



Minutes of the Annual National Engagement Strategy Uganda Platform Meeting

Location: Hotel Africana Kampala

DATE: 9th December 2021



The NES Uganda platform is mandated to connect its members by holding various meetings including annual general meeting. The annual NES platform meeting is used by NES members to reflect on the platform's performance and come up with better strategies and also plan for the following year. The meetings is also used to review progress in implementation of the work plan.

List of Participants

No	Name	Organisation	District
1	Frances Birungi	UCOBAC	Kampala
2	Jordana Wamboga	UCOBAC	Kampala
3	Pamella Lakidi	ULA	Kampala
4	Jonathan Ochom	LANDnet	Kampala
5	Lillian Achola	LANDnet	Kampala
6	Andrew Ewoku	Saferworld	Kampala
7	Rachel Mugarura	ACME	Kampala
8	Agnes Kirabo	FRA	Kampala
9	Lucky Brian Wamboka	FRA	Kampala
10	Geoffrey Ssebagala	Witness Radio	Kampala
11	Joan Bulyerali	Witness Radio	Kampala
12	Daphne Achen	LASPnet	Kampala
13	Oscar Oketch Kanyangareng	PPF	Moroto
14	Padde Auku	TI Uganda	Kampala
15	Mary Baganizi	Trocaire	Kampala
16	Grace Mwoole	Media	Kampala
17	Herbert Rwothomio	LICO	Nebbi
18	Hawa Musiitwa	Youth Plus Policy Network Uganda	Kampala
19	Iris Nagudi	Youth Plus Policy Network Uganda	Kampala
20	Hanah Mwesigwa	Action Aid	Kampala
21	Rebecca Apio	Land Justice Network	Lira
22	Jimmy Ochom	Oxfam	Kampala
23	Shafik Sekitto	thinkIT	Kampala
24	Albert Taremwa	LOSCO	Kabale

25	Irahari Grace	LOSCO	Kabale
26	Irene Buwule	MoLHUD	Kampala
27	Peace Nabakembo	MoLHUD	Kampala
28	Hanah Longole	ACC	Moroto
29	Gando Fred	Kaplus	Karenga
30	Nakwang Violet	AWARE	Kaabong
31	Theresa Auma Eilu	LEMU	Kampala
32	Benjamin Ouke	LEMU	Kampala
33	Florence Adupo	LEMU	Kampala
34	Alex Sebukalu	LEMU	Kampala
35	MonicaNalugo	AWARE	Kaabong
36	Muhamed Lunyago	MISR	Kampala
37	Adventino Banjwa	MISR	Kampala
38	Linda Nankya	Land Justice Network	Lira
39	Kakura Emmy K	Life Concern (LICO)	Zombo
40	Hashara Caroline	Oxfam	Kampala
41	Peter Ojongole	LEMU	Kampala
42	Dr. Doreen Kobusingye	NES	Kampala

Program

Activity	Responsible	Time
Arrival and Registration of Participants	Secretariat	8am
Introductions	NES Facilitator	8:15am
NES Updates	NES Facilitator	8:25am
NES Host	LEMU	8:45am
Breakfast	Hotel	9:00am
Thematic Groups Presentations		
Gender, Land and Vulnerable Groups	UCOBAC	9:40am
Land Rights Defenders	Witness Radio	10:20am
Land and Investment	Saferworld	11:00am
Natural resource Management	FRA	11:40am

Land Governance	LANDnet	12:20pm
Lunch	Hotel	1:00pm
Saferworld's Project on Drivers of Conflict	Saferworld	2:00pm
Training on Multi-stakeholder Platform Governance	Alain-ILC	3:00pm
Discussion, Way forward	NES Facilitator	4:00pm
Evening Tea	Hotel	5:00pm
Departure	ALL	5:15pm

Introductions

Dr. Doreen Kobusingye the NES facilitator welcomed members to the annual NES platform meeting 2021 and thanked them for creating time to attend the meeting. She opened up introductions of members and their respective organizations of affiliation. Dr. Doreen presented a brief insight of what NES is; a platform that brings together various local, international, private sector and research institutions working on land and natural resource governance in the country. NES Uganda platform is hosted by Land and Equity Movement in Uganda and coordinated by an 11 members' steering committee. This strategy was developed by platform members to guide championing of land reforms in the country. This platform seeks to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagements in championing formulation and implementation of policies that promote people centered land governance.

PRESENTATIONS ON THE AGENDA

1. NES UPDATES – NES Facilitator, Dr. Doreen Kobusingye

Dr. Doreen presented about the NES strategy and platform highlighting its goal, strategic objectives, composition, funders and partners, thematic areas/groups, governance of the platform and how to join NES. She presented the work plan indicating the number of activities that have been successfully implemented and those that were not yet implemented. Details of her presentation were captured and can be accessed via this link; <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1hnslhLbarkOAdwQLpZuohNQoP-tHRens3yY8VdLZGk/edit?usp=sharing>

2. NES Uganda Host – Executive Director LEMU, Theresa Auma Eilu

She welcomed NES members from different organizations and let participants know about LEMU as a national NGO that works for the protection of customary land tenure for the most vulnerable societies in the country. She informed members that LEMU documented learning's, challenges and best practices around customary land that may be useful to other relevant stakeholders working on land. She added that LEMU is proud of hosting NES and committed to supporting its cause.

Thematic Group Presentations

3. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM GOVERNANCE – ALAIN ESSIMI BILOA, ILC Secretariat

The Annual NES Uganda Platform brought so many members together, it was prior planned that the meeting would be used to conduct a short training on multi-stakeholder platform governance. Alain Essimi from ILC Secretariat presented on the key components of multi-stakeholder platform governance which covered matters of decision making, roles and responsibilities, structures, principles, formal rules and regulations, membership, code of conduct and accountability. Alain's presentation can be accessed via [this link; https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1u-LCTUiAZf4Bw3WWk1MIO4IDRU0ZW86n/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117918612669585828862&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1u-LCTUiAZf4Bw3WWk1MIO4IDRU0ZW86n/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117918612669585828862&rtpof=true&sd=true)

After his presentation, participants engaged in an interactive session on issues of membership and conclusions of this session are recorded below;

Establishing criteria for membership

The NES steering committee is responsible for allowing members to join and inform members of the National Engagement Strategy.

Benefits and Obligations of being a member

- Organizations have been able to collaborate and partner with other organizations working on land
- Provided space to share work at a national level
- Documenting and sharing best practices locally, at regional, national, international level through ILC data base.
- NES is a collective voice to influence land policy through the platform

Obligations

- Members must undertake and contribute to collective resource mobilization
- Members must share best practices and information as required with others
- Take part in coordination with other stakeholders
- NES facilitator makes sure communication is open to all and opportunities shared with all

How organization can withdraw from the platform/ Exclusion

- The platform can decide to terminate membership depending on the organization's behavior and conduct.
- The organization can decide to quit with sound reasons and in writing to the steering committee.

4. GENDER, LAND AND VULNERABLE GROUPS – UCOBAC, Jordana Wamboga

Jordana Wamboga, a project officer in UCOBAC took lead on this, presenting the contextual analysis on women land rights in Uganda and the activities UCOBAC implemented that were funded by NES. The activities that were successfully implemented include; 1). Hold capacity building of NES members, Land actors and grassroots land advocates/champions in Kilimanjaro initiatives charter of demands. 2). Develop a policy advocacy documentary on gap between law and policy and call for

implementation of progressive land laws on women land rights. 3). Carry out community land forums on women's land rights- Focusing on advocacy for policy reform, enactment and implementation- Advocacy to close gap between law and policy. 4). Hold National level Stakeholder policy dialogue for government leaders, traditional leaders on Women's land rights. 5). Develop a policy brief on to influence policy makers and implementers on enhancing women's land rights UCOBAC presentation can be accessed here; - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1a_JQiqqX36xF-bMDTons-GsFtCPdc14GI_ETvye7gv4/edit?usp=sharing

Questions to UCOBAC

- **Can you tell us more about the Kilimanjaro Chatter, how was it designed?**

Response

The Kilimanjaro chatter was started by grass root women in Tanzania, they climbed Mt Kilimanjaro to express their dissatisfaction and they formed an initiative which was presented in Arusha. This was adopted because the issues that affect women are the same. Jordana promised to share the document (the Kilimanjaro chatter) with the thematic leads.

- **Please tell us how you conduct capacity building in the community.**

Response

We do capacity building through supporting civil society organizations and telling people what opportunities exist in the context of fighting for their rights.

- **What do you as UCOBAC when you face an injustice?**

Response

We work with structures, local government, and police so in this case we are guided by the law.

5. LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS – WITNESS RADIO, Joan Bulyerali

Geoffrey Ssebagala the executive director of Witness Radio Uganda presented on the situation of Land rights defenders in the country. He informed the members of the massive violation of the rights of land rights defenders as a way of destroying their zeal to defend community land rights. Joan Bulyerali from the legal defense department presented about the activities that Witness Radio implemented. The activities involved legal representation for community Land Rights Defenders. Details of her presentation can be accessed via this link; <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HOsV40qqHo-8wX-DfXXSsrkSJTTD4maPXZeC2znBgBY/edit?usp=sharing>

Questions to Witness Radio

- **Is it in the interest of the Law to tell the customary land owners that the law belongs to them or not?**

Response

Yes it is okay to let people/ community know about the law.

- **Who are the human rights defenders and who is a land grabber?** -Teresa Auma from LEMU responded that Land Rights defenders are people who are evicted or are in the process so they team up to fight for their rights like getting a fair compensation from land grabbers. Land

grabbers are different MNCs who need large scale land so they evict people after dealing with state actors without engaging the communities in these negotiations.

- **How do you manage cases from police within project time, and how do you deal with corruption cases?**

In most cases this is hard because by the time these cases arise, the funding to follow up these cases has expired and little can be done in this event.

6. LAND GOVERNANCE – LANDnet, Jonathan Ochom

Jonathan Ochom the executive director presented to members what LANDnet does in the field of land and the activities that were funded by NES and implemented by LANDnet. The activities were successfully implemented and they include the following; 1). A study on the perspectives of various customary land owners (communities) on the establishment of a customary registry. 2). Mass sensitization and awareness of Customary Registry. And 3). National meeting on Customary Registry. From the study conducted it was realized that; Customary Land Registry will lead to more accurate standards in documentation of customary land rights, and communities expressed fears of cost if a Customary Land Registry is established since it will involve use of surveyors

Details of this presentation can be accessed here;
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UB-xm9TsH4KFI6d3CysXZ3_HKIVHbu2UYH5_r83gMjk/edit?usp=sharing



7. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – Food Rights Alliance, Lucky Brian Wamboka

Food Rights Alliance as the thematic lead on natural resource management presented on its work highlighting lessons learnt and challenges faced. Lucky Brian informed members that FRA successfully implemented 3 NES funded activities which include the following; 1). Coordinate NES Thematic Group activities. 2). Conduct a NES introductory meeting to legal and policy provisions on management of fragile ecosystems in the rangelands. And 3). Conduct a NES high level dialogue on management of natural resources in the rangelands. FRA pointed out that there was no specific governance framework is available on rangelands however an oversight on rangeland is provided through a multi sectoral approach (Agriculture, Water and Environment and Lands). FRA recommended that; Continuous capacity building and awareness creation on sustainable management of fragile ecosystems is key. This presentation can be accessed here; https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1QUES1Rvzdjd5gdc59_RyJblvtDq67s8YX05orsY0mf0/edit?usp=sharing

8. LAND AND INVESTMENT – Saferworld, Andrew Ewoku

As the lead in land and investment, Saferworld received funds from NES Uganda to roll out or implement the LANDex tool in Uganda. Andrew Ewoku informed members that the tool was implemented through a one-day training, it was both physical and online where the ILC team trained the NES members on the LANDex tool. Participants of the training were later asked to fill in the online tool however most of the participants have not yet fully filled in the tool. Saferworld is still following with the participants so that they can accomplish the task.

Details of Saferworld's presentation can be accessed here; https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ggKHpbsAOzl64zG_1qhlkav9bkELiFKbhEpAvmJUI8/edit?usp=sharing

Saferworld contributed 6 million Uganda shillings towards the NES Annual Platform Meeting. It therefore used the meeting to present about its project on drivers of conflict where land plays a very big role. Details about this project can be accessed here; https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YvhBhHKNkgZhSkZO40cGp_4zW97kunEiDSOzBmDTMRE/edit?usp=sharing

DISCUSSION AND WAY FORWARD

1. Allocation of members- NES should allocate members to different thematic areas and present a membership form clarifying that.
2. Communication – NES facilitator and administration should always communicate to all thematic leads on any emerging issues.
3. About data sovereignty, the LANDex tool is available countries where national engagement strategies exist and any organization can use this tool and data for information purposes.
4. Binding documents like the constitution should be made available to all members.
5. About the new strategy which will start in 2022 – Facilitator should request members to collectively suggest broader areas on intervention and also zero in on what NES can handle. This will aid in formulating the best approach for intervention.
6. Reporting – This should be done annually on the activities done by NES members but should be centralized with the facilitator taking lead on this.

Where NES Uganda should put emphasis

- Policies on pastoralism and range lands.
- Analyzing policies on land.
- Coordination among members, partners and grass root organizations
- Proposal of maximum acreage of land that should be got by land owners and engage policy makers on price/rates.
- Issues of compensation when people's land is taken- there should be standardization and NES can engage herself in contributing to this.
- The legal framework around customary land is still weak to be at the same level with other tenures so there is still need to engage in this.
- Advocacy about the land fund.
- Sensitizing masses on land rights.
- Helping communities access legal aid services
- Holding regional dialogues on land issues
- Policy co-implementation and collaborations
- Hold activities to help/involve youth in land governance especially decision making.
- Resource mobilization

- Work with partners on ground (community based organizations or what are called people's organizations).
- Improve land rights defenders protection
- Evaluate NES performance on the previous strategy and develop the next strategy.
- Translation of land policies into local languages
- Work on a document stipulating how to become a member and upload it on the NES website
- Increase modalities of engaging scholars in the NES platform
- Compliance to requirements or laws by NES members.

CLOSING REMARKS

The NES facilitator Dr. Doreen thanked participants for attending the annual meeting and invited Ms. Agnes kirabo from Food Rights Alliance who gave closing remarks pointing out that NES Uganda had made big strides in its first year of implementation and she officially closed the Annual NES Uganda Platform Meeting.

