

List of demands of the Maasai of Northern Tanzania to the European Union and its Member States, September 2024

1) Transparency, information sharing

- Provide full transparency on projects, objectives and approaches underpinning biodiversity conservation in Africa and Tanzania in particular. This includes for example funding to Frankfurt Zoological Society or any upcoming projects or programs in Tanzania.
- Share evidence of concrete steps taken by the European Commission or its Member States to ensure implementation of its human rights-based approach¹ to international partnerships and biodiversity conservation in Tanzania.

2) Human rights monitoring, independent investigation

- Organise an independent and free inquiry about the human rights impacts of biodiversity conservation projects funded by the EU in Tanzania. This inquiry should include:
 - An assessment of the impacts of current EU-funded conservation, tourism and development projects on the Maasai and other Indigenous peoples;
 - An investigation into the role of the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and other actors — as well as partners of the EU in conservation projects internationally — in the violation of the Maasai's human rights and land rights in the name of conservation.

→ The EU Special Representative for Human Rights should conduct a visit to the area.

3) Humanitarian aid

- Provide humanitarian aid and support to the Maasai in Loliondo and Ngorongoro who are excluded from government services; provide specific support to Endulen Hospital in Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).
- The EU should push for the Tanzanian government to provide food and services to the affected communities.

4) Condition aid and economic partnerships on the respect of human rights

- Condition EU funding to Tanzania on the respect of the human rights of Maasai Indigenous People and in particular on:
 - an end to forced evictions of Maasai from their lands and territories;
 - the recognition and respect of Maasai's rights to their lands and territories;
 - an end to livestock auctions which deprive Maasai of their livelihoods;
 - the initiation of a dialogue and consultation process between the Tanzanian government and Maasai representatives;
 - a requirement that the Tanzanian agencies receiving income from tourism, hunting and conservation in the disputed regions return a meaningful percent of this income to the traditional Maasai leadership bodies for the express use of economically empowering the communities affected;

¹ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-07/swd-2021-human-right-based-approach_en.pdf

- EU funding supporting tourism and conservation areas should be under specific scrutiny as evidence exists around the globe that conservation and tourism projects are driving forced evictions and human rights violations.
- Use your influence to bring these concerns to the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and help protect the human rights of Maasai Indigenous Peoples, in line with ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in particular.
- Monitor the implementation of the Tanzanian government's promises in relation to the right to vote, the delisting of Ngorongoro villages and the restoration of social services.
- Direct the funding to the areas of health, education and social services.
- Based on the EU's commitment to a landscape approach, it should :
 - Explicitly include support to pastoralism as a viable livelihood in annual action plans for Tanzania as part of the current EU multi-annual partnership with the country.
 - Stop funding and supporting the creation of national parks and other protected areas (regardless of status) in Tanzania and elsewhere on the planet if the FPIC of the concerned peoples cannot be guaranteed and if there are risks of human rights violations.
- Put in place strong and adequate monitoring systems to ensure that the purchase of carbon credits by EU Member States and European companies from Tanzania does not lead to the Maasai's evictions and land dispossession.

5) Free, Prior and Informed Consent, procedural rights, benefit sharing

- Comply with the rights-based approach to international partnerships of the European Commission.
- Before funding any conservation project anywhere, the EU must ensure the project has obtained the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the Maasai, or other peoples whose land is impacted by the project.
- Stop collaboration with agencies, conservation NGOs and other organisations involved in violent attacks against the Maasai or other peoples.
- Ensure conservation funding and projects support the Maasai's vision for their lands and lives, including:
 - Ensure that partnerships and projects funded by the EU respect the procedural rights of the Maasai and in particular their rights to information, participation, consultation and FPIC for any development or land-use changes on their territories. Uphold the rule of law and stop the systematic injustice against the Maasai.
 - Ensure that partnerships and projects funded by the EU respect the right of the Maasai Indigenous People to participate in the management of wildlife resources and benefit from tourism.
 - Ensure that no partnership or project funded by the EU or its Member states is involved in any hunting activity (including its management); zero tolerance for hunting means no funding for or involvement of the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism), NCA Authority (which is managing Pololet Game Reserve), Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA).
 - Maasai are spread across 7 national parks and contribute directly to substantial money flows coming into the Tanzanian economy. Agencies receiving income from tourism, must return a meaningful percent of this income to the traditional Maasai leadership bodies for the express use of economically empowering the communities affected.

6) Stop human rights violations and other immediate demands

- Put an end to the alienation of the Maasai's land caused by wildlife corridors, Conservation and Game Controlled Areas and other protected areas, regardless of status, which is leading to the destruction of Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods, culture and spirituality.
- Ensure that vital health, education and social services are provided in Maasai lands and territories and allow the Flying Medical Service to operate (the current government policy seeks to turn Maasai lands and territories into a no-go zone for pastoralists by suppressing all social services).
- Stop supporting/driving the development of wildlife corridors and other protected areas (regardless of status) on Maasai lands, as these lead to the alienation of land, forced evictions, criminalisation and harassment and loss of Maasai livelihood and culture, in particular through livestock auctions and prohibition of grazing. Supposedly in the name of conservation, these projects support trophy hunting and detrimental tourism.
- Allow unconditional access to and grazing on demarcated conservation areas to promote co-existence in all Maasai land

7) Legal and policy change

- Demand the recognition of the Maasai as Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania. Many land disputes in Tanzania concern conservation areas but those involving Maasai have a specific ethnic cultural dimension. Anti-Maasai policies should be considered as racist and discriminatory.
- Initiate new legislation to ban trophy hunting imports in Europe. Such a ban can send a strong signal to the Tanzanian government and discourage trophy hunting, which is generating forced evictions of Maasai and undermining their livelihoods.
- Initiate new legislation to prevent human rights abuses in EU-funded conservation projects; this could be inspired by US bill² *H.R.7025 - Advancing Human Rights-Centered International Conservation Act of 2022*

Examples from the US bill:

-Ensure the financial assistance it provides does not go to any foreign security force unit (e.g., a military or paramilitary unit) where there is a reasonable belief that the unit has committed a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights.

-Conduct risk analysis to ensure that a recipient (or subrecipient) of a grant does not fund or support any such unit.

-Take other actions to prevent funding such a unit, such as (1) vetting potential assistance recipients, (2) publicly identifying units that are barred from receiving assistance, (3) requiring assistance recipients to provide certain information and to implement a safeguards plan, and (4) requiring periodic financial and programmatic audits of assistance recipients.

-Requires (1) a grant recipient to report to the EU credible information about possible human rights violations involving a grant (2) the program awarding the grant to investigate such allegations.

- Support the demands for a participatory drafting of a new constitution for Tanzania, devolving and decentralising power at different levels, especially for decisions affecting land tenure, demarcation and planning.

² <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/7025>

8) Changing the narrative

- In EU policies as well as other texts or communications, end the promotion of a colonial approach to conservation that considers Indigenous Peoples as harming the environment ; end the promotion of a vision of environmental protection that argues that Indigenous ways of life (including pastoralism) and environmental protection are incompatible. Concretely, in its new landscape approach, the EU should promote co-existence and not fund any biodiversity conservation project that involves evictions (including when the terms “displacement” and “relocation” are used).
- Insist on a systematic rights-based approach to conservation, including especially the recognition of land rights and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Maasai and other Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The EU should ensure that FPIC processes follow and respect international standards, including United Nations guidelines.