



2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



About This Report

A multi-year public record that recovers under-reported work and makes the evidence, partnerships and unfinished tasks visible.

This report consolidates PINGOs Forum's documented achievements from June 2022 to July 2026. It includes results from 2022, 2023 and 2024 that were not previously assembled into institutional annual reports, connects them with work undertaken in 2025, and records significant legal, policy and advocacy developments through July 2026.



EVIDENCE DISCIPLINE

How to read the evidence

The report separates verified institutional or legal developments, emerging outcomes, community-reported concerns and intended long-term impact. Court cases, allegations of serious abuse, participant totals and financial figures are described cautiously where source records require reconciliation or independent verification.

It is deliberately framed as a contribution report. Change was created by Indigenous communities, member organizations, traditional leaders, women and youth, lawyers, public institutions, civil-society allies, funders, media, researchers and regional and international accountability mechanisms. PINGOs Forum often served as a bridge - organising evidence, sustaining legal and policy action, protecting community voice and connecting local realities to wider institutions.



VERIFIED DEVELOPMENT

Supported by a court record, Government Notice, official decision, published accountability process or other traceable institutional record.



COMMUNITY-REPORTED CONCERN

A testimony or field finding that requires protection-sensitive verification and must not be treated as a judicial finding.



EMERGING OUTCOME

A credible change in access, agency, visibility or institutional response that still requires follow-up evidence.



INTENDED IMPACT

The longer-term change sought: secure territories, effective remedy, resilient livelihoods, respected cultures and meaningful decision-making power.

Evidence source: This public edition synthesises the reports listed in the Evidence Base section. It does not replace audited financial statements, complete court files or survivor-centred investigation.

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A clear path through the institution, the results, the partners and the road ahead.



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Message from the Executive Director



A recovered record of several years of work - and a compass for the next stage.

Dear Communities, Members, Friends and Partners,

It is with gratitude and renewed determination that I present “Standing Our Ground, Shaping Our Future”. This report is more than a summary of activities. It brings together a period in which Indigenous communities defended land, identity, livelihoods and dignity under extraordinary pressure, while also building solutions for climate resilience, women and youth leadership, accountable conservation and public policy.

Across the reporting period, PINGOs Forum remained rooted in a simple conviction: pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities are not obstacles to development or conservation. They are rights-holders, knowledge-holders and partners whose institutions, mobility, territorial relationships and ecological stewardship have sustained people and nature for generations.



The record shows both courage and practical change. Communities organized to recover the status of villages and wards in Ngorongoro. Legal teams kept land claims alive across Msomera, KIA, Loliondo, Musoma, Same and other locations. Climate work linked Indigenous forecasting with scientific information, restored water access, strengthened livestock and supported beekeeping, agroecology, trees and livelihood recovery. Evidence from EACOP, Southern Tanzania and conservation landscapes entered national and international accountability spaces. Advocacy at UNPFII, through the Universal Periodic Review and in climate forums carried community priorities far beyond the village while keeping the demand for local accountability at the center.



This report also tells the truth about unfinished work. Many cases remain pending. Official recognition is not yet a remedy. A suspended or canceled project does not automatically restore lost livelihoods. A climate declaration does not protect land unless it is translated into enforceable safeguards, direct finance and community authority. We therefore celebrate progress without confusing visibility with justice.

I thank the communities who trusted PINGOs Forum with their testimony, the member organizations and traditional institutions that anchored the work, the women and youth who led from the front, the lawyers and defenders who carried difficult cases, the partners who provided flexible resources and solidarity, and the public institutions willing to engage. May this report strengthen accountability, deepen partnership and remind us that the future is shaped when communities stand on their rights and speak with their own voice.



*With gratitude and resolve,
Edward Thoma Porokwa*





Executive Summary



Between June 2022 and July 2026, PINGOs Forum worked with pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities, its network of more than 53 civil-society organizations and a wide partnership ecosystem to defend land and human rights, strengthen climate resilience, rebuild livelihoods, promote gender equality and carry community evidence into public decision-making.

The central change was organizational as well as programmatic: geographically dispersed struggles were increasingly connected through one rights-defense pathway. Community testimony was documented; evidence was organised; legal and policy options were opened; media and international platforms amplified scrutiny; and feedback returned to communities. This did not solve every dispute, but it made violations harder to erase and communities less isolated.

- 01** From political erasure to restored administrative and voting status: 25 villages and eleven wards in Ngorongoro were reinstated after community mobilization and sustained advocacy, affecting more than 120,000 residents.
- 02** From isolated grievances to sustained legal defense: PINGOs Forum and legal partners supported cases and consultations across Loliondo, Ngorongoro, Msomera, KIA, Musoma, Same/Marwa and other threatened territories.
- 03** From conservation harm to international accountability: community evidence contributed to World Bank scrutiny, suspension and eventual cancellation of REGROW, followed by a Management Action Plan with stronger safeguards and livelihood measures.
- 04** From climate vulnerability to Indigenous-led resilience: communities strengthened climate information, water access, livestock systems, beekeeping, agroecology, landscape restoration and women-led livelihood recovery.
- 05** From denial to structured policy engagement: the UNPFII 2025 intervention opened dialogue with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, while the 2026 UPR process produced 29 actionable recommendations grounded in community evidence
- 06** From testimony to corporate accountability: EACOP findings entered a public Business & Human Rights Resource Center timeline, compelling a documented company response and creating a platform for remedy-oriented follow-up.



IMPACT JUDGEMENT

The impact is significant - and unfinished

The strongest demonstrated changes are protection, institutional response, stronger community agency, sustained legal access and public accountability. The long-term test remains secure land, implemented judgments, fair remedy, direct climate finance, functioning services, reduced reprisals and communities confirming that their lives are safer and more self-determined.



Impact at a Glance



Impact at a Glance



53+

**member and partner
organisations**

National Indigenous rights network



25 + 11

**villages and
wards reinstated**

Ngorongoro administrative status



11+

**court cases filed
or sustained**

conservative documented minimum



29

**UPR
recommendations**

submitted in April 2026

Impact at a Glance.....



4,000+

**livestock served
by water**

pastoral livelihood resilience



5,067

**livestock served
by water**

pastoral livelihood resilience



100 / 130

**people with improved
water access**

Hadzabe and Akie/Akiye



1,437

**Indigenous and
fruit trees**

plus 1,800 vegetable seed packs

Impact at a Glance...



120,000+
residents affected

Kimwati-Meto cross-border system



650
participants reached

PAWANKA climate-resilience project



**12 Indigenous weather
indicator categories**

Documented and linked with scientific information through community-based early-warning work in Sukuro, Terat and Namelok.



**3.5 out of 5
organisational maturity**

Independent 2026 assessment rated PINGOs Forum Moderate-Good for policy-dialog capacity, with strongest assets in legitimacy, networks and leadership.

Impact at a Glance....



24/4

Sahiwal bulls /
breeding centres



four pastoralist
villages



250

Goats distributed



**more than 70%
women beneficiaries**



1 international corporate accountability timeline

On 17 July 2026, BHRRC published community findings, EACOP responses and PINGOs' rejoinder in one traceable record.



1 national recognition pathway opened

UNPFII advocacy contributed to draft Terms of Reference research and a proposed high-level dialogue on Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania.

Evidence source: Figures are cumulative and project-specific. Participant categories may overlap, and public use should retain project labels and reconciliation notes.



Who We Are



The people and communities at the center

This reporting includes work with Maasai, Baroja/Datooga, Hadzabe, Akie, Sandawe and other pastoralists, hunter-gatherer and agro-pastoralist communities. It also reflects solidarity with communities whose rights are affected by conservation, tourism, infrastructure, carbon, extractive and climate-related projects.



Vision

A just, resilient and peaceful society where Indigenous pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities thrive, exercise self-determination and enjoy equal rights, dignity and sustainable livelihoods.



What makes the forum different

A national member network, community legitimacy, integrated legal-policy-climate capability, strong media practice and access to regional and international mechanisms.





Mission

To enable Indigenous communities to claim and exercise human, land and resource rights through legal empowerment, advocacy, participatory development, Indigenous knowledge and strategic partnerships.



Accountability principle

Communities are not audiences for programmes. They are right-holders who should shape priorities, select representatives, control sensitive evidence and verify whether change has occurred.





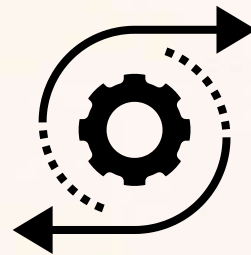
Core operating principles

- Indigenous leadership and self-determination.
- Human rights, dignity and equality.
- Community ownership, participation and feedback.
- Recognition of Indigenous knowledge, mobility and stewardship.
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent in decisions affecting territories and resources.
- Evidence-based advocacy, careful attribution and learning.
- Solidarity, constructive engagement and accountability.





How Changes Happens



PINGOs Forum connects community power, evidence, protection, policy influence and practical resilience into one pathway.

“

‘A threat at village level should be capable of becoming evidence, legal action, public accountability, or policy engagement and - ultimately - remedy.’

PINGOs Forum Impact pathway

AN INTEGRATED OPERATING MODEL

STAGE	WHAT HAPPENS	WHAT IT MAKES POSSIBLE
Community	Communities identify threats, priorities, knowledge, representatives and acceptable action.	Legitimacy, consent and locally defined goals.
Evidence and organisation	Testimony, maps, legal records, monitoring data, research and cultural knowledge are organised safely.	Credible cases, common positions and early warning.
Protection and action	Legal defence, humanitarian support, advocacy, media, dialogue and coalition action respond to risk.	Claims remain alive; defenders are less isolated; institutions must respond.
Accountability and influence	Evidence enters courts, Parliament, ministries, companies, donors, UN mechanisms and public debate.	Decisions are scrutinised, commitments recorded and policy windows opened.
Remedy and resilience	Judgments are implemented, rights secured, services restored, livelihoods strengthened and knowledge sustained.	Greater safety, dignity, self-determination and ecological resilience.



Legal and human-rights defence

Strategic litigation, legal aid, case monitoring, defender protection, administrative complaints and enforcement follow-up.



Evidence and strategic communication

Fact-finding, policy briefs, media, documentaries, cultural documentation, mapping and research-to-policy work.



Community-led resilience

Water, livestock, early warning, beekeeping, agroecology, restoration and locally defined climate solutions.



Policy and partnership influence

Parliamentary engagement, national dialogue, corporate accountability, UN processes, regional coalitions and learning platforms.



Where We Work





Geographical footprint

PINGO's Forum works across Tanzania, focusing on areas where Indigenous Peoples live and where there is a need to strengthen rights, build community resilience, protect livelihoods, and promote sustainable development.



ZONE	SELECTED LOCATIONS AND
 Northern Tanzania	Ngonongoro, Liloindo and Sale; Longido, Simanjiro; Kitoo, Monduli; Hanang: Mbulu and Yaeda Valley, Kilimilero International Airport villages: Same and Zwaga.
 Central and Lake zones	Dodoma, Singa, Musoma, Simiyu and Meatu: cases and evidence involving livestock compensation, infrastructure; transition minerals and community rights.
 Eastern and coastal zones	Tanga and Handeni/Mosmera: Bagamoyo: communities along infrastructure and conservation landscapes; cross-border water and land-governance work.
 Southern Tanzania	Ruvuma, Mjini mtimkulu and Nachingwea requests from Ulanga, Malinyi Nantumbo, Sungea, Tunduru and Masasi; land conflict; conservation, ranching, residency and mobility.
 National and international	Parliament, ministries, courts and national dialogues: UNPFIL UPR/CHCHR, UNFCCC, EMRIP, UNCCD. World Heritage and business- and human-rights mechanisms.



A five-year journey of widening influence

YEAR	SELECTED
2022	Emergency legal defence and survivor support after violence and displacement in Londo: Our partners strengthened legal, humanitarian and advocacy.
2023	Climate-resilience program work began: the World Bank authorised a REGROW Inspection Panel investigation; the East Africa Policy Dialogue Community of Practice was established.
2024	Ngonongoro villages and wards were reinstated after mobilisation; REGROW financing was suspended; Southern Tanzania fact-finding and indigenous climate evidence expanded.
2025–2026	UNPFIL advocacy opened national dialogues; BICOP research entered a BHRRC accountability timeline; mitigation advanced; COP30 analysis sharpened climate-justice demands; a UPR submission carried 29 recommendations; Presidential Commission findings were analysed and policy capacity was assessed at 3.5/5.



Standing Our Ground



Land is livelihood, identity, history, culture and the physical basis of Indigenous governance. During the reporting period, PINGOs Forum combined legal representation, community mobilization, emergency protection, evidence and policy advocacy to challenge criminalization, eviction, land allocation, conservation restrictions and non-enforcement of rights.



A connected legal-defense architecture

Support was sustained across court registries and administrative processes involving Msomera and Kitwai, villages around Kilimanjaro International Airport, Lolindo/Pololei, Musoma, Same/Marwa and other threatened territories. The strongest contribution was continuity: claims did not disappear when cases became procedurally difficult, expensive or politically sensitive.

LEGAL MILESTONE	DOCUMENTED CHANGE	STATUS / NEXT TEST
Justice for Joshua Molo	An appeal supported by PINGOs Forum overturned a 20-year conviction and restored his freedom.	Immediate legal and human outcome; protection and family recovery remain important.
Same/Marwa defenders	Criminal Case No. 52 of 2025 against two community leaders was withdrawn on 11 August 2025.	Immediate protection from prosecution; underlying land issues remain unresolved.
Msomera customary land	A 2020 High Court judgment in Tangao Yare Keiya v RIUWASA Handeni District & Others recognised customary ownership and unlawful interference.	Case citation, appeal and implementation status should be tracked publicly.
Tanga land cases	Eight cases were filed or refiled; five matters obtained substituted service through national newspapers.	Procedural access preserved; most final remedies remained pending in the reviewed record.
KIA villages	Pleadings, service, mentions, pre-trial work and plaintiff preparation kept claims by eight affected villages active.	Merits and restitution remain unresolved.
Musoma cattle compensation	Execution was pursued for a reported compensation award following unlawful cattle seizure.	Enforcement and payment remained unresolved in the reviewed period.



Case study: villages returned to the public map

In August 2024, Government Notice No. 673 deregistered 25 villages and eleven wards in Ngorongoro Division, threatening village identity, public administration and political participation for more than 120,000 residents. Communities responded through peaceful mobilisation lasting several days. PINGOs Forum, Human Rights Defenders, traditional leaders and partners supported information, food, water, alternative supply routes, communications, legal review and national and international advocacy.

A subsequent Government Notice reinstated the affected administrative units and political participation. The outcome demonstrates the power of mutually reinforcing action: community mobilisation generated legitimacy and pressure; legal analysis clarified the rights at stake; public and international advocacy amplified scrutiny; and engagement with senior government officials opened a route to reversal.





VERIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE OUTCOME

Why this matters

The result protected far more than names on a map. Village and ward status is tied to representation, voting, local governance, services, records and the ability of communities to act collectively within the state.

Justice for Joshua: when legal support brought a man home

Joshua Molo, a Maasai young man from Mesaik village in the Ngargoro area, was accused of killing an elephant, convicted, and sentenced to twenty years in prison. His family did not know his whereabouts for five months. After the family sought help, PINGOs Forum mobilated legal representation and filed an appeal. The appeal succeeded, and Joshua regained his freedom.

The story is a reminder that legal empowerment is not abstract. It is the difference between isolation and representation, between a family searching in fear and a man returning home. It also outlines the need for rapid referral systems, independent investigation, protection from coerced confessions and continued support after release.

Landmark Court Victory Strengthens Indigenous Land Rights in Msomera

A significant milestone was achieved in 2026 when the High Court of Tanzania, Tango Sub-Registry, delivered a landmark judgment in the case of Tangono Yarei va. RWASA Handeni District & Others, affirming the customary land rights of Indigenous residents of Msomera Village in Handeni District.

The case arose from land disputes associated with the relocation of communities from Ngroangoro to Mosmera, during which portions of land had long been officially owned and occupied by Indigenous residents were allocated and occupied without following law land acquisition procedures or providing fair compensation.

In its judgment, the Court recognized the Plaintiff's lawful ownership of the disputed ancestral land and declared that any allocation or interference conducted without due legal process was unfair. The Court further granted injunctive relief to prevent continued trespass and emphasized that where land is required for public purposes; the Government and relevant authorities must follow lawful acquisition procedures and provide adequate compensation to affected landholders.

This judgment represents a landmark victory not only for the Plaintiff but also for other Indigenous communities pursuing similar land claims in Msomera. It establishes an important legal precedent by reinforcing judicial recognition of customary land tenure, strengthening community land rights, comply with the law, and guarantee fair compensation. More broadly, the decision contributes significantly to advancing indigenous Peoples' land rights and promoting equitable and accountable land governance in Tanzania.





Conversation with Right, not Dispalcement



REGROW: an accountability breakthrough

The US\$150 million REGROW project supported conservation and tourism development around Ruaha National Park. Communities alleged threatened eviction, livestock seizures, restricted access to land and water, violence, inadequate consultation and serious livelihood risks. Affected people brought the concerns before the World Bank Inspection Panel, supported by sustained community and civil-society action.

In November 2023, the World Bank Board authorized an independent investigation. On 18 April 2024, project disbursements were suspended because resettlement-related obligations had not been followed. The Government of Tanzania requested cancellation in November 2024. In April 2025, the Bank approved a Management Action Plan including livelihood support, stronger grievance arrangements, legal-aid information, improved social-risk management and new guidance for protected-area projects.



INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY OUTCOME



Impact pathway

Community evidence and resistance > WB Independent Inspection Panel complaint
> independent investigation > suspension of financing > project cancellation > corrective action and stronger safeguards.

Presidential Commissions: official admissions create an opening



Community mobilization and direct presidential engagement led to two commissions examining land use and conflict in Ngorongoro District and the relocation of residents from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Their public presentations acknowledged important realities: decades of mixed land use and coexistence among pastoralism, wildlife, and tourism; inadequate participation around Pololet; legal and institutional friction; weak relocation planning; unreliable data; low uptake; and complaints from people who remained, those who moved, and host communities.

These admissions shifted the national narrative and established an official accountability record. They did not, by themselves, secure land, halt harmful relocation, restore services, or resolve compensation. PINGOs Forum therefore reframed the next-stage question: will the findings refine a contested policy, or will they be used to build a lawful model of coexistence, restitution, and meaningful participation?

Southern Tanzania: making an under-reported crisis visible



The September 2024 fact-finding mission in Ruvuma, Lindi, and Mtwara documented community accounts of forced displacement, intimidation, arbitrary or inconsistently applied fines, livestock confiscation, non-recognition of purchased or leased grazing land, barriers to residency, conservation pressure, and weak responses to complaints. It also recorded community agency: reporting to authorities, court action, land purchase, ranch payments, and women-led demonstrations.





COMMUNITY-REPORTED CONCERNS

Protection and publication rule

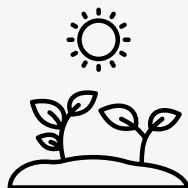
Serious allegations involving sexual violence, killing, extortion, forced eviction or falsification must be handled as community-reported claims unless independently verified. Public use requires confidentiality, consent, survivor-centred referral and legal review.

The central lesson is that conflict cannot be reduced to a simple farmer-versus-pastoralist story. It is shaped by land-use planning, administrative recognition, public narratives about pastoralism, conservation boundaries, carbon projects, infrastructure, mobility and unequal access to decision-making. Durable peace requires lawful land-use planning, transparent conservation, independent dispute resolution, safe mobility routes and recognition of pastoralism as a legitimate livelihood and ecological system.





Shapping Climate Resilient Futures



For Indigenous communities, climate resilience begins with secure land, water, mobility, healthy ecosystems and the ability to make decisions. PINGOs Forum therefore treated climate work as both ecological and political; practical adaptation was linked with rights, evidence, participation and recognition of Indigenous knowledge.

Indigenous-led climate evidence and capacity

With PAWANKA Fund support, the Building Climate Change Resilient Indigenous Communities project reached a reported 650 participants between November 2023 and October 2024, including 270 women, 180 men and 170 youth, with more than 300 children benefiting Indirectly. Community actors and geospatial assistants strengthened their capacity to document land and climate threats, organise evidence, support legal processes and carry Indigenous knowledge into public and international forums.

EMERGING COMMUNITY-AGENCY OUTCOME



A shift in role

Communities were supported not only as people affected by climate change, but as knowledge-holders, rights-holders, advocates and stewards shaping their own resilience responses.



Early warning that speaks two knowledge systems

Community-based early warning systems were established in Sukuno, Tertat, and Namelok. Women, youth, elders, traditional leaders, local authorities, and the Tanzania Meteorological Authority documented twelve categories of Indigenous weather indicators and linked them to scientific climate information. Community Weather Forecasting Committees were formed to collect observations, communicate with TMA, and share information on drought, water shortages, livestock disease, and other risks.



Climate-resilient livestock and landscape restoration

Four community breeding centers were established in Sukuno, Tertat, Namelok and Partimbo. Twenty-four drought-resistant sahiwal bulls were introduced, 40 community members were organized to manage the centers, and 167 people -80 women and 87 men - received training on breeding, nutrition, vaccination, disease prevention and pasture management.

PingoS Forum also supported the planting of 1,487 Indigenous and fruit trees - 716 Indigenous seedlings representing nine native species and 721 fruit trees representing eleven varieties - and distributed 1,800 vegetable seed packages. Future impact will depend on tree survival, area restored, governance and pasture management.





Case study: water restored dignity across a border

Through the Indigenous Navigator Project, supported by the European Union and IWGIA, PINGOs Forum rehabilitated the Kimwati Water Supply Scheme in Longido District. The system restored access for 2,115 people in Kimwati, Tanzania, and more than 2,000 people in neighboring Meto, Kenya. It also improved water access for 5,067 livestock.

The result reduced the time and physical burden associated with searching for water, strengthened pastoral livelihoods and created a practical example of cross-border cooperation. Its sustainability now depends on water quality, dry season functionality, transparent management, gender-responsive governance and a financed maintenance system.



SERVICE AND LIVELIHOOD OUTCOME

What a water point changes





Water is health, school attendance, safety, livestock productivity, household time, cross-border cooperation and the possibility of remaining with dignity on the land.

Livelihoods rooted in culture and choice



INTERVENTION	DELIVERED RESULT	NEXT IMPACT MEASURE
Modern beekeeping	100 modern beehives and practical training for 130 participants in Hadzabe and Akiye communities.	Occupied hives, honey harvested, household income, market access and community management.
Livestock restocking	250 sheep and goats, and 24 breeding bulls distributed to climate-affected households; more than 70% of beneficiaries were women.	Survival, reproduction, nutrition, income and passing-on arrangements.
Survivor recovery	A Lolindo survivor's family received 21 sheep as part of livelihood recovery support.	Household safety, herd growth, income and psychosocial recovery.
Indigenous agroecology	Learning and documentation in Pimiya, Mindo-Tulen, Mondo wa Mono and Handa Village.	Food diversity, soil and water outcomes, biodiversity and locally defined livelihood gains.



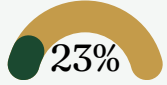
Business, Human rights and the Just Transition



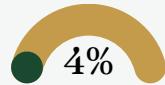
PINGOs Forum has expanded its mandate from responding to conventional land conflict to examining the rights consequences of oil infrastructure, renewable energy, transition minerals, carbon markets and conservation finance. The Forum's position is consistent: development and climate action must begin with secure land, meaningful FPIC, accessible information, fair benefit-sharing, effective grievances mechanisms and remedy.

EACOP: from field testimony to a public corporate record

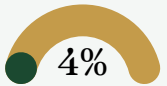
PINGOs Forum's 2025 EACOP field research documented concerns about information, consultation, livelihood loss, compensation, social investment, employment, communal land, sacred sites and recognition of Indigenous communities. The findings were presented as study results and community accounts, with clear limitations where denominators and annexes required reconciliation.



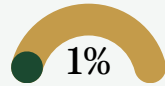
reported consultation
during planning or implementation



considered compensation adequate
among respondents



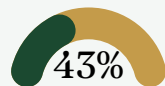
felt feedback influenced decisions
quality of participation



said programmes met needs
community-priority gap



were aware of social programmes
low visibility



reported negative livelihood impacts
especially grazing and displacement

On 17 July 2026, the Business & Human Rights Resource Center published PINGOs Forum's findings, EACOP's company responses and PINGOs Forum's rejoinder in one public accountability timeline.

This created a measurable advocacy outcome: community evidence became part of an international corporate record, disputed claims became publicly traceable, and the company was compelled to respond. Publication is not remedy; the next step is independent case verification, claimant-confirmed resolution and measurable change in compensation, participation and livelihood restoration.



CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY OUTCOME

Accountability is a pathway, not a headline

Community testimony > structured evidence > external publication > company responses > PINGOs Forum rejoinder > public accountability record > independent verification and remedy.

CARBON MARKETS, TRANSITION MINERALS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Research and community consultations documented concerns about opaque contracts, long timeframes, land control, unequal benefit-sharing and limited participation in carbon initiatives. Business-and-human-rights work also connected community risks to EACOP, transition minerals and renewable-energy investments. PINGOs Forum developed a just-transition policy brief and convened dialogue on the principle that climate action cannot be just if it removes communities from land, treats consultation as consent or channels benefits through intermediaries while communities carry the risk.

Through BRAVE, IPRI, BHRRC and other partners, the Forum has strengthened evidence, legal analysis and public accountability on extractive and transition projects. The COP30 analysis sharpened the same message globally: the true measure of climate policy is whether communities retain land, exercise FPIC, access finance directly and experience stronger livelihoods and ecological security.



What a rights-based transition requires

RIGHTS TEST	PUBLIC STANDARD
Land and consent	Secure collective tenure and FPIC before approval, throughout implementation and when projects change.
Contracts and benefits	Transparent terms, independent advice, fair benefit-sharing and community-accessible grievances mechanisms.
Finance and authority	Direct, flexible finance for Indigenous institutions rather than benefits captured only by intermediaries.
Remedy and learning	Case-specific investigation, claimant-confirmed remedy and public reporting on unresolved harm.



Women, Youth and Community



Women and youth are often the first to absorb the consequences of water scarcity, livestock loss, forced movement, violence, loss of services and exclusion from land decisions. They are also central actors in adaptation, mobilisation, household recovery, knowledge transmission and public leadership.



Women shaping climate resilience

PAWANKA records reported 270 women participants, while climate restocking work directed more than 70% of 250 sheep to women beneficiaries.



Youth linking knowledge and technology

Youth and community geospatial assistants used mapping, documentation, media and networking tools to connect local evidence with legal and policy action.



Budget influence on GBV

Advocacy in Longido was associated with a reported TZS 24 million increase in the district budget for GBV prevention and response.



Women-led mobilisation

Women led or sustained public action in Ngorororo and Southern Tanzania, demanding protection, justice, services and an end to violence.



Policy and justice for Indigenous women

PINGOs Forum developed and validated analysis of the policy and legal framework for gender equality and a Gender Power Dynamics Report covering Maasai, Barraig, Hadrabze and Akie/Akiye communities. A policy brief on gender-responsive land governance called for Indigenous women to be recognised not simply as beneficiaries, but as actors in land administration, dispute resolution and institutional decision-making.

The annual report source also records support connected to nine court users and the resolution of 16 GBV cases. Public reporting should clarify whether the people supported were survivors, complainants, witnesses or litigants and should apply strict confidentiality. The larger lesson is clear: success is not the number of women present in a meeting, but whether women influence decisions, control assets, access remedy and participate safely through institutions they trust.

The next leadership frontier

- ➔ Track representation, influence and leadership roles - not participation totals alone.
- ➔ Measure who controls livestock, income, water committees, land decisions and project benefits.
- ➔ Create safe and accessible complaints, referral and survivor/support systems.
- ➔ Ensure Indigenous women, youth and persons with disabilities shape national recognition, UPR, climate and business-and human-rights agendas.
- ➔ Support intergenerational transfer of Indigenous knowledge through elders, women, youth and cultural institutions.





12

Evidence, Culture and Strategic Communication



Evidence is both a shield and a bridge. It protects community experience from denial, while carrying Indigenous knowledge, rights and solutions into courts, policy spaces, media and international mechanisms. PINGOs Forum combines research, fact-finding, film, photography, mapping, legal documentation and community storytelling.

Living culture and ancestral landscapes

The Engipaata o Layok ceremony in Terrat, Simanjiro was documented through film, photography, interviews and storytelling. The work showed that cultural heritage is not separate from land: sacred sites, wetlands, cattle enclosures, trees and homesteads are the living classrooms in which identity, spirituality and knowledge pass between generations.

Indigenous rights in the age of artificial intelligence

PINGOs Forum conducted media fact-finding and produced a documentary on AI-generated and manipulated content involving the Hadzabe community. The work highlighted cultural misrepresentation, misinformation, commercial use of Indigenous identity and the absence of knowledge, consent or benefit. Independent Television Limited broadcast the documentary nationally, opening an emerging agenda on digital consent, dignity and community control over images and knowledge.

Research that moved beyond the shelf

EVIDENCE	PUBLIC OR POLICY
Southern Tanzania fact-finding	Brought land conflict, residency discrimination, conservation pressure and community response into the national record.
DACop field study and rejoinder	Created a public corporate accountability timeline and a case for independent remedy.
COP30 reflections	Translated global climate language into a practical test based on land, FPIC, finance and community security.
Presidential Commission analysis	Separated official admissions from remedy and created a decision framework for rights-based reform.
UPR stakeholder submission	Converted dispersed cases into a unified international accountability record and 29 recommendations.
Gender and land-governance briefs	Connected women's lived experience with institutional reform and participation in land administration.



▲ Knowledge ownership matters

Community evidence must be gathered with consent, stored securely, attributed safely, returned in accessible formats and governed by clear rules on publication, cultural sensitivity and benefit.



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From Community Voice to National and Global Accountability



UNPFII 2025: from denial to an emerging national dialogue

At the 24th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Tanzania restated the position that all citizens are Indigenous. PINGOs Forum and partners challenged the implication of that position: equal citizenship cannot erase the distinct collective rights and vulnerabilities of self-identifying pastoralist and hunter-gatherer peoples.

Because of security concerns, the counter-statement was delivered through our partners. After the session, engagement with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs shifted a difficult accountability encounter towards structured dialogue. Draft Terms of Reference were developed for research and identification of Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania, and a high-level national dialogue involving ministries, Indigenous representatives, civil society and development partners was proposed.

EMERGING POLICY OUTCOME Outcome judgement

The engagement achieved agenda recognition and an institutional opening. It did not yet achieve formal legal recognition, policy reform or enforceable protection.



Tanzania UPR 2026: 29 recommendations built from community evidence

Under PINGOs Forum's national and editorial leadership, Indigenous organizations, land-rights actors and international human-rights partners produced a joint stakeholder submission for Tanzania's fourth-cycle Universal Fairin Reviews, IPR and associated sojabrated 16 garantiarialysis: bainis and VPR: mietvitaemodulogy; Land is Life provided suit stead, un-tunant collaboration; and a broader coalition contributed evidence and endorsement.

The submission translated community cases into 29 actionable recommendations addressing forced eviction, customary land, pastoral mobility, independent investigation, gender-responsive remedy, carbon and recommission, minimizing, media freedom, protection of Human Rights Defenders and meaningful Indigenous participation. The immediate achievement is a durable accountability record: the ultimate test will be update by review states, acceptance by Tanzania and implementation that communities can verify.



Climate diplomacy grounded in territories

PINGOs Forum participated in UNFFCC processes, including the Bom Subsidiary Bodies meetings and COP-related advocacy. Its COP30 analysis recognized stronger rights-based language, attention to adaptation and Loss and Damage, and greater Indigenous visibility. It also warned that fossil-fuel expansion, transition minjunction markets and top-down finance can reproduce land capture unless community authority and safeguards are enforceable.

The emerging COP31 agenda therefore focuses on Indigenous-led Loss and Damage, direct and flexible climate finance, FPIC, land rights, pastoral mobility, women's leadership and access will be measured in bonas, forests, rangelands and villages - not only in conference text.



Policy dialogue as an institutional capability

An independent, Organizational Capacity Assessment in February 2026 rated PINGO: Forum at 3.5 out of 5 - Moderate-Good - for policy dialogue. Leadership legitimacy, community relationships, networks, media capability and international influence were recognized as strengths. The main constraint was incomplete, protected budgets, commitments tracking, research policy workflows and knowledge management needed to become predictable institutional practice.

PINGOs Forum as a participants in the Policy Dialogue East Africa - Community of Practice, established in December 2023 as a shared platform for civil society, public institutions, academia, development partners and practice communities.



The regional model reinforces a simple lesson: sustained policy influence grows when evidence, learning, communication and relationships are held collectively rather than by isolated projects or individuals. model reinforces a simple lesson: sustained policy influence grows when evidence, learning, communication and relationships are held collectively rather than by isolated projects vn individuals.

The advocacy accountability cycle

STEP	ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION
Community mandate	● Whose priorities, knowledge and consent guide the position?
Evidence and message	● What is verified, what is community-reported and what remains uncertain?
Engagement and commitment	● Who was approached, what was requested and what was promised?
Decision and implementation	● What changed in law, policy, finance, practice or protection?
Return and verification	● Were outcomes explained to communities, and do rights-holders confirm meaningful change?





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Partnership As a Force Multiplier



The changes in this report were not created by one organization. PINGOs Forum's role is strongest when it convenes and connects: community legitimacy, member networks, legal expertise, flexible finance, public institutions, media, researchers and international mechanisms each carry a different part of the pathway from harm to remedy.

The partnership architecture

Communities and traditional institutions

Pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities, elders, women, youth, customary leaders and local Human Rights Defenders defined priorities, contributed evidence, led mobilisation and verified what change meant.

Communities and traditional institutions

Flexible and project-based support enabled legal continuity, emergency protection, climate resilience, research, field mobility, international advocacy and institutional learning.

Member organisations and civil society

More than 53 network members and allied organisations extended reach, local knowledge, legal support, advocacy capacity and accountability across Tanzania

Communities and traditional institutions

Duty-bearers and accountability mechanisms

Courts, Parliament, ministries, local authorities, companies, donors and international mechanisms were engaged as institutions capable of decision, remedy or public accountability.





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Institutional Strength, Accountability and Learning



From capable participation to sustained policy authority

The 2026 Organisational Capacity Assessment concluded that PINGOs Forum already has the legitimacy, leadership and networks to influence policy. The next step is institutional craftsmanship: turning strong practice into repeatable systems without losing community accountability or adaptive response.

CAPACITY DOMAIN	2026 ASSESSMENT	INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITY
Leadership and governance	4.0 / 5 - Good	Clarify oversight, succession, cross-functional roles and annual accountability.
Policy knowledge and analysis	3.5 / 5 - Moderate-Good	Strengthen research-to-policy workflows and concise, timely policy products.
Stakeholder engagement	4.0 / 5 - Good	Connect media visibility to decision-maker response and remedy.
Communication and advocacy	3.5 / 5 - Moderate-Good	Connect media visibility to decision-maker response and remedy.
Learning and adaptation	3.0 / 5 - Moderate	Build a secure knowledge repository and after-action learning system.
Financial and human resources	3.0 / 5 - Moderate	Protect policy, legal, safeguarding and MELR budgets across projects.

Public accountability commitments

- ➔ Publish a consolidated annual impact report and maintain one verified source register for cases, participants, decisions and commitments.
- ➔ Disaggregate unique and repeat participation by sex, age, disability, location and leadership role, while tracking who controls assets and decisions.
- ➔ Monitor sustainability beyond delivery: water functionality, hive occupancy, livestock reproduction, tree survival, livelihood recovery and community satisfaction.
- ➔ Apply consent, confidentiality, secure storage, data-protection and Human Rights Defender protocols, and return findings to communities in accessible formats.
- ➔ Publish funding sources, conflict-of-interest safeguards and project-level financial summaries while audited accounts remain the authoritative financial record.

Resource stewardship

The organisation managed project resources in line with the specific objectives and requirements of each grant agreement. Resources were allocated and used for their intended activities, with supporting documentation maintained to promote accountability, transparency, and responsible stewardship.





Challenges and Lessons



CHALLENGE	WHY IT MATTERS	LESSON FOR THE NEXT PHASE
Legal delay and non-enforcement	Cases can remain active for years, and favourable judgments do not automatically deliver land, compensation or safety.	Cases can remain active for years, and favourable judgments do not automatically deliver land, compensation or safety.
Civic-space and defender risk	Evidence, protest and international advocacy can expose leaders, survivors, lawyers and communities to intimidation or reprisal.	Use risk assessment, safe attribution, confidential reporting, rapid legal response and protection partnerships.
Evidence inconsistency	Evidence, protest and international advocacy can expose leaders, survivors, lawyers and communities to intimidation or reprisal.	Adopt one source register, conservative public figures, documentary verification and contribution language.
Sustainability after delivery	Evidence, protest and international advocacy can expose leaders, survivors, lawyers and communities to intimidation or reprisal.	Measure functionality and outcomes, not distribution-day outputs.
Visibility without remedy	Evidence, protest and international advocacy can expose leaders, survivors, lawyers and communities to intimidation or reprisal.	Track decisions, commitments, implementation, grievance closure and community-confirmed change.
Fragmented project knowledge	Evidence, protest and international advocacy can expose leaders, survivors, lawyers and communities to intimidation or reprisal.	Institutionalise annual reporting, secure archives, cross-project MELR and a living organisational history.
Partnership complexity	Evidence, protest and international advocacy can expose leaders, survivors, lawyers and communities to intimidation or reprisal.	Define roles, share evidence, recognise community leadership and record each actor's contribution.

“Winning a case is one step. Making justice live on the ground is another.”
PINGOs Forum



Priorities For 2026-2028



1	Secure land and implement remedies Advance priority cases, enforce judgments, pursue restitution and compensation, protect defenders and strengthen community legal referral systems.
2	Turn official admissions into reform Use Presidential Commission findings to advocate for a halt to harmful relocation, restored services, land and residency security, independent assessment and coexistence-based conservation.
3	Move recognition and UPR from record to implementation Complete the national recognition pathway, engage the 2026 UPR review and track every recommendation through responsible institutions and community verification.
4	Build rights-based climate and business safeguards Strengthen FPIC, contract transparency, benefit-sharing, grievance systems and remedy across carbon, conservation, energy, EACOP and transition-mineral projects.
5	Scale community-controlled climate resilience Expand early warning, water, rangeland restoration, mobility, drought-resilient livestock, agroecology, food systems and direct Indigenous climate finance.
6	Invest in women and youth power Track leadership and asset control, expand women-led land and climate governance, support youth evidence and technology skills, and strengthen GBV prevention and survivor support.
7	Institutionalise policy influence and MELR Approve a policy strategy and calendar, commitments register, secure evidence repository, annual impact brief and integrated organisation-wide results framework.
8	Strengthen the network and partnership ecosystem Support member organisations and community institutions, deepen East African learning, protect local leadership and align funding with long-term rights pathways.



Evidence base and Acknowledgement



Selected source reports integrated into this edition

SOURCE	CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PUBLIC REPORT
Standing Our Ground, Shaping Our Future - consolidated report draft	Core organisational narrative, structure and cumulative programme results.
PINGOs Partnership Impact Report, 2022-2025	Legal defence, mobilisation, humanitarian response, Ngorongoro reinstatement, REGROW and partnership contribution.
Home Planet Fund / Rights and Resources Group Impact Report	Legal architecture, evidence, expenditure-to-activity analysis and tenure-rights pathway.
PAWANKA Fund Summary Impact Report, 2023-2024	Indigenous-led climate resilience, participation, community evidence and financial stewardship.
Southern Tanzania Pastoral Indigenous Peoples Report	Community accounts of land conflict, conservation pressure, residency, ranching, mobility and response.
REGROW Advocacy Impact Brief	World Bank Inspection Panel process, suspension, cancellation and Management Action Plan.
Presidential Commissions Expert Analysis	Official admissions, contradictions, rights implications and reform agenda for Ngorongoro and Loliondo.
EACOP Impact Report	Field findings, corporate responses, BHRRC accountability outcome and remedy framework.
UNPFII 2025 Recognition Report	Recognition dispute, counter-statement, Ministry engagement and national dialogue pathway.
Tanzania UPR 2026 Engagement and Impact Report	Joint submission, coalition process and 29 recommendations.
COP30 Reflections and Indigenous Realities	Climate-policy opportunities, continuing risks and community-level impact test.
PINGOs Forum Policy Dialogue OCA	3.5/5 capacity assessment and institutional strengthening priorities.
Policy Dialogue East Africa CoP Report	Regional learning, governance, thematic working groups and sustainability pathway.
Legal Defence and Strategic Litigation Analytical Report	Case detail, procedural status, critical analysis and follow-up needs.

Acknowledgements

PINGOs Forum acknowledges the Indigenous communities, traditional leaders, women, youth, Human Rights Defenders, member organisations, lawyers, researchers, journalists, public officials and partners who generated the evidence and action reflected in this report. Particular appreciation goes to the families and communities who shared difficult experiences in the hope that truth would lead to protection and remedy.

The Forum also recognises that partnership carries responsibility. Donor support must remain accountable to community priorities; media must protect dignity; researchers must respect consent and knowledge ownership; lawyers must keep clients informed; and public institutions must convert dialogue and findings into lawful action.



CONTRIBUTOR GROUP	WHAT THIS REPORT RECOGNISES
Communities and traditional leaders	Mandate, testimony, cultural knowledge, mobilisation, local verification and the courage to pursue justice.
Women, youth and Human Rights Defenders	Leadership under risk, survivor support, public action, evidence gathering and intergenerational renewal.
Member organisations and civil society	Local presence, specialised knowledge, legal accompaniment, coalition work and national reach.
Funders and solidarity partners	Flexible resources, emergency response, programme continuity, learning and access to regional and global platforms.
Lawyers, researchers and media	Legal strategy, disciplined evidence, public communication and scrutiny of institutional and corporate conduct.
Public institutions and accountability bodies	Decisions, investigations, hearings, dialogue and remedies that only duty-bearers can authorise and implement.

LOOKING FORWARD

Invitation to partnership

PINGOs Forum welcomes partnerships that respect community authority, protect rights-holders, invest for the long term and accept transparent contribution-based accountability.

LOOKING AHEAD

PINGO's Forum remains committed to working with Indigenous communities and partners to advance rights, strengthen resilience and support community-led solutions. We look forward to building on this progress and creating greater impact together.





Closing Reflection



Across the years covered by this report, PINGOs Forum stood where land, rights, culture, climate and survival meet. The achievements are not merely numbers. They are a man returning to his family after an appeal. They are villages returning to the public map. They are water reaching people and livestock. They are women rebuilding herds, elders' knowledge entering climate systems, and community testimony becoming part of a court, policy or corporate accountability record. The task ahead is clear: protect what has been won, measure what is changing, complete what remains unfinished and continue walking beside Indigenous communities as they shape their own futures.



“Standing our ground is how we protect memory and dignity. Shaping our future is how we turn that courage into law, resilience and peace.”

PINGOs Forum

THANK YOU! ASHE NALENG'!

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