bodies to settle the confusion.

### **Future plans of the programme:**

One of the future plans of the programme is to introduce land use planning in eight villages in Monduli and Longido Districts. Phasing out of PLR programme should mean its evolution into other programme of Pastoralist Land Use planning.

The Certificates of village land help the villages to describe their boundary hence its assist on administrative purposes, the land use and management plans will strengthen the villages land certificate and enhance security of tenure depend on usage.

The aim of the Land use programme is to produce detailed land use and development plans to improve the resource base of the villages and the productivity of Livestock and Agricultural sectors in identified villages of Monduli and Longido districts.

The plans should be consists pastoral resources utilization requirement such as: grazing areas for specific seasons, Settlement areas, wildlife utilization areas and Agro-pastoral villages requirement for crop farming will be incorporated which would enable them to reduce drastic shortage of food.

The primary goal of the programme is to empower communities and enable them to govern their key resources which will lead to optimal resources use and sustainable development while gradually reducing land use conflicts.

Empowering certified villages on Land issues through seminars, training and w/shops and collaborate with Ministry of Lands on SPILL Programme that will be implemented to sixteen selected villages in Monduli and Longido Districts. The programme also has to facilitate mitigation between villages still in boundary disputes and handover secured certificates of village land to villages.

### **(B) Land Rights Project (Mukulat – Arumeru)**

**COMMUNITY** Research and Development Services (CORDS) Mapambazuko Training Centre and the leadership of Mukulat Division have jointly initiated Mukulat Land Rights and Empowerment Project, which is shortly known as 'MUKULAT LAND RIGHTS PROJECT'. This project started on January 2006 and basically established in order to enhance security of resource tenure for the Agro-pastoral communities in Mukulat Division Arumeru District in Arusha Region. CORDS,

Mapambazuko Training Centre and the Mukulat Divisional leadership under the funding from Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI) jointly implement the Mukulat Land Rights Project.

The key project goal is to enhance security of resource tenure and raise awareness on land rights to the agro-pastoral communities in Mukulat Division, Arumeru District through demarcation and registration of village lands and conducting Land Rights Training and workshops.

The project aims at building up the capacity of village leaders and villagers within twenty –four villages in Mukulat Division to implement village land Act No5 of 1999, as well as training the four key organs of the village Assembly; village council land tribunal and village adjudication committee.

The objectives of the project are to reduce land related conflicts through demarcation registration of key sources such as grazing land, water sources forest quarries and salt licks, to raise awareness of the agro-pastoral communities on land rights land laws and regulations to ensure the villagers in Mukulat Division have their rights in relation to land respected and implemented according to the laws related to land.

Other objectives were to restore and protect agro-pastoral land rights in Mukulat Division and Arumeru District, and promote proper management and utilization of natural resources including deforestation and soil erosion to improve crop and livestock productivity in the Division as well as to promote right of ownership of land resource for both women and men and improving agro-pastoral household food security.

### **The success Stories of the Project:**

Further more, the project has succeeded in the following areas since it has come into being. These achievements helped to introduce the project to the stakeholders; this includes District authorities Divisional Secretary Ward Executive Officer (WEOs) village Executive Officers (VEOs) and village chairperson conduct community mobilization workshop that was held in Oldonyosambu Oltumet, Mateves and Musa where by 53 people were attended.

Participants were taught on land acts from Village Land Law no 5 of 1999. Formation of village land adjudication committees in 21 villages Training village land committees in 20 villages, facilitation of boundary conflict resolution meetings in 15 villages, Demarcation of 14 villages, Drawing of village land maps to date 14 village maps have been drawn and 12 maps have been approved from village level to Ministerial level.

Preparation of village land certificates, 12 village land certificates have been prepared and among them 11 have been approved at ministry level. These certificates are expected to be registered at Arumeru District in the near future.

A total number of 12 village seals have been embossed and only 2 villages have collected two seals. Currently village Maps are processed for digitization in order to meet technological competition and manage to keep maps in a computer through soft were systems.

The Table shows current Village Statuses in Mukulat Division

S/N	Villages	Villages still in Demarcation Conflicts	Villages Demarcated Land	Maps drawn and approved	Villages which got certificates of Occupancy
1	Engorora		*	*	*
2	Ilkerin		*	*	*
3	Loovilukunt		*	*	*
4	Lesiraa		*	*	*
5	Likamba		*	*	*
6	Oloitushula		*	*	*
7	Nengung'u		*	*	*
8	Olchorovus		*	*	*
9	Illkiushin		*	*	*
10	Losikito		*	*	*
11	Imbibia		*	*	*
12	Lemong'o		*	*	
13	Ngorbob		*	*	
14	Engalaoni		*	*	
15	Engurtoto		*	*	
16	Mateves	*			
17	Lemugur	*			
18	Ekenywa	*			
19	Lemanyata	*			
20	Olkokola	*			
21	Lengjape	*			
22	Ilkurot	*			
23	Oldonyowas	*			
24	Losinoni	*			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Success by percentage</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>45.8%</b>

### The constraints and challenges

In any situation where there are successes must appear some constraints and challenges and always challenges lead to development, the Mukulat Land Rings Project has faced several challenges in its implementation due to the fact that Land is every thing in the society we are working with.

Due to this then, boundary conflicts have been the greatest challenge in the progress of the project. Other challenges are some village leaders were not cooperative enough during the arrangement of workshop and when conducting mobilization workshop though they have now changed after they have become more aware of the project. During the sowing and weeding seasons, most of the people were busy with the farm activities.

Other challenges appeared during the implementation of the project were interruption of meetings held by the District officials and village leaders.

Most of the participants have kept on demanding sitting allowances, some village leader and ward have shown underground political conflicts during the workshops, Demystified legal materials are needed during the forthcoming workshops.

Some village leaders were not cooperative enough in implementation of the project due to political and personal interest and interruption of food rationing meetings and those of the project.

Ilkurot village was conflicting on the District boundary between Monduli and Arumeru of which they were not supposed to deal with Olkokola Ward Councilor was claiming that his people were not in need of the land right project thus continuing mobilizing them is like trying to prepare a stiff porridge with water which is not yet boiled but now he has changed his stand and ensures cooperation.

During beans harvesting season most of people were busy so did not turn up when they were needed. Olkokola Ward has shown negative response to the progress of the project since they have been far back in implementation of the project and during rain season it was a cumbersome period in using motorcycle for site visitation.

#### **Future plans of the project:**

Finally the Mukulat project future plan is as plainly stipulated here under. These include the following: Formation of village land committees, training of village land committees and facilitation of boundary agreement meetings. Preparation of beacons, demarcation and mapping of the villages.

Approval of maps, preparation of deed plans and certificates, embossing village seals and approving village land certificates at different levels such as; Village level – village leaders and Ministerial level- Commissioner for lands

Approval of village land certificates at Ministerial level by registrar of titles and registration of the certificates at District level by District Land Officer and therefore handing over of village land certificates to respective village leaders.