Case study on the Lawyer’s Environmental Action Team and their position on the Usangu Eviction Case

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Objectives

1. To Assess the organization of Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT); and

2. To Examine one of LEAT’s Cases in Usangu Region regarding the eviction of Agro-Pastoralists.
Tanzania...where in the world?!?
Land Rights in Tanzania

• Conflict of Western conservation ideas of “protection against man” and “fences and fines” management policies and indigenous ideas of living with the land

• Customary Law v. State Law

• PRECEDENCE!

(Ojalammi 2006)
Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT)

- Mission statement: “to enhance the capacity and participation of the people in Tanzania in particular and those in East and Southern Africa in general to sustainably manage their environment and natural resources through legal, policy, and other strategic interventions” (LEAT 2001).
Note: This flow diagram was collectively compiled by the employees at LEAT on 16/11/07 at a weekly meeting.
Usangu Region

Stakeholders:
- Pastoralists
- Rice Farmers
- TANESCO
- National Park
- Game Reserve
- Government

Source: Mtahiko et al 2006
Reduced flow in the Ruaha!

2006 Government Issued Eviction - Unlawful

- Evictees remain uncompensated
  - loss of livestock
  - loss of land
- Government report has not been made public
  - Unconstitutional
- Lack of infrastructure in areas of relocation
- LEAT working with other NGOs to ensure that the government follows the legal steps in evicting the pastoralists.
Suggested Alternatives

• Review water permits held in Usangu and ensure that these permits are not exceeded
• Review water use and return from Rice Farmers
• Restrict livestock numbers
• Restrict where farmers can water their livestock
Waswali? Questions?
Sources


