



PASTORALIST WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AND LEADERSHIP FORUMS IN TANZANIA

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Country: Tanzania

Principal Organisation: **Pastoral Women's Council (PWC)**

ABSTRACT

In Tanzania, pasturelands are under pressure. Patriarchal cultural norms present additional challenges for young pastoralist women. The Pastoral Women's Council (PWC), an organisation of indigenous pastoralist women, worked with traditional leaders and local governments to

raise awareness about women's land rights. Additionally, PWC worked with pastoralist women to demarcate their land parcels and process land certificates. Due to these efforts, 1,200 women, one-third of whom are young, have received plots of land from their village governments.

ILC COMMITMENTS



SECURE TENURE RIGHTS



INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING



EQUAL LAND RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

COMPETENCIES

AREAS

COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND RIGHTS

WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE

YOUTH

SKILLS

LEGAL ASSISTANCE, LEGAL EMPOWERMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

LAND POLICY AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

MAPPING AND LAND REGISTRATION

OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGE

The Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) works to achieve gender equality, community development and the empowerment of indigenous women and girls at the community level in Ngorongoro, Longido and Monduli Districts in north-eastern Tanzania. Since 2005, PWC has worked with district governments, community members and traditional leaders to enhance pastoralist women's ownership of pasturelands and livestock.

Over 1,800 pastoralist women, including 300 young women, have

received plots of land from their village governments, through the assistance of PWC staff members and community volunteers. Additionally, PWC has trained women on community land management and on participating in land-related decision-making spaces. As a result, 177 women, with support from PWC's Women's Rights and Leadership Forums (WRLFs), secured leadership positions in village and district governments during the 2019 and 2020 general elections in Monduli, Ngorongoro and Longido.



2

BACKGROUND

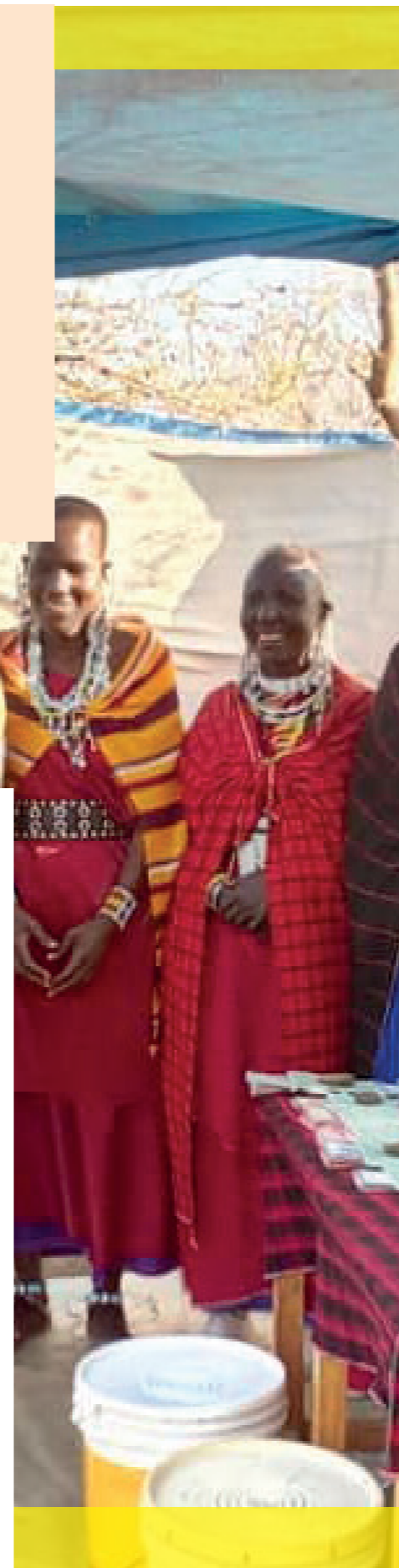
Pastoralist land rights have been under siege in Tanzania, especially for women who cannot own productive resources because of deeply patriarchal traditions. Large-scale land investments, fortress conservation, elite tourism, post- and neo-colonial narratives and the effects of climate change all result in the loss of land for pastoralists.

Additionally, women and youth are excluded from land-related decisions that affect the management of the commons. Systemic marginalisation also denies indigenous youth and women access to and ownership of rangelands and other productive resources. Thus, they are disproportionately affected by static social and legal norms.

THE CHALLENGE

Traditional pastoralist women face a myriad of challenges in accessing and owning land. First, they are often excluded from accessing and owning land due to patriarchal social norms. Their exclusion at the family level also extends to the community level, where primarily men make decisions concerning the management of communal pasturelands.

Second, women are excluded from decisions relating to the ownership and control of family livestock, which are central to the pastoralist way of life. This exclusion is even greater for young women, who face an additional age barrier.

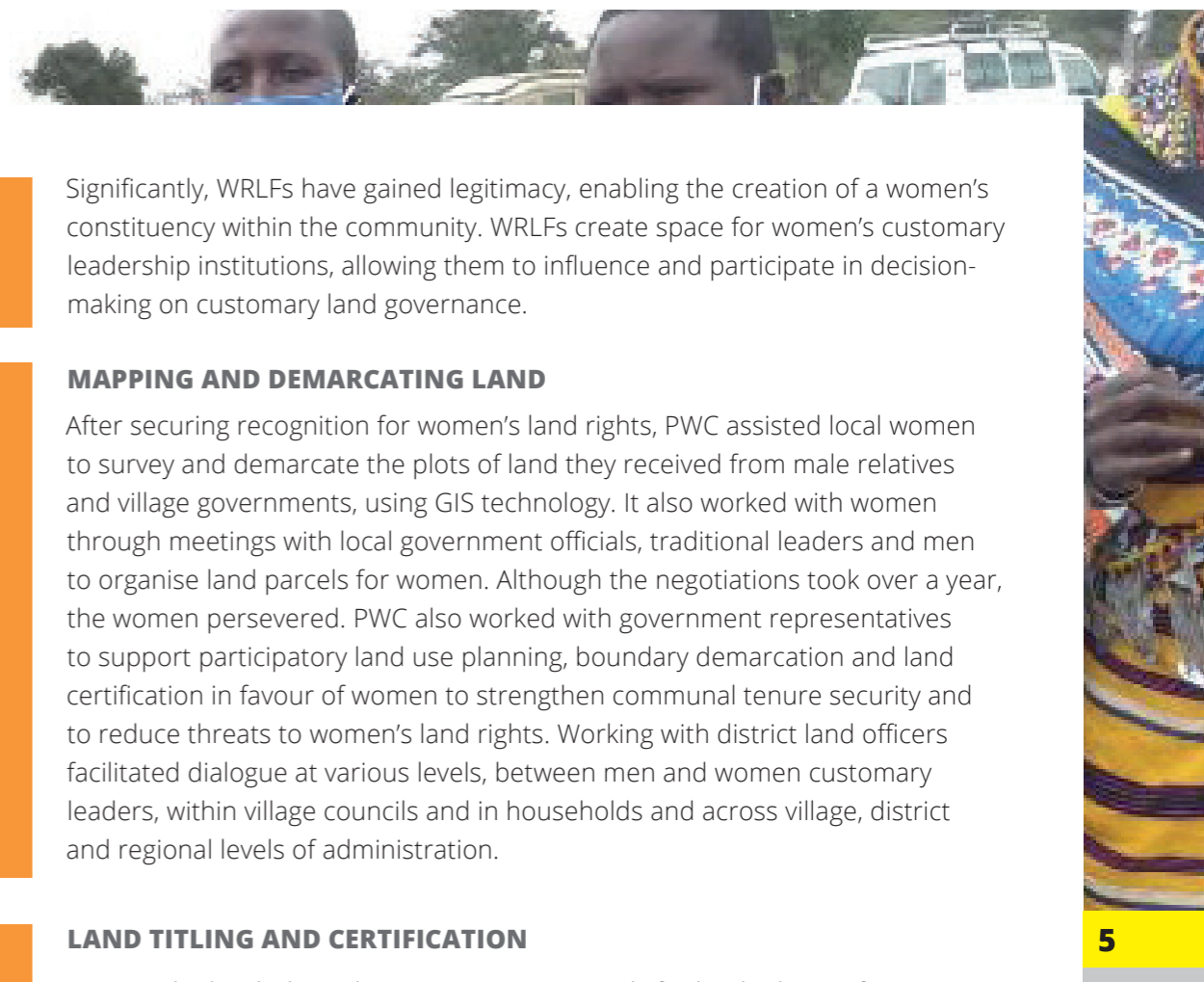


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MOVING TOWARDS PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

PWC's WRLFs and its pool of community paralegals have empowered women through education on women's rights, including land rights, leadership, economic empowerment and public participation in land-related decision-making. As a result, pastoralist women can participate in conversations about land. Additionally, because the WRLFs have engaged men, traditional leaders and local governments in multi-stakeholder dialogues about women's land rights, they are all now aware of the importance of including women in community land management and land-related decision-making platforms. As a result, women have been allocated land titles, protecting their land rights and livelihoods.

THE GOOD PRACTICE IN FIVE SIMPLE STEPS



4

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ESTABLISHING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND LEADERSHIP FORUMS (WRLFS)

Indigenous women's land rights in Tanzania are insecure because of both external commercial pressures and internal pressures. External pressures include large-scale land investments and state-sponsored land expropriation schemes. Internal barriers include customary norms that deny women land rights and decision-making powers. Traditionally, women only have land use rights at the discretion of a male head of household.

To support women in claiming their collective land rights in the face of growing demands for land by foreign commercial interests and local elites, PWC organises WRLFs to engage women on the issue of their land rights. The aims of the WRLFs are three-fold:

- 1 to strengthen women's capacity to engage in key local and national networks in Tanzania;
- 2 to establish learning processes for the critical review of organisational competencies; and
- 3 to support overall organisational management.

WORKING THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORMS TO PROTECT LAND RIGHTS

PWC and the WRLFs engaged and negotiated with men, traditional leaders and village governments through a series of meetings to allocate land to women. PWC uses various tools, such as social norms transformation training using the Securing Your Family's Future (SYFF) curriculum it has co-authored. In the past, indigenous women were not able to influence land-related decisions. However, because of the WRLFs, women are now presenting their land rights challenges in public forums, increasing their influence within their communities. Additionally, women have strategically increased their influence within their communities by obtaining seats on village and district governing councils and collaborating with customary leaders. Through these engagements, women have challenged leaders on land rights issues and have changed the way that community matters are handled.

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MAPPING AND DEMARCATING LAND

After securing recognition for women's land rights, PWC assisted local women to survey and demarcate the plots of land they received from male relatives and village governments, using GIS technology. It also worked with women through meetings with local government officials, traditional leaders and men to organise land parcels for women. Although the negotiations took over a year, the women persevered. PWC also worked with government representatives to support participatory land use planning, boundary demarcation and land certification in favour of women to strengthen communal tenure security and to reduce threats to women's land rights. Working with district land officers facilitated dialogue at various levels, between men and women customary leaders, within village councils and in households and across village, district and regional levels of administration.

4

LAND TITLING AND CERTIFICATION

PWC worked with the indigenous women to apply for land title certificates based on government guidelines. The Commissioner for Lands and District Land Officers approved and issued land certificates, while land surveyors facilitated land demarcations and installed beacons to mark boundaries using GIS technologies. As a result, the women have received communal and individual Certificates of Communal Rights of Occupancy (CCROs).

5

ENHANCING LEADERSHIP BY WOMEN AND YOUTH

PWC realised that young pastoralist women often lack the skills and techniques necessary to manage their lands effectively. Additionally, women pastoralists are often excluded from decision-making spaces. In responding to this need, PWC provides training to equip women with the necessary tools and knowledge to use their lands productively. Additionally, it links women to micro-credit and social enterprise funds to enhance their access to capital. In 2017, PWC established Engishon Fund Ltd to increase indigenous women's access to microfinance.

Regarding women's participation in decision-making, PWC builds the leadership capacities of women and youth to increase their influence in land governance. A total of 177 women, of whom 40 are youth, secured leadership positions in village and district governments during the 2019 and 2020 general elections in Monduli, Ngorongoro and Longido with the help of WRLFs. PWC trained and worked with a network of 54 paralegals and 34 WRLFs to prepare pastoralist women for leadership positions.

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KEY FACTORS OF SUCCESS FOR REPLICABILITY AND ADAPTABILITY PURPOSES

6

1 Strategic stakeholder engagement

Working with men, traditional leaders and local government was critical to addressing patriarchal norms that excluded women from owning land. Strengthening women's capacity to participate in land governance platforms and encouraging collective social action on land issues resulted in women claiming their land rights.

2 Engaging paralegals

WRLFs, working with community paralegals, were critical in mobilising support systems to recognise women's land rights. The paralegals and WRLFs are instrumental in mobilising women and youth to advocate for their land rights. They gave legal advice on the land demarcation process and the issuance of land certificates. WRLFs and paralegals have also been instrumental in supporting the inclusion of women and youth in village governance.

3 Participatory land use planning and boundary demarcation

Participatory land use planning, boundary demarcation and CCROs strengthen communal tenure security and reduce the threat of large-scale land acquisitions in rural communities.

FIND OUT MORE

Securing Your Family's Future Transforming Peer Norms about Women's Land Rights. A Course for Women

http://www.pastoralwomenscouncil.org/uploads/1/0/7/1/10710001/syff_for_women_-_combined_full_curriculum_.pdf

Pastoral Women's Council website <http://www.pastoralwomenscouncil.org/>

7

LESSONS LEARNED

1 Access to micro-finance

While the transformation of social norms is critical to ensuring women's access to and ownership of land, farmers need capital to adopt climate-smart farming practices and to earn incomes. As such, they need assistance in accessing micro-finance and agricultural extension services to adopt climate-smart farming practices.

2 Joint land use planning

Despite women having CCROs, their exclusion from land use decision-making can inhibit the productive use of land. Joint land use planning enables strategic engagement with men, traditional leadership structures and local government on the subject of women's land rights.

3 Knowledge dissemination

Documenting women's land rights experiences, including land conflicts, strengthens knowledge for addressing individual and collective land rights challenges. This information should be disseminated widely to advance the dialogue on pastoralist women's land rights.



UNITED FOR LAND RIGHTS