



**COMMUNITY
LAND
SUMMIT**
PROTECTING THE COMMONS FOR
A SHARED FUTURE

COMMUNITY LAND SUMMIT



3RD EDITION
14th - 17th November, 2023
Maralal TVET School, Samburu County



IMPACT

Indigenous Movement For Peace Advancement & Conflict Transformation



**Pastoralists Alliance
for Resilience and
Adaptation Across
Nations**

Building and strengthening resilient, transformational
partnerships and social movements





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Indigenous women and youth are key stakeholders in development and that they should not be left behind. The exonerated confidence that investing in Indigenous women and youth including people with disabilities enhances their prospects for social and economic development; to better prepare them to manage the changing gender roles aggravated by impact of changing climatic conditions such as prolonged droughts.

”

Ms. Lokho Abdubah.

Resident Marsabit County



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Introduction

“Gender equality and participation of women and youths in land ownership, natural resource management and enhancement of sustainable local economies”.

The Community Land Summit 2023 was co-convened by IMPACT Kenya, PARAN Alliance, and County Government of Samburu, in collaboration with other partners in Maralal Town. The Summit was held under the theme “Gender equality and participation of women and youths in land ownership, natural resource management and enhancement of sustainable local economies”. The Summit builds on two successful Community Land Summits held in December 2021 in Nanyuki Town, co-convened by IMPACT Kenya and the National Land Commission- Kenya: and November 2022 in Nanyuki Town, Kenya convened by IMPACT and PARAN Alliance respectively.



The Community Land Summit 2023 (3rd Edition) held on 14 – 17 November 2023 in Maralal, Samburu County was attended by 500 (M-342, F-158) delegates representing the Indigenous Peoples (IPs), leaders of IPs organizations, and networks in the East Africa Community including Pastoralists, wetlands and forests dwellers, hunters and gatherers, women, the youth and Persons with Disability (PWD) from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, DRC and Ethiopia).





Kenya National Land Commission (NLC), the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development (MLPWHUD), State Department of ASALs, NACADA, the County Governments of Samburu, Laikipia, Isiolo, Turkana, Baringo, Mandera, Marsabit, Narok, Kajiado, Tana River, Taita Taveta, Siaya) were also in attendance. Representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and development partners also attended the Summit. The Summit offered a unique opportunity for delegates to share their lived experiences, lessons learnt, challenges, opportunities and aspirations regarding land rights, gender equality and participation of women and youths in the governance of land and natural resources, livelihoods, and conservation efforts.

The Summit offered unique space for robust and honest conversations facilitated through high level panel discussions, plenary presentations from key speakers from national and county governments, IPs, and IPs organizations, women, youth, and Person with Disability (PWD) from across the region focused on the thematic aspects of the Summit. Following the two days of Summit deliberations, delegates reflected on issues discussed, key actions required to eliminate barriers to women and youth land rights, participation in livelihood and conservation efforts at the regional level: noting country specific context and communities' realities. While acknowledging that there is so much yet to be done to secure the land and natural resource rights of IPs women, youth and persons with disability, in promoting sustainable ecosystems for livelihoods and climate action, participants affirmed their commitment and called on policy makers and other actors, through a Summit communique; to take needed action to achieve the desired objective to empowerment and youth through land and natural resources rights.

Stakeholders attending the Summit affirmed and committed to implement the agreed actions and foster collaborative efforts within and across the region to secure rights IPs including women, youth and PWD. Looking forward to the 4th Edition of the Summit in 2024, scheduled to take place in Turkana County, IMPACT and the PARAN alliance affirmed their commitment to continue holding the annual Summit as a space to mutual, constructive, and progressive dialogue on current and emerging issues affecting IPs lives and livelihoods including land and territorial rights, and natural resources. The IMPACT Board Chairperson, acknowledged the great support and leadership of the County Government of Samburu under the Governor, Jonathan Lati Lelelit, in co-hosting of the Summit 2023. He also thanked the the National Land Commission, the Ministry of Lands, the State Department for ASAL, CSOs, donors and partners, and all delegates for their commitment and support to that made the Summit a success.



Summit Proceedings Day 1

Day one of the Summit kicked off with traditional songs and dance featuring local talents from the Samburu, Turkana and other countries, this was followed by prayers invoked by traditional Samburu Community Leader, the County Chaplain, and The Muslim Clerik who spiritually dedicated the Summit for the great wellbeing of all participants, deliberations, and expected outcomes.

WELCOME AND SUMMIT OPENING REMARKS:

Mr. Mali Ole Kaunga - Executive Director, IMPACT Kenya

In his welcome remarks, Ole Kaunga thanked the Leadership of the County Government of Samburu; the PARAN Alliance, other county governments present, the National Land Commission, the Ministry of Lands, the State Department for ASALs, Delegates from other East African Countries and all partners for attending the 3rd Edition of the Community Land Summit 2023. Acknowledging the similarities of challenges facing by IPs in East Africa and beyond, he underscored the importance of this Summit in profiling such issues affecting IPs women and the youth including those related to land and natural resources management, conservation, and carbon trading.

While underscoring the Theme of the Conference: "Gender equality and participation of women and youths in land ownership, natural resource management and enhancement of sustainable local economies", Ole Kaunga emphasized c The current position of indigenous Pastoralist women is changing as that of men; demanding more opportunities to support women social and economic empowerment as they increasingly assume more roles in livelihood development and family responsibilities. He thanked IMPACT donors and partners for trusting in the value of this Summit, walking the journey, and supporting the hosting of this 3rd Summit that builds on two initial Community Land Summit Held in Nanyuki in 2021 and 2022 respectively. Previous Community Land Summit Reports can be found here: <https://communitylandsummit.org/downloads/> He invited all participants to freely share their experiences, have honest and open engagement with policy makers, respect each other opinions and together define actions that best address the needs of IPs women and the youth, as the overall IPs communities in East Africa.





Ms. Silvannah Lesuuda - Director, NEST CBO

The Summit attention to IPs Youth and their role in the governance of land and natural resources was put to the fore. Addressing issues affecting the IPs youth was Ms. Silvaana Lesuuda, a youth leader from NEST CBO organization in Samburu County. In her remarks, she noted the importance of youth inclusion in the governance of Community Land as provided for in the laws. She observed that empowering the youth is not an option but a necessity to ensure local, national, and international development. Youth have a pivotal role in the governance of land and should participate actively in such structures established to govern community land in Kenya and beyond. She thanked IMPACT Kenya for organizing the Summit in Samburu County, terming it significant moment for IPs communities, women, and the youth in advancing their land and natural resources rights. She challenged fellow youth to assert their leadership in the governance of land and natural resources, noting the challenges associated with climate change that demands them to do more. She challenged the youth attending the Summit to share their experiences, initiatives, challenges, opportunities, and aspirations. She concluded her remarks noting that the youth envision a future where the synergies between youth and sustainable rural development is at the forefront of our collective action, fostering a sense of ownership, stewardship, and empowerment among the youths as our future leaders, innovators, and custodians of the planet. This, she said, can be achieved through responsible investments in community lands, with elaborate and effective benefit sharing mechanisms that are put into place by private sector and communities, or the State and communities as means to unlock the tremendous potential of our youth and women for sustainable future.



Mrs. Julieta Naipanoi -

Chairperson of Indigenous Women Caucus

She begun her remains by celebrating the recent positive changes in the land laws, specifically the adoption of the Community Land Act 2016, acknowledging that the Act has since transformed IPs women participation in the governance of their land and decision-making processes in Kenya. While noting the positive progress, she noted that most women are yet to enjoy their rights to land and participation in leadership due to discriminatory social norms, and gender biases even when the law provides for this.



‘Indigenous women including those from the pastoralist, hunters and gatherers communities must remain at the center in the governance of their land and natural resources’



She commented the efforts of national and county governments in ensuring the laws are implemented and that women leadership is promoted at all levels, and their rights to land under the CLA 2016 is secured. She commended efforts by CSOs working in the area including IMPACT that empower women and the youth on their land rights, leadership roles and responsibilities in the context of community land, conservation, and economic empowerment. She attested to the fact that these efforts have yielded fruits, but more is needed to build women agency and collective voice for responsible governance of land and natural resources. She also noted that, often, women with disability are at risk of being discriminated, denied access to productive resources including land rights, financial credits, and leadership opportunities as majority do not have certificate that identify them as PWD as required by the government.

Jacinta further noted the importance of land rights for peace and security, noting that women and children bear the brunt of land and natural resource disputes. Agreeing with Mr. Ole Kaunga that the role of IPs women is quickly changing due to devastating effects of climate change that make women take up the role of herding cattle, covering long distance to fetch for water and firewood, and fending for their families. She called on participants to give attention to climate change issues, advancing land rights and women capacity development for economic empowerment and resilience building.

Mr. Mike Lekadaa,

Chief Officer- Lands and Physical Planning, County Government of Samburu

On behalf of CECM Lands and Physical Planning, Mr. England Loosengewelcomed all Summit delegates to 3rd Edition Community Land Summit, being hosted in the Samburu County. He thanked, IMPACT Kenya and PARAN Alliance for hosting this Summit in Maralal Town, Samburu County. Holding the brief for the CECM, Lekadaa emphasized the importance of Land Rights and noted that land is a key resource for the people of Samburu County, other counties, Kenya, and any nation. He invited other CECM attending the Summit to make brief remarks as follows:



01

Mr. Saala Maalim, CECM, Lands and Physical Planning, Mandera County.

He acknowledged the importance of this Summit in advancing the land rights agenda and particularly giving attention to issues affecting the implementation of Community Land Act in Kenya and IPs land rights across east Africa. He called on delegates to have honest discussions on progress made, challenges and opportunities linked to land and the SDG 5, addressing land rights for women, youth, and persons with disability.

02

Mr. Ruben Ruto, CECM, Lands and Physical Planning, Baringo County.

In his address, Mr. Ruto thanked the organizers of the summit terming it a great platform for learning and sharing experience on the governance of land and natural resources. He acknowledged the importance of land in advancing peace and security; noting his county has continued to battle conflicts and insecurities arising from competition for land and natural resource rights. He shared the progress made in the implementation of CLA 2016, in which over 20 communities have since transitioned and registered their community land. He noted that women and youth have benefited from these efforts without discrimination. He termed this as a milestone and sustainable way of securing women land for development, peace and security, and prosperity.



Hon. Steve Lenamarle

Speaker of the County Assembly of Samburu



while addressing the Summit affirmed the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women and the youth to achieve sustainable development. He observed that historically, Samburu County like many other counties, the role of women and the youth in development was overlooked. There are progressive laws passed by our national government including the Constitution of Kenya and the Community Land Act 2016, that secure rights of women, girls, men and boys, and persons with disability including rights to land property which we all must adhere to. He affirmed his commitment in fostering a legislative environment where gender equality is not a mere aspiration of the law, but a lived reality. For equal rights and opportunities for women and youth including those living with disability to be realized, they must be included in decision making. We acknowledge that women and youth empowerment is not just a sprint but a marathon that we all must run, with inclusivity and shared prosperity as the path. He thanked the organizers of the Summit, terming it as a valuable opportunity to share experiences, progress, challenges and opportunities in securing land and natural resources, as well as gender equality and sustainable development.

Titus Momanyi

Deputy County Commissioner, Samburu County
and Chair of Land Board, Samburu

Representing the County Commission of Samburu County, Mr. Henry Wafula, lauded the efforts of IMPACT and PARAN alliance for hosting the annual Community Land Summit for the 3rd time in a row. He affirmed the importance of land rights in promoting peace, security, and development. He noted the increasing land and natural resource disputes affecting most parts of the northern Kenya and called on IPs community leaders to embrace Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) when faced with land disputes. He called on the delegates to implement the laws that are progressive and shun regressive cultural practices such banditry that hinder development. He encouraged all stakeholders to prioritize community awareness and sensitization efforts including that target women and youth land rights, rights to representation in decision making and other rights as provided for in the law. He welcomed all delegates to Samburu County and invited them to enjoy the beauty of Maralal town, its environs, and the County of Samburu.

“...there are increasing land and natural resource disputes affecting most parts of the northern Kenya and called on IPs community leaders to embrace Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) when faced with land disputes...”

Ms. Maria Cherono, HSC,

Secretary ASALs and Regional Development; Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development

She presented at the Summit by Mrs. Faith Githinji. In her remarks, Ms. Cherono, shared the functions of the State Department for ASALs to include peace and conflict management, social and cultural integration, and resilience building, and promotion of integrated programmes within the ASAL counties. The State Department has partnered with IMPACT Kenya to address some of the key challenges in the counties with a focus on fast tracking development for improved livelihoods and peaceful co-existence. Major issues of ASALs include access to water, livestock, resilience, peace and Inclusivity of communities in development processes, which includes youth, women, and PWD. Empowering women and youth through land rights have various positive outcomes including promoting gender equality to productive resources such as land, women voice and agency needed to assert their rights and engage in economic development, youth participation in local economies including agro-forestry, conservation and other innovative entrepreneurial ventures, and access to finance and markets linkages for their products. She called on stakeholders to support local initiatives that promote inclusion of women and youth in decision making overall governance of land and natural resources in wake of climate change. There is need to foster an enabling environment through programs and policies that advance gender equality, access to education and training, secure land tenure rights and inclusive decision-making processes. State Department values the collaboration with IMPACT Kenya, other partners, and local communities in fostering sustainable development in Kenya's ASALs.

Hon. Getrude Nduku Nguku

Vice Chairperson, National Land Commission (NLC), Kenya.



She commended the efforts IMPACT Kenya, PARAN Alliance and the County Government of Samburu for hosting the 3rd Edition of the Community Land Summit 2023, in Maralal Samburu County. She underscored the value of land for all Kenyans. She cited Article 60 of the Constitution of Kenya that states that Land in Kenya shall be held, used and managed in a manner that is equitable, efficient, productive and sustainable, and in accordance with the principles of among others: (a) equitable access to land; (b) security of land rights, (e) sound conservation and protection of ecologically sensitive areas; (f) elimination of gender discrimination in law, customs and practices related to land and property in land; and (g) encouragement of communities to settle land disputes through recognized local community initiatives consistent with this Constitution. She termed the platform created by the Community Land Summit that bring together the different stakeholders advances these principles and that such efforts need to be encouraged.

She noted the need to fast track the registration of community land, terming delays in registration negatively affect opportunities for development and or communities receiving compensation for projects that involve land acquisition. She cited a study carried out by NLC in partnership with Namati Kenya that shows slow progress in the transitioning of Group Ranches into community land that stood at 14% in 2023. Some of the challenges cited for the delay included but not limited to land disputes registered in the law courts, slow development and completion of inventories, and limited awareness on the registration process by some communities. Although the study only examined the transitional status of Group Ranches to community land, similar challenges face the transition of Trust lands with only 2 had successfully transitioned by end of 2023.

She encouraged IPs leaders to prioritize and embrace ADR for dispute resolution. She challenged communities, youth, women and men to consider themselves as the primary investors in their own land and hence the need to secure it through registration. She noted the importance of land use planning as paramount in protecting the ecosystems, ensure proper use of land for intended purposes including settlement, livestock management and settlement, and conservation efforts. Citing the example of Samburu National Reserve, and Kalama conservancies, Getrude, cited these as good examples of conservation efforts that promote livelihoods and conservation of natural environments. She observed that women and the youth play a key role in the governance of land and natural resources. She called on all stakeholders to support women and youth participation in decision making process; inclusion in land governance structures as required by the law, and budget resources needed support their empowerment process.

GENDER EQUALITY IN LAND RIGHTS, REGISTRATION OF COMMUNITY LAND AND INVESTMENT, EXPERIENCES FROM COUNTY GOVERNMENTS IN KENYA.



Mr. Wilson Lesuuda, Samburu County Secretary began by offering an apology of the County Governor and Members of the County Assembly who were not able to attend the Summit due to prior commitments. registered the County leadership appreciation of IMPACT and PARAN Alliance for hosting the Summit in Samburu County. He introduced MCAs from other counties attending the Summit namely: Halima Bole the MCA of Cherab Ward in Isiolo County, Abubakar Abdi, MCA of Sericho Ward in Isiolo County, Hon. Abdinur Dima Jillo, MCA of Kina in Isiolo County. He called on the Summit delegates to apply the land laws, citing Kenyan land laws as progressive and promote equality in land rights between men and women. He challenged the Summit participants not to view land as only the 'physical space' but as symbol of empowerment and security that everyone needs to enjoy. He asserted that Group Ranches that have since transitioned to community land have considered the rights of all members including women, youth and persons with disability. He underscored the County Government commitment to advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and youth development, noting various development initiatives supported the CECM in charge of Gender.



Mr. Saleh Maalim,

CECM Lands, Housing n Urban.Development, Mandera County.

He shared experiences in the efforts to register community land, noting slow progress that has kept them at 'Ground Zero'. The county efforts to register community land have faced numerous challenges including contested inventory over the geographical scope that was considered too large to identify as a community and register as community land; unresolved colonial versus community boundary disputes that now pends the intervention by the Independent Election and Boundary Commission of Kenya. Further sensitization of the communities to better understand the CLA and its implementation procedures, their roles and responsibilities including opportunities for women, youth and PWD is still needed. He affirmed the county commitment to secure land rights for women, men and the youth as per the Islamic culture and religion and ensuring their inclusion in decision making as required by the law.



Mr. Abdi Billow,

Wajir County Resident

The situation in Wajir County was not different as communities continue to struggle to complete the registration process for their community land. Sharing this experience was Mr. Abdi Billow, who thanked IMPACT for taking the initiative to support community sensitization to understand the

CLA and expectations of community land registration. Although efforts to develop the inventories, mobilize and prepare three communities towards the registration of their land are underway, they faced numerous challenges including lack of access of Land Registrars from government needed to support this effort since he is stationed in another county (Garissa), dispute among communities over boundaries, land grabbing from elites and low political will to support the completion of the processes that will secure their community land. He confirmed communities' interest and readiness to secure their land rights through implementation of the CLA 2016 and called on the Ministry of Lands to do its part to facilitate access to officers on the ground, and NLC to support in dispute resolution. He underscored the County Government commitment to advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and youth development, noting various development initiatives supported the CECM in charge of Gender.





Mr. Dima Osman
Isiolo County Resident

In Isiolo County, there is little to show for the registration of community land. Highlighting the experience of this County, Mr. Dima Osman, noted that the County borders Six Counties, of which 3 (Meru, Garissa and Wajir) have boundary disputes with Isiolo County. A previous court decision over boundary dispute ruled in favor of the people of Isiolo (the Borana Community) has since not been implemented. Pointing to these historical injustices, communities' efforts to register their community land continues to suffer setbacks. He challenged political and community leaders from other counties to embrace dialogue, respect the rule of law and support community efforts to register their land for peace, security and sustainable development.



Mr. Khalif Sheikh Mohamud
Garissa County Resident

Mr. Khalif Sheikh Mohamud shared the unique challenges of Garissa County with mostly unregistered land (Trust Lands). He shared that the county has made progress towards transitioning the Trust lands to community land and have since successfully registered one community land (Kamuthe) from Trust Land. Due to the vastness of the county, efforts to mobilize and sensitize communities on the registration of CLA are done at the locational level. Existing conservancies are also contributing and supporting these efforts. At least three interim Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs) have since been established and are in the process of developing the inventories. He acknowledged that there are challenges affecting the success of this process including boundary



disputes, women and youth exclusion from the inventories, migration of communities' due negative impact of climate change, and lack of implementation of court ruling such as the Three Miles Strip on Garissa and Tana River County that still hinders community enjoyment of their natural resources.

Mr. Tom Putunoi
Chair CLMC, Musuil Community Land, Laikipia County

Experience from Laikipia County provided positive outcomes of communities that worked closely with their county leadership, and with the national government to transition all their group ranches; now registered under community land. Mr. Tom Putunoi shared their great success in which all 13 group ranches in Laikipia County successfully transitioned to community land, attributing the success to collaboration between key land actors. He, however, noted that at the start of the process of registration, inclusion of women, youth and PWD in the CLMCs, and in the inventories was a challenge due to discriminatory cultural norms. Due to sensitization of the community of the provision of law, they successfully brought women, youth and PWD on board, and are now taking active role in land governance and management. He cautioned communities not to sub-divide their land to individual parcels as this will expose them to selling the land and some may risk being landless in the end.



Ms. Lokho Abdubah.
Marsabit County Resident.



Ms. Lokho Abdubah from Marsabit County shared progress made in the registration of the community land. Being the 2nd largest county in Kenya and home to 15 communities, the county has made progress in sensitizing the communities on the need to register their land under the CLA 2016. Approximately 10% of the land considered urban/small towns that are densely populated have since been subdivided; 8 communities have applied to register their community land and 4 are preparing their applications. Despite the positive efforts, communities have faced delays in completion of the registration process due to far location of the Land Registrar who is stationed in Isiolo County, 500km away. Women and youth suffer cultural discrimination, often considered as 'children', have limited resources including land and finances, and are not included in decision making. She noted that women and youth have great potentials and appreciate those participating in political spaces at local and national level, terming them as role models of the power of women in decision making processes.

Mrs. Eunice Lepariyo
Baringo Women Leader

Mr. Vitalis Kiprotich
Program Officer EWC, Baringo

Sharing the experiences in registration of community

land in Baringo County were Mr. Vitalis Kiprotich (program officer the Endorois welfare council), and Mrs. Eunice Lepariyo (Baringo Women Leader). In partnership with Community Land Action Network (CLAN), Global Green Fund, and other partners, communities have been sensitized on the land law, process and procedures for registering their land. The Lchamus community land registration started last year with

two group ranches set to transition. Ilchamus, Pokot, Ogiek, Tugen and Endorois represent four

communities in the Baringo county. The Ilchamus community, a minority group in Baringo, commenced the registration of their land last year, facilitated by the GGF Fund. As a result, they are now capable of sensitizing their community about land rights. Baringo is a hotspot of cattle rustling and frequently experiences boundary disputes. County and national government have not committed resources to support community to register their land, leaving communities dependent on other well-wishers. The African Court of Justice decision to have the Government of Kenya restitute the Endorois people's land has never been implemented 13 years on, leaving the community exposed and vulnerable to losing their rights to land. This has also negatively affected their political representation of the Lchamus community as they are often suffering exclusion from development opportunities. Conflict in the area mainly cattle rustling continues to affect women and children the most; making it hard for communities to organize and register their land or participate in sustainable development activities.



Mr. John Marona
Kajiado County Resident.

Mr. John Marona from Kajiado County shared his experience, noting that most group ranches in Kajiado have since sub-divided their land into individual parcels. Kajiado County comprises five sub-counties, three have already undergone land sub-division, while two Kajiado (West and Kajiado South), still retain their community land status. Two communities successfully transitioned and registered their land as community land, while one more is pending registration since 2019 due to political interference. The rights of women and the youth to benefit from land and participate in the governance structures was met with resistance by some community male leaders who cited cultural norms that discriminated women. However, some positive progress was made to include women in the land registers but suffered limited participation in the CLMCs as required by the law. A significant number of individuals who benefited from individual land following the subdivision of the group ranches in Kajiado have since sold their land; some left with small pieces or are landless. In cases of landlessness, women and children suffer the most as they fend for their families. He also noted that with subdivision of land, pastoralism as away of life will not be sustained. He called on stakeholders to invest more in empowering women and youth to secure their land rights for their livelihoods and posterity.



Mrs. Ralia Guyato
Tana River County



Mrs. Ralia Guyato shared the experience of Tana River County, noting many challenges facing the communities in securing their land rights. She shared that most community members especially women do not understand their rights or what the CLA 2016 provides for in the registration of their land. Most group ranches have inter- community boundary disputes causing farmers and pastoralist conflicts, while the County has boundary issues with Kitui, Kilifi, Lamu and Garissa Counties that are yet to be resolved. She called on the government agencies and partners to support women and youth empowerment efforts in this county. She further challenged NLC to prioritize and dedicate resources to support land dispute resolution to enable community to register their community land and enjoy their rights.

Ms. Eunice Elikan
Turkana County Resident

Turkana County is endowed with land and natural resources including Oil under exploration. Sharing the experience on the status of land registration in this county was Mrs. Eunice Elikan. She expressed her concern that the motivation to register community land came because of the oil exploration efforts by government of Kenya and planned compulsory acquisition of land from local communities living in these areas. Acknowledging that registration of community land is positive progress, she challenged all stakeholders to follow due process and respect the law. She cited cases of land acquisition without public participation, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and land grabbing through elite capture and local authorities. Pastoralism is the means of livelihood for most Turkana community, hence the concept of oil exploration and the displacement arising from this project and other projects such as LAPSET shocked the community members as their land rights, their identity and livelihood was threatened. NLC introduced the concept of displacement through land acquisition but failed to provide clarity on compensation; with the County government fronted to hold the compensation in trust for the community; the community did agree with this plan. Despite these challenges, efforts by CSOs including by Lokichar Action Trust Network and other organization to sensitize the communities including women and the youth on their land rights has been commendable and enlightening. She reported that 63 inventories by county government have since been approved by the Ministry of Lands; and 3 more submitted from Turkana Central pending approval. She termed this as major progress towards registration of community land in the county and securing their land rights. She cited challenges of boundary disputes in places such as Lonchakula and Kapedo that are yet to be resolved and expected to delay land registration process. To empower women and the youth to participate and take their space in decision making, Mrs. Eunice, called on stakeholders to invest more in awareness creation, education, capacity building of women, economic empowerment as means to fight vulnerabilities to social and economic challenges.



Ms. Susan Kitiyo Lesancho
ILEPA

Ms. Susan Kitiyo Lesancho from (ILEPA) organization in Narok County also shared their experience in land registration process following the enactment of CLA 2016. She stated that women and youth land rights are often not secured even when the laws are clear. High level of illiteracy due to discrimination in access to education opportunities for girls is a major cause of women being left behind and exclusion in decision making. Lack of education affect women legal awareness on their rights to land and other resources. Male youth are favored in access to land rights compared to female youths who are considered to acquire land through their husband. She thanked CLAN, IMPACT Kenya, PARAN Alliance, NAMATI, GGF and other partners for their efforts to empower women and youth to participate CLMCs in the governance of land and development issues; and FPIC. She noted that most group ranches in the county are yet to register their community land.



Ms. Breatrice Mjomba
Taita Taveta County Resident

Ms. Breatrice Mjomba, from Taita Taveta County took the podium to share the experiences on the implementation of CLA 2016. She pointed out key achievements realized in the County including the establishment of Multi-stakeholders platform that focus on women and land issues, allowing them to advocate for women's land rights; the establishment of the Environment and Land Court and Alternative Justice System at the County level expected to address historical land injustices and disputes that have rocked the community for the longest, the inclusion of women leaders in Court User Committees is a key step to ensure women's rights are addressed. Pending historical injustices such as from Sunguruka and Kasigau communities brought to the attention of NLC are yet to responded to and or resolved, leaving the community frustrated. She challenged the delegates to push for a law that will see community compensated for the loss incurred when such cases are delayed as justice will not only be served by a forward-looking positive court decision as community would have already suffered when other parities benefited from the resource. She said that such a law can be deterrent to such injustices meted to local communities. On the registration of community land, she shared that four out of six group ranches have successfully transitioned. She pointed out the need to provide information and support for community land use planning to ensure proper use and management of their resources.



Mrs. Gladys Oking
Siaya County Resident

Mrs. Gladys Oking – shared the experiences of communities in Siaya County that have suffered historical land injustices for the longest with no solution in site. The Dominion Farm Company operating in the Yala swamp is in the heart of this dispute with the community, following the completion of its 99-year land lease agreement, and the intervention of NLC that resolved the dispute to arrive on a decision to further extend the company lease for 66 more years. The land was leased out to the company for 99 years without FPIC, and despite community need for the land for their development, NLC further extended the lease for 66 more years. She shared that the community is not satisfied in the way NLC resolved the land issue as the community is left land insecure, with their lives and livelihoods negatively affected. Further, the company constructed a water dam on higher ground that often overflows causing floods that damage land and property of the local communities in the surrounding areas. When flooding occur, women and children are worst affected. Intervention by other government agencies including National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has not yielded fruits. She called upon the national government, and county government of Siaya to consider this as an urgent issue that needs to be addressed to give justice and dignity to the communities affected and restoring their land rights.





Mr. Edward Okoth

Acting Land Registrar/Adjudication officer - Samburu

He provided a reflection on the status of registration of community lands in Kenya and noted the following:

- Transitioning Group Ranches to Community Land is straight forward in cases where there are no boundary or ownership disputes. Unlike Group Ranches, Trust Lands are unregistered and lack clear boundaries, which must be established and determined for the community land registration to take due process.
- There is evidence of limited awareness on the provision of the CLA 2016 and its regulation. This is a major setback to successful community participation in the process of registering their community land and ensure rights of women, girls, boys and PWD are secured; and that women and youth are involved in decision making processes including representation in CLMCs.
- Land use planning is the responsibility of all counties and a mandatory requirement. Participatory land use planning is preferred to ensure communities are involved in decision making and their voices are heard.
- Climate change increase competition for land and natural resources resulting to land disputes within and between communities. Youth play a key role conflict management, but women and children are often greatly affected during such times. There is need to embrace ADR in management of land and natural resource disputes. The establishment AJS is a major step forward by the judiciary to resolve such cases and encourage communities to use such mechanisms in place of the Courts. For counties with boundary disputes, national maps (e.g. those of 1963) can be used to clarify the issues. For example, some of the areas earlier defined as Municipalities fall under two counties and the maps can help show the boundaries with clarity.
- Persons with Disability are recognized as a special group by the Ministry of Lands; hence they are given special attention to ensure their rights are protected and secured including participation in CLMCs.
- NLC has a role in acquisition of land for investment. Valuation of land is done to facilitate prompt and fair compensation.



For cases involving negative impact on communities by investments projects, communities have a right to petition the investors as per law. To avoid such negative impacts, communities need to participate in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) often conducted before the start of any projects. This is to ensure that negative impacts of such projects are known and can be addressed in the planning of the project to minimize or eliminate them. EIA reports are public documents and communities need to read to understand the potential impact of the project, if their views have been captured and concerns addressed. These rights are provided for in the law.

Counties that have expressed difficulties in accessing government officers who need to support land registration process such as Land Registrars, he stated that the Registrar in such circumstances can appoint a government officer to support the process under delegated responsibilities.

END OF DAY ONE





Summit Proceedings Day 2

The Summit started with traditional prayers, songs and dance featuring IPs communities and local artists from across Kenya, and by delegates from other countries. The Day sessions were organized to facilitate experience sharing by delegates from other countries, partners, and policy makers on the status of land rights for women and youth, investment, and role of key institutions in facilitating land administration and management. The outcome of the Summit was a common declaration by all Summit delegates that underscored their commitments, calling on policy makers, donors, and other actors to promote and advance women and youth land and natural resources rights for equality and sustainable development.

OTHER COUNTRY EXPERIENCES ON GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH AND LAND RIGHTS, REGISTRATION OF IPS LAND AND INVESTMENTS

Mrs. Nemayian Matonyu Kiroshi Pastoralist Women Council (PWC)

Mrs. Nemayian Matonyu Kiroshi, representing the Pastoralist Women Council (PWC), shared the experiences from Tanzania in the effort to secure land rights. In her address, she stated that land belongs to the government of Tanzania. For most pastoralist women in Tanzania, securing land rights is a challenge due to customary norms that discriminate against women from owing land and participating in decision making. Through the intervention of PWC, and that of other CSOs, communities and especially women in Longido have secured their land through individual land registration process. Unlike in Kenya, communities in Tanzania cannot register their community land, but only individual land parcels. In other places such as Loliondo, the situation is different as community land ownership and use conflicts with the state land use plans, making it challenging to secure land rights for local communities including women and the youth.



Mr. Brian Agaba

Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organizations(COPACSO) - in Uganda

Mr. Brian Agaba, representing Coalition of Pastoralist CSOs in Uganda, shared the challenges of securing land rights for communities, women, and the youth. He observed the great similarities of issues shared by other presenters from other countries, noting three core challenges that hinder access to justice in Uganda: *i) limited access to justice system by women and the poor, ii) cost of pursuing justice is way too high for many, iii) time it takes to be heard and case determined is often too long.* He termed the efforts to register customary land and issuance of Customary Certificate of Occupancy (CCOs) in Uganda is progressive but called for more effort to strengthen legal application and use of such documents to allow holders to access credit. The CCROs are limited as one cannot use the certificate as collateral to access credit. In Uganda, social norms are a key barrier for women and girls enjoying their land rights despite the provision of the law. Community sensitization and awareness raising among women are needed to fight such practices. To advance the interest of pastoralists in Uganda and across the region, he called on governments to review existing policy frameworks on pastoralism's to make them more responsive to current needs and opportunities; and give legal recognition of indigenous communities land.



Mr. Godfrey Onying

UCOBAC from Uganda

Complementing the experience shared on Uganda, Mr. Godfrey Onying, of UCOBAC from Uganda, termed the issuance of CCOs by the Government of Uganda as progressive measure needed to secure the land and natural resources for women and local communities. He cited the 2013 Uganda National Land Policy that recognized all the types of land tenure rights and made provision for registration of customary land, and conversation of CCOs to freehold titles. Taking too long to register customary land rights may expose the communities to further land grabbing and deny women and their community's opportunity to enjoy those rights.



Mr. Artisu Germa

Association of Pastoralist Community from Ethiopia (APC)

Mr. Artisu Germa, representing the Association of Pastoralist Community from Ethiopia (APC) shared the experience of his organization and other partners initiatives in empowerment women and girls in securing land rights. The organization works to strengthening women economic empowerment through Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and irrigation projects for the youth groups with over 500ha of land currently in use. He shared the positive transformation that the communities have experienced as result of these and other related projects that involve securing their land rights.



Ms. Jockebed Marissa

Batwa Community Representative from DRC



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the recent years develop a new land law that respect and protect the rights of indigenous pigmy communities. Ms. Jockebed Marissa from the Batwa Community in DRC acknowledged the efforts by her government to put in place legal measures to secure land rights of indigenous people. For a long time, IPs have suffered discrimination in resource allocation including land rights and still face the challenge to register their land. For women to enjoy these rights, there is need to secure the land and forest resources to guarantee livelihoods of these communities including women and the youth who depend on them. Existing initiatives have since secured over 22000ha of land forest through mapping and registration of the IPLCs land. She called on more women and youth to take proactive role in land governance processes; participate in decision making to influence how land and forest is government for sustainable development of their communities.

GENDER EQUALITY IN LAND OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND USE; OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH IN ASAL AREAS

This session featured the initiatives from partners working towards securing social and economic opportunities including land and natural resources for women and youth in ASAL areas. For instance, USAID Nawiri initiative aims to strengthen land governance and natural resource management. Mr. Felix Lekurchalan, from USAID Nawiri, shared key achievements of the project to include among others capacity development on natural resource management committees, facilitating development of regulations that are inclusive of women and youth, training on financial aspects such as financial literacy, budgeting and business management, linking them with financial institutions that provide small grants, banks and government fundings programs. The project also supports agriculture value chains through connection to supply of seeds and fertilizer, and access to market system.

Ms. Christine Kandie

Endorois Women Organisation & Chairperson PARAAN.

Ms. Christine Kandie, from Endorois Women Organisation and member of PARAN Alliance, shared her experience in supporting women and the youth in strengthening their sustainable livelihoods through land rights and inclusion in decision making. Promoting alternative livelihoods options includes business and innovation venture for the youth groups that secure the environment e.g. bee keeping. She cited the challenge of working with young people, who often think of white color jobs or employment opportunities noting that there are potential and untapped opportunities that young people can venture in to earn an income. While acknowledging that investment opportunities create opportunities for young people in areas of agriculture and infrastructure development, the risk of eviction of local communities from their land are often eminent. Respect for FPIC must be adhered to allow community consultation and participation in decision making.



Mr. David Kosgei Kanda

The BOMA Project



Boma Project is another initiative, presented by Mr. David Kondo. This initiative is actively implemented in Isiolo and Marsabit counties with the aim of supporting those most at risk of being left behind especially women and youth in ASALs. The initiative supports women and youth in agriculture and livestock production. Access to land rights for women and youth has been an impediment in the success of this initiative, hence the need to deal with the issue to improve their economic development opportunities. The initiative also support school feeding programs as means to improve school pupils' retention levels especially for girls in primary schools who often risk dropping out to support their parents do household chores during prolonged droughts.

Ms. Judy Kipkenda

KOWYN

Ms. Judy Kipkenda, representing Koibate Ogiek Women and Youth Network and the Indigenous Women Council, Baringo County and hailing from the Hunters and Gatherers, and fisherfolks community, shared how IPs women have influenced policies and processes that ensure women's land and natural resource rights, and other rights are protected at various level. IWC has held quarterly meetings for members, fostering regular engagement and collaboration; organizing meetings with strategic partners to enhance cooperation and coordination and facilitating exposure of women to networks and promoting participation in regional and international events. IWC has also actively pursued a dedicated space at the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) to promote the rights of IPs women and invest in capacity building initiatives in collaboration with partner organizations to empower and enhance the skills of her members. She noted that land governance and climate change are inseparable, and that more action is needed to bring more women and the youth in decision making at local, national and international level. In 2023, the Council held its 8th Edition forum with a focus on strengthening women participation in land rights and addressing exclusion of women in decision making in matters that affect all spheres of their development.



Mr. Kambaki Lalaikipiani

FAO



Mr. Laikipian Kambaki, shared FAO experiences in supporting women, youth, and local communities in ASAL areas covering 9 counties including Isiolo, Baringo, Samburu, Laikipia and Marsabit, with funding from European Union. The funding supported among other capacity building for state agencies and communities towards registration of community land and improving land administration services through establishment of GIS Lab and land registries. Digital land governance program was rolled out in 47 counties with special consideration to ASALs counties.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF THE TRANSITION OF GROUP RANCHES TO COMMUNITY, WITH FOCUS ON GENDER INCLUSION



This study was carried out by National Land Commission in partnership with NAMATI Kenya; with a focus on 16 group ranches including Kajiado, Laikipia, West Pokot, and Samburu Counties. The study was set to achieve the following objectives:

- Document the Status of Group Ranches in Kenya: The research aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the status of group ranches across the country.
- Examine the Involvement of Women, Youth, and Minority Groups: The report sought to assess the extent of participation and engagement of women, youth, and minority groups in the governance and decision-making processes related to group ranches.
- Analyzing Challenges: The research aimed to identify and analyze the challenges faced by group ranches in the specified counties.

The study report was presented to the Mr. England Loseenge, CECM, Lands and Physical Planning of Samburu County and other actors attending the Summit, in the presence of Hon. Getrude Nduku, NLC Vice Chairperson, Mr. Robert Koech from NLC; Eileen Wakesho from NAMATI, Ole Kaunga of IMPACT Kenya, Edward Okoth from the Ministry of Lands Kenya, IPs women leaders, and other Summit Delegates. Key findings from this study include but are not limited to:

- Only 14% of all group ranches in Kenya has since transitioned to community land. The number of group ranches that have since transitioned to community land varies from county to county, with Laikipia leading after transitioning all the 13 Group Ranches, while Narok County was yet to transition any.
- Elder male members of the communities were more influential in the process of registration of community land, while women had the least level of influence. This was attributed to cultural norms that exclude women from handling land matters or participating in decision making.
- In most CLMCs, male adults were dominant members as compared to few women often not meeting the 2/3 of representation of either gender.
- Key challenges experienced in the registration processes including embrace of cultural norms that exclude women from owning land and hence exclusion from the land registers, low literacy level mainly among women, and gender roles that often-kept women out of the process as men had all the time to engage in all steps of the registration process.
- Boundary disputes affected the process of registration with some remaining unresolved.

The study recommends that land stakeholder intensity community awareness including targeted session for women and the youth to better understand their rights to land, participation in decision making as provided for in the law. It also encourages county government and other actors to dedicate resources to support fast tracking the registration of community land.


WOMEN AND YOUTH IN CONSERVATION, ECOTOURISM AND LIVESTOCK ECONOMY

This plenary session gave several speakers the opportunity to share their experiences, challenges and opportunities linked to conservation, ecotourism and livestock economy. The session was kicked off by a brief intervention by Mr. Raphael Lenaiyara, CECM Tourism in Samburu County who expressed the County leadership commitment to support conservation efforts, ecotourism, and livestock economy. He noted the importance of partnership between national and county governments, CSOs and other development agencies to promote these sectors and ensure women and youth are primary beneficiaries. The registration of community land is a key step in ensuring conservation efforts are well managed and secured; with county government of Samburu having set aside funds to facilitate this effort. He acknowledged that conservation efforts are more sustainable when governed by communities as they offer means to sustainable livelihoods, promote biodiversity, reduce land degradation, and contribute to climate action.



Mr. Burton Lenanyokie shared that NRT supports 43 community-led conservancies clustered into five regions including Five in Samburu County and One in Uganda. The organization support efforts by local communities towards good governance of land and natural resources including support to transition to community land; wildlife protection and promoting peace for thriving communities and ecosystems. Through its initiatives, NRT supports capacity building efforts for women and youth in conservation efforts through leadership and entrepreneurship trainings, diversification of livelihoods, providing seed capital, and inclusion in decision making structures. NRT is currently developing its gender strategy to improve program responsiveness.

Ms. Nancy Buru from Environmental and Justice Team in Samburu County stated that youth are human capital, with education and skills that are essential in management of community lands. Africa is a young continent with population at average age of 19 years as compared to the leadership at an average of 63 years. She challenged the youth to come forward and participate in decision making processes and not be left behind. She cited the threats of climate change and land degradation are major risks of our times, that youth should not ignore but take proactive roles to define solutions including through innovations, investment and ecotourism sector.



Mr. Francis Nkaiduri, a livestock keeper from Laikipia county added his voice to the conversation, noting that the potential of the livestock sector have not been fully explored as it remains under developed. He encouraged pastoralist communities, women, and youth to register with saccoes and cooperatives, to increase the economies of scale and benefit from mechanisms for value chain development such as for hide and skin products through market linkages. Registration of community land needs to factor in land use planning to provide for livestock corridors and spacious holding grounds as some of the resting grounds and trade corridors have been closed. He called upon the county and national government and other development agencies to support the sector through clear strategies and financing to help boost livestock production and businesses targeted for women, youth, and other community members.

Ms. Rosemary Nenini, founder and woman leader of Twala Women Group in Laikipia County shared her experience in a journey of empowering grassroots pastoralist women through land rights and economic opportunities. Sharing her real experience and that of her fellow women from Twala Women Group, Rosemary shared they saw the need to have secure land rights so that they could do their own work, make their own decision on investment, and improve their livelihoods. Overcoming the cultural barriers that deny women rights to owning land, the women group was able to convince their cultural leaders to allocate them 40 acres of land. Twala women started doing bead work, then constructed cottages for eco-tourism activities. As women, they had control over all their plans, activities, and income. The group received financial and technical support from various organizations including IMPACT Trust to improve their beadwork, management, leadership of their business and market linkages. Twala women are now selling their beads products locally and internationally including in the UK. These women have not only improved their livelihoods and that of their families, but they have also challenged the cultural norms that hold women back from economic development through land rights. She challenged women and youth to make good use of their land, not to shy away from trying out their ideas, and seek knowledge to improve on their businesses.

Mr. Robert Oluee Wilson of NACADA challenged the youth and all Summit delegates to prioritize their wellbeing as good health is wealth. He shared the risks of drugs and substance abuse especially among the youth and the effects that include mental challenges and death. The issue of Drugs and substance abuse starts at home; therefore, parents should make sure that they guide their children towards the abstinence of drug abuse. They should also be a role model to their children and youth. Instead of the youth engaging in drug abuse, they should consider of thinking of other ways they can engage themselves to be helpful and contribute towards economic development. He encouraged the youth to explore various economic opportunities available to them and make use of their quality time to grow economically. Land rights for women and youth creates means to access livelihoods, create wealth and employment for others in agriculture, livestock, ecotourism and other sectors. He cautioned parents and guardians to guide their children and the youth in responsible lifestyle. He shared a free toll number that Kenyan delegates in the summit and community members can use to reach out to NACADA for support or advice: 1192.

"Land rights for women and youth creates means to access livelihoods, create wealth, and employment for others in agriculture, livestock, ecotourism, and other sectors."

~ Mr. Robert Oluee Wilson, NACADA

Mrs. Evelyn Lentaano, CECM, Gender, Culture, Youth Affairs, and Social Service in Samburu County appreciated the efforts of women leading conservation efforts, terming them as organized. Aspects of our culture have continued to hold women back and are barriers to their social and economic emancipation. However, times have changed and through the efforts of the county government and other stakeholders, women are taking active role in the governance of land and natural resources, rehabilitation of forest areas to access fodder and firewood, and other ecosystem-based services. Roles of women in managing the environment include but not limited to; advocating for environment justice; grow fodder and grass in the conservancies; and are innovators. For example, women came up with sack making kitchen gardens and use old plastic basins to grow crops.

The youth have also not been left out, as they are innovative, energetic, and more agile to participate in ecotourism activities, though more investment if needed to engage more youth in this sector and other sectors including livestock development. Youths are involved in sports, fashion and technology. With the new technology, the youth can relate with the new innovations that is going around the world. They also give insights on what works well or not in the community. Youth are championing environmental justice and through the event that the Samburu government hosted, The International Camel Derby, a star event in the County that got concluded in the month of October, had many youths involved and promoted of eco-tourism. She thanked IMPACT Trust for its work in supporting pastoralist women and youth leadership and development agenda in the region and beyond. The county government is committed to support women and youth efforts to overcome social and economic barriers including access to finances for startup, training and capacity development in entrepreneurship and conservation efforts.

CLIMATE FINANCING, INVESTMENT, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE, CARBON TRADING, FPIC AND FAIR BENEFIT SHARING.

This session had the contribution from panelists drawn from key institutions working in and within the communities in Kenya including NRT, IMPACT Trust, United Community Leaders Circle, IPLC Technical Reference Group for REDD+, Member of County Assembly of Isiolo, and CLOAK. The speakers' interventions are presented below:

Mr. Andrew Dokole from Marsabit County represented NRT and shared the experience supporting local conservation efforts and facilitating carbon trading. Mr. Dokole serves as the chairperson of the oversight committee on carbon initiative, and overall chair of the conservancies in the NRT. He shared that the initiative promotes women participation in decision making through leadership in key positions in various committees. NRT has engaged in carbon trading for the last 10 years, and communities are already benefiting (financially) from this initiative. The carbon trading initiative is set to continue for the next 20yrs. During his presentation, Summit participants sought to understand aspects of transparency of contracts, benefit sharing between the investors, NRT and communities; and FPIC procedures of this NRT project. Mr. Dokole responded to the issues raised and deferred some to NRT staff for adequate response later Carbon trading is a learning process for everyone and those involved in this market.



Access to correct information is key especially for local communities whose land and natural resources are committed to investors for a long time. FPIC and benefit sharing mechanisms need to be clearly stipulated, risks and impact of such projects assessed. Summit participants acknowledged there are opportunities that come with carbon trading such as livelihoods development and contribution to climate action but cited the need for transparency and accountability. He further shared that NRT is reviewing its benefit sharing model for communities, a process that will benefit from its lessons learnt internally, emerging issues from her stakeholders and from this Summit.

Mr. Setek Frank of United Community Leaders SACCO, Secretary for Laikipia CLMCs Forum that is made up of 27 communities lands in Laikipia, Isiolo and Marsabit counties, Kenya. Youth are a key stakeholder in carbon trading and encouraged that they offer themselves to engage. They should not have a mentality of always thinking that they are the leaders of tomorrow, but they should start now.

He noted that there are some grey areas surrounding carbon trading and question yet to be fully answered. The lack of FPIC that involve communities directly affected by carbon projects is big concern, and often that goes hand in hand with exclusion from consultation and negotiation for benefit sharing. For instance, he shared that communities involved in carbon trading are getting about getting 30% of the total value of carbon credits. The carbon credit revenue has been of help, it has helped in employment, taking children to school and building classrooms. Communities are keen to continue with such projects but are want to renegotiate the benefit sharing mechanisms to ensure they can get a fair share of benefits. He stated that benefit associated with carbon trading should be paid directly to the communities and not through middlemen or organizations to ensure communities can benefit from their own resources. He observed that most Indigenous peoples communities lack capacity and correct

knowledge to engage in carbon trading and related mechanisms, making them vulnerable to signing bad contracts. Communities need and should be fully engaged and informed of what carbon trading entails, access contracts for transparency and accountability and ensure they can get their maximum benefits.



Dr. Clement Lenashuru, representing the IPLCs Reference Group on REDD+, shared the importance of IPs and local communities in accessing correct information, education and awareness carbon credit and carbon trading, benefit sharing and related safeguards, and carbon financing. Noting that there is no globally agreed definition of 'carbon rights communities or individuals can own it if they have land, forest, water and other natural resources. How carbon credits are calculated, and value awarded, versus the principles of property rights are aspects that require information to be disseminated in language that is accessible to IPLCs. We need to be proactive as indigenous communities to engage in the carbon markets; as well as have REDD+ trickled to the indigenous communities as well.

Mr. Guyo Tuke – Isiolo representing the Community Landowners Association of Kenya (CLOAK), he acknowledged the issues raised by Mr. Setek and Dr. Lenashuru, citing the objective of the Association is to amplify the voices and concerns of all community landowners at all levels to secure their rights, livelihoods and other benefits. As a new entity established with the support of IMPACT Kenya and NAMATI, conversation held during the summit underscored the need to have this Association to push for land and natural resources rights of landowners across 24 counties in Kenya. We have able governments that can support communities' engagement in carbon markets, and this can be explored to ensure transparency and accountability through inclusive policies. He challenged the county and national government to coordinate and support pastoralist livestock sector, citing opportunities for market linkages with other countries. He noted the challenges associated with climate change including drought and the need for early warning and preparedness to undertake livestock destock to avert major economic losses that communities experience regularly. Women and youth participation in livestock market can be promoted and supported through such ventures.

Mr. Elijah Lempaira from IMPACT Kenya reflected on the issues discussed by the panelist and shared his observations. He noted that the process of carbon financing is not clear and hence the urgent need for information and capacity strengthening of IPs and other actors for better engagement. Human right violation starts with weak and fragmented laws. The Kenya Environment Amendment Act of 2023 that include carbon trading and rights in Kenya, requires deeper review to understand its provisions, challenges and opportunities to IPs, and engagement of stakeholders for effective implementation. He noted that national carbon market voluntary regulation is not always adequate and may pose risks of economic injustices to IPs and local communities if do not treat them as equal partners in carbon trading markets. This session concluded with facilitated question and answer session from community representatives to panelists and policy makers from County and National Government. Key questions addressed the issues of transparency, accountability, and rights of IPs to carbon credits. Although IPs expressed interest in participating in carbon credit ventures, there still a gap in lack of correct information on mechanisms, and platforms to engage on carbon market, creating fear and speculation on the actual benefits, risks and opportunities. IMPACT Kenya, PARAN Alliance, NAMATI and other actors were encouraged by Summit delegates to continue the conversation ahead of the next year Summit as means to provide information, secure projects that have communities as the ultimate beneficiaries, and reduce community vulnerability to bad carbon trading deals associated.





Vote of thanks

The Summit 2023 ended with concluding remarks and a vote of thanks from representatives of the County Government of Samburu, PARAAN, CSOs, NLC and IMPACT.

Mr. Mohamed Dida
ISID AND PARAAN

Mr. Mohamed Dida Appreciated the organisers for hosting the successful Summit, a forum for IPs communities. He asserts the importance of the call to action by the Summit delegates; and that it belonged to them to pursue partnership with policy makers and other actors to deliver on the common shared objectives. He thanked the PARAN Alliance and IMPACT for leading the way, mobilizing, and making this 3rd summit a great success in partnership with Samburu County.

Mrs. Luijah Lesuuda
IMPACT Kenya Board Member.

She thanked all delegates for making it to the Summit and committed to join hands and make a success out of the deliberations and key commitments He noted the need to dedicate more resources to make this annual Summit a success and more so fast track the process of registration of community land. Let us focus on land as a source of livelihood and wealth

Mr. Mark Egelan
STEP (Support Transformation And Empowerment Of Pastoralist)

All institutions that deal with land should ensure communities and especially women and youth are involved in decision making. Communities also should not always be suspicious of institutions trying to intervene on matters that touches on their land; but such institution must equally embrace participatory processes, transparent and accountable. Communities are ready to learn, and this Summit presents this opportunity for them and all relevant institutions involved.

Ms. Gertrude Nduku Nguku
National Land Commission.



Thanked the County Government of Samburu and PARAN Alliance for successfully co-hosting 2023 Summit. She also thanked Ole Kaunga for his overall leadership of the Summit, IMPACT partners and donors who supported the Summit, making it possible to create this unique space for learning and sharing on issues affecting IPs lives and livelihoods in East Africa. She thanked all delegates for traveling from across East Africa, providing their valuable experiences and wealth of knowledge to the Summit in pursuit of a common voice and bettering the lives of women and the youth. She thanked all county government political leaders and staff for their dedication and support throughout the Summit. She also thanked the IMPACT and PARAN alliance staff for giving their best despite the logistical challenge to deliver a successful Summit. She also thanked the Summit facilitators and rapporteurs for their exemplary work, and not to forget the even organisers for all the facilities provided and excellent coordination.

Mr. Raphael Lenaiyara
CECM, Tourism, Samburu County

Vote of thanks by; Grateful to the IMPACT team for organizing the event, partners and communities for attending the event. Every investor/partner wants to invest in the Northern part of Kenya. All the problems experienced in ASALs counties are facing us because of what happened in those years of colonization.



Mr. England Loseenge

CECM, Lands and Physical Planning, Samburu County

He thanked, Mali Ole Kaunga, the Executive Director of IMPACT and PARAN Alliance for delivering a successful 3rd edition of Community Land Summit in Samburu County. It has been 2 days of robust learning, sharing experiences and engagement with diverse stakeholders, the IPs communities. The outcome of this Summit, captured in the Declaration will be given due attention by the County Government to promote women and youth development in the context land and natural resources management, and other opportunities. He thanked all delegates for their dedication and challenged them to get to action after the Summit. He welcomed delegates to visit the county and enjoy the hospitality of the people, and the beautiful sites in Samburu County. He declared the Summit closed.



Barriers

Cultural Norms and Discrimination

- o Deep-rooted cultural practices and social norms continue to exclude women and youth from land ownership, decision-making, and participation in governance structures.
- o Women, particularly those with disabilities, face additional barriers, including lack of access to legal documentation and financial resources.

Limited Awareness and Education

- o Low literacy levels, especially among women, hinder understanding of their rights to land, natural resources, and economic opportunities.
- o Lack of community sensitization about the provisions of the Community Land Act (CLA) 2016 and its implementation.

Structural and Institutional Barriers

- o Poor representation of women and youth in Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs) and governance structures.
- o Delayed registration processes for community lands due to bureaucratic inefficiencies, boundary disputes, and lack of access to Land Registrars.

Economic Exclusion

- o Limited access to financial resources, credit facilities, and economic opportunities for women and youth.
- o Disparities in benefit-sharing mechanisms from investments like carbon trading and ecotourism initiatives.

Climate Change and Resource Conflicts

- o Increasing competition for land and natural resources due to climate change exacerbates disputes, which disproportionately impact women and youth.



Opportunities

Cultural Transformation and Capacity Building Strengthening Governance and Institutions

- o Conduct sustained community sensitization campaigns to address discriminatory norms and promote the rights of women and youth in land ownership and governance.
- o Strengthen legal literacy programs targeting women and youth to empower them with knowledge of land laws and their rights.
- o Dedicate resources to expedite the registration of community lands, resolve boundary disputes, and provide equitable representation in land governance structures.
- o Promote the use of participatory land use planning to integrate the voices of women and youth.

Policy and Legal Reforms

- o Fast-track the implementation of the Community Land Act 2016 to secure community land rights with inclusive participation of women and youth.
- o Ensure effective enforcement of gender quotas in governance structures, particularly within CLMCs.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

- o Equip communities with early warning systems and preparedness strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- o Prioritize inclusion of women and youth in climate finance and carbon trading ventures with fair benefit-sharing mechanisms and transparency.

Support for Economic Empowerment

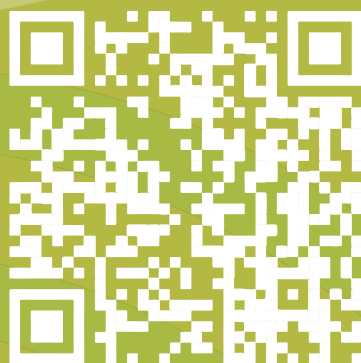
- o Develop and expand inclusive financial programs, such as microcredit and grants, targeting women and youth to enable participation in sustainable livelihood activities.
- o Invest in capacity building for women and youth in alternative livelihoods like ecotourism, agriculture, and conservation.



Conclusion

The Community Land Summit 2023 underscored the critical role of gender equality and active participation of women and youth in land ownership, natural resource management, and the enhancement of sustainable local economies. Addressing challenges such as cultural norms, economic exclusion, and structural barriers requires concerted efforts from governments, civil society, and community stakeholders. The delegates called for the implementation of actionable measures to secure land rights, promote inclusive governance, and empower women and youth economically. Moving forward, collaboration among all actors will be pivotal in achieving the Summit's vision of equitable and sustainable development in Indigenous Peoples' communities.





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