OPENING LETTER – COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

At UCRT we believe that lasting progress can only come from sustained collective efforts. We recognize that in every stage of our work – from working on the ground with marginalized communities to influencing change in national level policies – collaboration is the key to success. And in 2012, we saw some important impacts and achievements that were the direct result of our collaborative efforts.

In the Yaeda valley, UCRT successfully helped Barabaig pastoralists secure land rights, the first time that pastoralists were collectively issued with a Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO) in Tanzania for their communal livestock grazing pastures. This pioneering initiative, which builds on UCRT’s 2011 achievement in securing a CCRO for neighboring Hadzabe hunter-gatherer communities to safeguard their core land area in the Yaeda valley, has reduced livestock mortality (which occurs due to prolonged drought and land degradation) and improved food security for both communities in the area. Finalizing the CCROs for these pastoralist communities, which has been achieved through close collaboration between UCRT, district and central government and the local communities, creates an important precedent model that can be expanded to other areas where UCRT works. In 2013 we hope to continue down this same path and assist the community of Eskesh in Yaeda Valley acquire a CCRO. We also hope to assist the indigenous Akie hunter-gatherers obtain their first CCRO in Kiteto district over a roughly 30,000 hectare expanse of the southern Maasai Steppe.

Through collaborating with pastoralist women and traditional leaders, we founded 17 Women’s Leadership Forums (WLF’s) at the village level in three districts. These forums promote solidarity and engagement of women on local and regional land conflict issues, giving them a stronger voice in decision-making opportunities and providing them a platform to promote stronger property rights. By working with traditional leadership structures, these forums have been officially recognized and accepted by male traditional leaders, a revolutionary change in gender power structures in these communities.
In Longido, we have managed to significantly increase food security in the district over the last four years by working in partnership with other local NGOs to implement the Trias-Belgian Fund for Food Security Programme. And our recent engagement with four communities in Longido has significantly increased their income from tourism. As a result village governments sponsored 87 students to attend school and they increased their annual investment in two nursery, two primary and two secondary schools.

Our collaboration goes beyond collective action and joint projects. As part of a collaborative learning process, we joined together with our partners, Maliasili Initiatives and Pastoral Women’s Council, to discuss and learn from our experiences over the past decade working on land and property rights issues across northern Tanzania. This led to the publication of a widely circulated review, Securing Community Land Rights in Northern Tanzania. We have also raised local community voices by strengthening our participation in networks, such as the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) and the Katiba Initiative (KAI), so that collectively we can work to advance the rights of indigenous people and pastoralists within Tanzania’s new draft constitution.

It is only through partnerships with our supporters that our achievements are made possible. In 2012, thanks to our renewed collaboration with African Initiatives we welcomed DfID UKAID as a new funder while continuing our partnerships with existing partners and supporters such as Oxfam, Flora Family Foundation and the Northern Tanzania Rangelands Initiative.

Finally, it is collaboration within the team itself that ensures we are successful in our aims. UCRT is lucky to have dedicated and experienced staff who are able to deal with the complexities and challenges of carrying out what is often politically sensitive work, and who understand the importance of building networks and coalitions. We will carry over these lessons and experiences into all our work in 2013. We look forward to another year of collaboration!

Sincerely yours,

Edward Loure
- Director
About UCRT

Our Mission is to promote and enhance communities’ capacity to improve their livelihoods and to sustainably manage their natural resources.

Our Vision is one of improved livelihoods for pastoralists, hunter-gatherers and agro-pastoralist communities through social justice and sustainable natural resource management.

HOW WE WORK

Although UCRT has specific core programmatic areas where we focus our efforts, in almost all cases where we work, we tend to integrate these programmes to achieve more sustainable outcomes. In other words, we see our work in communities as broad and comprehensive and we believe it is this approach that has led to our successes. UCRT empowers communities and builds their capacity comprehensively to ensure progress will be communal, embraced and sustainable.

Our six core programmes include:

- Community Natural Resource Management
- Land Rights
- Community Capacity Building
- Women’s Community Leadership Forums
- Education Support
- Awareness Raising & Advocacy
We believe that if people are put first, if their rights are upheld, and if they are provided with the right support, they can achieve truly transformational improvements in their communities, for society at large and for the ecosystems that we all share.
“UCRT project village” refers to a village where UCRT carried out activities in 2012.

Our work in one village usually entails a lot of programmatic cross-over as we take a holistic approach to our engagement at the community level. Therefore, it can include a variety of activities from land use planning and building community capacity, to managing their resources and providing sponsorship for secondary school students.
ENHANCED COMMUNITY ACCESS TO AND BENEFITS FROM THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES

Communities living in Northern Tanzania are highly dependent on their surrounding natural resources to support their livelihoods. But today, access to these resources has become increasingly limited as populations grow and competition over land use intensifies. This has resulted in fragmentation in rangelands, thereby decreasing mobility and access to resources, as well as heightened conflicts and land loss. At UCRT we are working with communities to help them change this.

- **3** - Villages in Loliondo, Digidigo, Malambo and Piyaya, developed village by-laws, which gives them the legal mechanism to enforce control over their natural resources. These were approved by the Village Councils and General Assemblies, and it is expected that they will be approved at the district level in 2013.

- **4** - Village governments in Longido signed fair, transparent and well negotiated contracts with tourism companies which increased collective revenue from tourism for those villages from Tsh.1,300,000 in 2008 to Tsh.32,000,000 in 2013. Two secondary schools, two primary schools and two nursery schools were built and 87 students were sponsored by the village governments thanks to the increased income.

- **26,379** – Number of people in Ngorongoro and Longido Districts who have benefited from UCRT-supported water projects. These projects have improved their access to water resources, thereby decreasing conflicts over water and lessening the burden on women who were required to walk many kilometers each day to collect water.

- **8,200** – Barabaig pastoralists from across Tanzania were convened by UCRT as part of a unique assembly to discuss the challenges that face their communities. It was the first time such a gathering had ever been held and as a result a National Executive Committee of 12 Barabaig leaders was formed. The Committee is now meeting regularly to discuss ways to address key issues of concern, such as forced land evictions and lack of access to education services.
UCRT helps communities improve and strengthen their rights and access to natural resources by building local capacity, codifying community rights, developing sustainable land use and management plans and collaboratively working for policy improvements that better recognise and support community-based natural resource management. In addition, we believe communities must benefit from these resources to encourage them to continue to practice sustainable natural resource management. Therefore, we also train communities to identify locally available natural resources that can be utilized for economic development.

We facilitate village formulation of sustainable natural resource management plans and support and guide villages to ensure they enter into fair contracts and agreements, such as eco-tourism or hunting enterprises, with investors.
“I was the founder of Noondoto Village. UCRT helped us formalize our land use plan and now our cattle can graze in different places according to the plan. The plan has reduced cattle deaths because we can now rotate to places where we can access water and pasture in the dry season. Those places have been secured for us and the by-laws are helping us enforce the land use.”

- Noah Panian, Noondoto Village, Longido District
38,358 - Hectares of communal grazing land that was secured for pastoralists in the Yaeda Valley by obtaining four government-allocated Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO). These certificates - analogous to a collective land title - secure a common grazing zone for the Barabaig pastoralists and they help prevent future land encroachment upon the neighboring Hadzabe hunter-gatherers’ own protected land area.

17,000 - People in five villages in Kiteto District received support from UCRT to successfully claim back their land from invaders who were illegally cultivating land traditionally used for pastoralism.

4 - After being divided in 2010, four villages in Longido District secured their village land tenure through completing a new demarcation process and approving village by-laws at the village level. The communities will seek District approval of the by-laws in 2013 to finalize the process.

30 - Pastoralist women in Ngorongoro and Hanang districts were allocated land titles by their communities, increasing their food security and challenging traditional cultural norms that prevent women from owning property.
Conflict resolution at last between the Loita and Batemi peoples?

The conflict over natural resource use between the Batemi (Sonjo) and Loita (Maasai) in Sale and Loliondo Divisions in northern Tanzania, has been ongoing for possibly 200 years, with major clashes in the 1970s and again more recently. The Batemi are mainly agro-pastoralist farmers and the Loita are seasonally mobile pastoralists. Historically, the Batemi hold that the Loita are historic immigrants from Kenya and therefore have no right to occupy the territory.

Due to population increases, growing climate variability and pressures on limited natural resources, conflict between the two communities has increased recently. Interventions by government authorities and other institutions have made little progress on improving the situation.

UCRT has been working with the traditional leadership of the two communities since 2008 in hopes of bringing about resolution. In February 2012, we facilitated a workshop for the council of elders from the two communities. The elders reflected together on all the different methods that had been used in the past and the successes and failures of each. Based on these discussions, they came up with a new strategy for intervention and agreed that they would form a joint council of elders for mediation, which had not previously been involved in the conflict resolution process. In order to resolve the boundary conflicts, two representatives from each community were chosen from both Batemi and Loita villages (excluding those villages directly involved in the dispute) to mediate and make recommendations. In the end, the joint council of elders helped the 6 villages (3 Sonjo, 3 Maasai) agree upon established and recognised village boundaries.

By placing the traditional leadership at the centre of the conflict resolution process, trust was built between the communities and the mediators. As a result, social and economic stability has been restored in the two communities, with previously closed footpaths now reopened and access to the Wasso market and healthcare services available again. Neighbours from different communities started sharing resources and farming together again, and outbreaks of small-scale conflict have greatly reduced.

The government has gratefully acknowledged UCRT’s and the communities’ achievement, particularly since previous interventions had failed. The District Commissioner wrote to UCRT asking them to continue with the work, and in January 2013, the Minister for Lands, Hon Anna Tijabiuka, visited the communities and endorsed their strategy for conflict resolution and acknowledging the boundaries that had been agreed. UCRT is now pursuing government funding to have the village boundaries officially demarcated.
STRENGTHENED WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND ROLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

17 - Women’s Leadership Forums were established and received training on land laws and other laws pertaining to women’s rights and participation in village governance and decision-making. The Forums give Maasai women an official platform in three districts that is recognized by government and traditional leaders, from which they can organize collectively to claim their rights to land and to end oppressive cultural practices.

15 - Following trainings by UCRT on land laws and women’s rights to land, 15 women made official requests to their Village Councils and Village Assemblies to obtain title deed to their land.

2 - After receiving training from UCRT on land and property rights, two female widows in Simanjiro have made formal requests to the traditional leadership that they inherit the land and property of their deceased husbands. So far, one case has been successful and the other is hoped to be resolved in 2013.
UCRT is helping establish women’s community leadership forums at village, ward and wider district scales to promote solidarity and engagement of women on local and regional land conflict issues. These forums are provided with technical training on land policy, law and administration. The forums mobilize women and the wider community to:

- Collectively address existing threats to the communities’ lands;
- Demand accountable governance by local elected leaders at the village and district council levels;
- Participate in village government meetings as elected leaders or as observers
- Actively and effectively participate in relevant civil meetings, such as the meetings of the customary leadership, meetings of NGOs, CBOs and FBOs
- Ensure all community members’ views are taken into account in land management decisions made by Village Councils (as per the land laws);
- Identify and benefit from economic empowerment opportunities for women.

“The Women’s Leadership Forum is helping us recognize and defend our rights. It helps enable women to protect their land, and fight for their rights and the rights of others. It is strengthening our voices.

Right now we are mobilizing to protect and reclaim land that has been taken from us pastoralists for agricultural uses. For decades our land has been lost or sold and each time we move to another part of Kiteto. To protect the land, the WLF mobilized the community to employ community guards. Each woman in the village has contributed 2,000Tsh and the WLF contributed an additional 200,000Tsh. We also got men to contribute and agree to our plan. We are now employing 20 community guards who chase away land invaders. The majority of invaders have now left, and it has helped us a lot. We are now planning for pieces of the reclaimed land to be distributed by the Village Council. Already, 20 women have been given plots, and we are hoping more women will also receive them. Women are using their plots to grow food for their families.”

- Roze Alais, 45, member of WLF in Katikati Village, Kiteto district
EDUCATION SUPPORT

Without education vulnerable pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities will never be able to protect their rights, culture and natural resources. Thanks to the invaluable support of The Dorobo Fund, UCRT were able to continue offering sponsorships to promising students from marginalised communities throughout the districts we work in. 76 students were awarded with scholarships in 2012.
“We are facing a lot of problems with our traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyles. Now when we catch game we are arrested and brought to the police station. We have to find another way to survive so we need education.

UCRT have helped us so much. They have sponsored Noah and I from Standard 1 in primary school until now when we’re getting our teaching certificates. I want to go on to get my Diploma and eventually teach Science back in my community. No one from our village is qualified as a teacher; Noah and I will be the first. We only know of two other people in the whole Akie tribe who are teachers. Most of our friends have not completed primary school. I am the first person in my family to be educated. For sure if UCRT had not helped us then we would not have got this opportunity.

Before we were alone, now education has given us awareness. Without sponsors we wouldn’t even know the meaning of ‘A’ in the alphabet!”

- Sangau Masiar, 24, from Ngapapa village, Kiteto district
GIVING BACK

In 2012 UCRT have continued to give back to the community of Olisiti where the head office is located.

OLASITI ORPHANS CENTRE

UCRT continued with their support of the administration of the funds for the Olasiti Orphans Centre. The Centre support orphans and vulnerable children within Olisiti village. UCRT employs a project manager with funding from the Friends of Tanzanian Orphans and Dorobo Fund. In 2012 the project sponsored 35 children to nursery school, 56 students to primary school and 48 students to secondary school. For more information on the centre visit http://www.tanzanianorphans.org

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

In addition to the Orphan centre the Olisiti program focuses educating women around their reproductive health and support for those living with HIV. In 2012 we continued to facilitate our weekly support group for those affected by HIV/AIDS and supported others in getting tested for HIV. We also trained 20 community members in making organic compost for their crops, saving them the cost of using pesticides that often contain harmful chemicals.

“In 2012 my role mainly focused on mobilising women in Olisiti regarding family planning. When I started many men were against their wives using contraception, even though these families have a very low economic status and can’t afford more children. Since I began this work in 2011 I’ve started to see men’s attitudes change and they are becoming more supportive, they are beginning to see it’s hard to pay to educate many children.

After meeting with husbands and wives together at their homes I invited women to attend training on family planning. There was a nurse at the training to give the women information on what planning methods are available. As a result of the training 50 women chose to have their tubes tied. Most of them already had many children and were relieved to know that there was a way they could ensure they would not have more. 60 women opted to start using other methods of contraception. I accompanied all the women to their surgical appointments and UCRT, with funding from the Dorobo Fund, paid for their care, as they are too poor to afford to pay for their own healthcare.”

- Immaculata Lekey,
  Community Mobiliser, Olisiti Village
INFLUENCED NATIONAL-LEVEL POLICY AND DIALOGUE

- **2** – Trips to parliament where UCRT participated in efforts to advocate for improved natural resource and land rights for hunter-gatherers and pastoralists. These trips included holding meetings with members of the Land and Natural Resources Committee, which subsequently presented recommendations to Parliament on ways to strengthen protections of hunter-gatherers.

- **10** – Civil Society Organizations, including UCRT, that comprise the steering committee of the Katiba Initiative, an informal coalition of civil society organizations and representatives advocating for the interests of pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities to be represented in the new draft Tanzanian constitution. The coalition is focusing mainly on land and natural resource rights and they held a meeting with President Kikwete to express their views about the constitutional review process.

- **4** – Countries UCRT visited - Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe – as part of its work with the Tanzanian Land Alliance (TALA), a national network of seven NGOs working on land issues in Tanzania. The country visits were part of an effort to link to other regional land networks and coalitions dealing with land issues so that TALA and its members can learn from other countries’ experiences in dealing with land issues and draw lessons that can be applied in Tanzania.

UCRT works to improve national policies and promote good governance by:

1. Informing policy and law-makers about how best to help communities realise their needs and secure their rights;
2. Building community leadership that is accountable to their constituencies at the grassroots level;
3. Increasing women’s representation in decision-making bodies at the local level.
“When I visited Parliament with the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA), which we are members of, we met with the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and we discussed with them about land and natural resource issues that are important to pastoralists and hunter-gatherers. The Committee responded by directing the Ministries of Wildlife and Livestock to advise the government about these issues, using the information and recommendations we had provided them. The Committee quoted our report exactly in their written report to Parliament, specifically when commenting on issues of land allocation and protecting hunter-gatherers as a minority group.”

- Edward Lekaita, Legal advisor & Simanjiro Kiteto Programme Coordinator
UCRT believes that building strong collaborative relationships with other organizations and stakeholders is the most effective approach in dealing with the complexities and political issues that working on land and resource rights can bring. We understand the value of collaboration and network building, and we were proud to partner with the following organisations:

- African Initiatives
- Carbon Tanzania
- Community Research and Development Services
- Hadzabe Survival Council
- International Centre for Research on Women
- IIED-Kimmage
- Longido Community Development Organisation
- Ngorongoro NGO Network
- Pastoral Women’s Council
- Pastoralist Indigenous NGO’s Forum
- Pastoralists Katiba Initiative
- Tanzania Land Alliance
- Tanzania Natural Resource Forum

UCRT would like to thank all those who have supported us and contributed towards the work that we carried out in 2012:

- Anonymous
- Department for International Development - UKAID
- Dorobo Fund for Tanzania
- Flora Family Foundation
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- Gorta
- Maliasili Initiatives
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Oxfam
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trias/Belgian Fund for Food Security
- Wildlife Conservation Society
2012 was a challenging year for the organisation financially. It was the first year in many that UCRT did not receive funding from two long-term supporters, Cordaid and Norwegian People’s Aid. This reduction in funding, which particularly affected our core funds, meant that 12 staff members were let go after a restructuring process. Despite these challenges, there were also positive developments. An anonymous donor began funding the organisation at the end of 2011, and UCRT also welcomed DFiD - UKAID as a new donor in 2012. UKAID is supporting a three year project aimed at empowering pastoralist communities in Ngorongoro and Simanjiro to secure their rights over their land.

Organizational Development in 2012 – A focus on Finances

UCRT has responded to its restructuring process by looking at ways to increase it’s internal capacity, particularly with its financial management. As a result, in 2012 an experienced Finance and Administration Manager was recruited to join the team, and external audits were carried out for both 2010 and 2011 in an effort to improve transparency and accountability. Finance and Human Resource manuals were also updated and implemented, putting strong internal policies, procedures and systems in place.

The primary goal for UCRT has been to achieve long-term sustainable funding. To further this aim, in 2012 UCRT senior staff began the process of building their fundraising capacity, and they also started the recruitment process to hire a Programme Manager to assist with fundraising as well as other internal capacity building activities.
“UCRT is effective because it has developed an approach that is rooted in people and which will last for a long time to come. It has also managed to maintain real and lasting relationships with all of the stakeholders it works with and, more importantly, has produced concrete and transformative results that are in line with its vision and mission. UCRT Staff members are well known in the 61 villages where they work, and they have demonstrated high levels of integrity and dedication to helping people in these communities. The team also regularly contributes to NGO dialogues, government policy discourses and advocacy initiatives, gaining respect and trust from their peers and from the government officials who they are reaching out to.”

- Alais Morindat, Chairman of the Board

Overview of financial results for the year ending 31 December 2012

Total Income : Tsh 1,293,842,980
($808,651 this includes $ 66,222 carried over from 2011)

Total Expenditure : Tsh 1,189,023,128 ($ 743,139)

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Learn more about us at our new website
www.ujamaa-crt.org