



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



*"I am proud to remain a strong member of the leadership team, but to now give another skilled teammate the opportunity to front the organisation."*

**Edward Loure,  
Executive Director**

**When leaders, communities and supporters work together toward a shared goal, anything is possible.**

2015 once again illustrated the growing strength and momentum of UCRT's wider community – our own team, the communities we work with, local government officials, our partners, and donors. Together we saw increased land access and security, improved gender rights, and rising community confidence across the marginalised indigenous communities we work with in northern Tanzania.

This year our land rights programme saw a significant increase in communal land allocation to pastoralist communities, using the Certificate of Communal Right of Occupancy (CCRO) model we've pioneered in Tanzania over the past several years. To have achieved this during an election year hampered with unexpected and lengthy delays, is testament to the ongoing work of the UCRT team and the growing

understanding and positivity of the communities we serve. While significant progress was made, we also worked towards a number of other CCROs which did not receive final approval during the 2015 calendar year, but which we anticipate will materialize in 2016, more than tripling CCRO-secured land area in northern Tanzania.

We also tripled the hectares of land we have helped communities develop land use plans for, reaching more than one million hectares. The difference this sustainable land management will make to the health and wellbeing of the land, wildlife and communities in this sensitive and special area of our country is immeasurable. With this continued success comes increased awareness, understanding, and acceptance at all levels of society and I look forward to celebrating the benefits of this momentum into UCRTs future.

After serving as the Executive Director of UCRT for ten years, my team and I have decided it is time to allow fresh blood to step in.

We come from a culture where strong groups of leaders or elders – known in Maasai as ilraigwanak - work together, sharing leadership responsibilities in a relatively egalitarian way. Our organizational values and culture reflects this model and I am proud to remain a strong member of the leadership team, but to now give another skilled teammate the opportunity to front the organization. I am so proud to

finish my tenure with such concrete successes and positive momentum for the future, having seen the community progression, political awareness, and global support for our cause grow beyond what I could have hoped.

I look forward to my continued contribution to UCRT under the leadership of one of our founders Makko Sinandi as the new Executive Director. **On behalf of Makko, myself, the UCRT team and the thousands of vulnerable people who are positively impacted by our work, thank you for your ongoing support.**

Edward Loure,  
Executive Director



# UCRT: Making an Impact

UCRT empowers communities to uphold their rights, promotes local stewardship of land and natural resources, and advocates for justice of all Tanzanians.

In 2015 UCRT  
worked in 76  
communities,  
benefitting  
271,195  
people.

Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) is a non-profit environmental and social justice organization whose mandate is to work with indigenous groups in Northern Tanzania who depend on communal natural resources to support their livelihoods.

UCRT works to empower marginalised indigenous groups to secure rights to their natural resources and land in order to improve their livelihoods and ability to conserve their resources. We promote resilient, egalitarian, and empowered communities that are responsible for their own development and are able to benefit from and steward their environment for future generations.

UCRT also works with these communities to expand their ability, skills, and knowledge to ensure that national policies and legal processes underpin their rights and development needs.

To achieve these goals, UCRT works across six integrated programmatic areas for comprehensive and sustainable outcomes:

- Land Rights
- Community Based Natural Resource Management
- Community Capacity Building
- Women's Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Education Support

UCRT programmes focus on the empowerment of marginalised pastoralists and hunter-gatherers in **seven key areas**, impacting some of Tanzania's most vulnerable people.

**Monduli**  
**Kiteto**  
**Simanjiro**  
**Yaeda & Lake Eyasi**  
**Longido**  
**Hanang**  
**Ngorongoro**



# Impacts & Achievements in 2015

*"With village land use planning now completed, we, the owners, are in total control of our land. We are in charge of its use and by whom. Neighbouring villages and districts will not be able to claim an inch of our land. It is for us and our children. If an outsider wants to invest in our village land, he will have to agree with the village before doing anything."*

Lorubare Maina,  
Namalulu village, Simanjiro



# Strengthened Community Land Rights

UCRT's Land Rights programmes aims to help local and indigenous communities gain rights to own and manage the land and resources they live and depend on.

Increasingly, Tanzania's most traditional pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities are losing their land and resources due to progressive land encroachment and lack of representation in Tanzanian government and policies.

We help communities and indigenous groups work with local and district government to demarcate, plan, and legally formalise ownership over their land through Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCROs) and Certificates of Village Land (CVL).

# **24,604** ha secured for grazing for Selela village

This is only the second CCRO awarded to Monduli district.

Demarcation was also successfully finalised for seven additional villages in Monduli, comprising 105,171 hectares of land. This was achieved through UCRT's facilitation of village mediation to settle land disputes and reach collective agreement of land boundaries in the area. This land is used by resident pastoralist communities for cattle grazing.

## **36%**

of CCRO committee members in Simanjiro are women

### **7**

#### **villages in Lake Eyasi progressed toward CCROs**

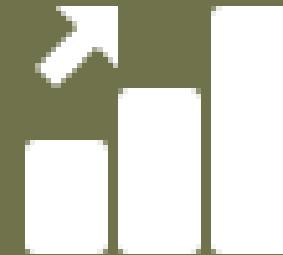
with demarcation for land use zoning in two villages, plus permission for boundary surveys for another five villages. This area is high-risk and difficult to progress due to its proximity to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Serengeti National Park and demarcation is an excellent step forward for these communities.

### **7**

#### **CCROs acquired for 4 villages in Hanang**

protecting 5,464 hectares for use by the local communities exclusively. These are the first CCROs ever issued in Hanang district and are secured for the indigenous Datoga pastoralists who have become a minority in their district due to encroachment by farming communities, which has seen them displaced and lose their livelihoods.

# **115,194** ha of grazing land demarcated for CCROs for two villages in Simanjiro.



**UCRTs total  
secured CCROs  
DOUBLED  
in 2015**

**2015 was UCRTs most successful year to date in securing CCROs.**

Group Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) is a legal tool that gives traditional peoples' right to live, manage, and benefit from their land. This is important because it gives groups like the Hadzabe hunter-gatherers legal rights to use their traditional lands as they have done for more than 80,000 years without fear of losing it to neighbouring farmers.

Today the Hadzabe are earning an income through carbon offset sales for sustainably managing their land, and the funds are used to support community health care and education.

# Land Use Planning for Conflict Resolution

As the Ward Executive Officer representing Dirma village in Hanang District, Daudi attests the impact of Land Use Planning on his local community.

An avid supporter of UCRT and their work in his ward, Daudi credits the recent conflict resolution in Dirma to UCRT's support in land use planning.

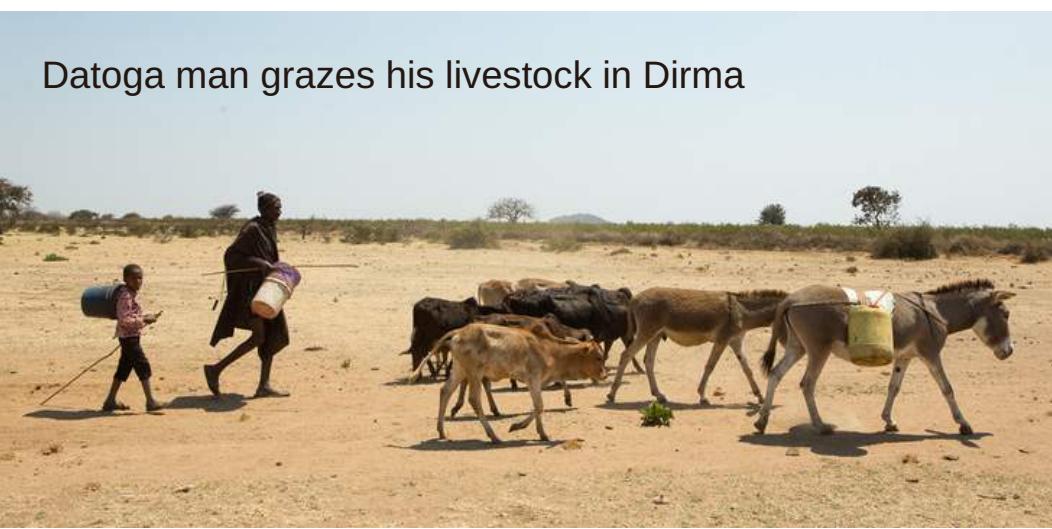
"Before UCRT came to Dirma there were many issues with land use for farming and livestock grazing. There was conflict amongst the villages here, but UCRT has solved this problem," he said.

Increasing population in the area has intensified conflicts over land. A lack of designated or agreed areas or systems for cattle grazing and farming caused conflict within the community as farms were trampled by grazing livestock, and grazing areas became encroached by farmland.

UCRT worked with Daudi and community leaders, farmers, and pastoralists to successfully agree and demarcate farming and grazing areas that are legally protected through village byelaws. With all community members agreeing to land borders and grazing schedules now everyone in the district has the opportunity to provide for their families.

Daudi

Datoga man grazes his livestock in Dirma



***"The conflict is now over for these people. Everyone can live in peace and feel secure about their right to graze their livestock or farm their produce."***

Having seen UCRT's success in resolving this matter, in 2015 Daudi again turned to UCRT for help in resolving a new area of conflict in his ward.

"A new village has been established in Gawlolo, which is causing problems with the existing people in the area. To avoid increasing conflict we need to demarcate the land between villages in the area and give them their own certificates of occupancy.

"UCRT has begun to help us with this, and will continue to work with us in 2016."

***"For a long time, people from the neighbouring district have been coming and carrying out cultivation on our land especially around the common borders. Although it was a challenge, land use planning gave us the opportunity to revisit contested borders together without neighbours and bring the truth out for all to see. Conflicts have now been resolved and we live in peace with our neighbours."***

*Solomon Ole Ngiro  
Namalulu Village, Simanjiro.*





# Communities Benefit from their Natural Resources

UCRT believes that the indigenous peoples of northern Tanzania are well placed to steward the land and wildlife populations as they have for many thousands of years. As populations and livestock numbers increase and land grabbing and encroachment is heightened due to tourism and farming practices, Tanzania's natural resources and wildlife are today at greater risk, as are the traditional land inhabitants who increasingly find their grazing and hunter-gatherer areas declining.

UCRT seeks to dually support the rights and wellbeing of the vulnerable indigenous peoples and the flora and fauna of northern Tanzania through land security and facilitated improvements to land management and use. In 2015 UCRT focused on establishing district-approved bylaws that legally enforce community agreed Land Use Plans (LUPs).

LUPs are established following environmental analysis and community consultation. They aim to establish practices that provide food and economic security for land inhabitants, as well sustainable regeneration opportunities for wildlife, waterways and pasture. LUPs apply to individual villages, but seek to coordinate grazing practices in particular district-wide for the betterment of the land.

LUP stage reached  
during 2015

No. of  
villages &  
districts

Beneficiaries  
in LUP areas

Village Councils (VCs) and  
Village General Assemblies  
(VGAs) trained on LUPs

1 Yaeda

804

Acceptance of LUP process,  
minutes and sketch maps  
approved by VC and VGA

2 Yaeda

9,171

Village land use  
management forms and  
physical internal zoning

4 Monduli

23,597

1 Hanang

Final LUP maps and report  
produced and approved by  
VC/VGA and district

1 Monduli

34,452

2 Hanang

6 Simanjiro

Approval of LUPs at  
National Commission

2 Hanang

5,751

Total

19 villages in  
4 Districts

73,775

**530,675** ha protected by bylaws  
approved at district level  
enforcing community agreed LUPs for two  
villages in Monduli and five villages in  
Simanjiro.

**6** villages provided with rangeland  
improvement training

which will result in greater pastoral  
regeneration and healthier livestock in the  
Longido District

**16** poachers arrested

at Makame CWMA in Kiteto, reducing  
the negative impact on wildlife and  
community safety

**\$27,473** US (60,066,000 TSHS)  
received by Hadza communities

through Carbon Tanzania credits

Drought contingency plans  
formulated for Hanang and  
Simaniro Districts improving food  
security, livestock health and wildlife  
wellbeing

# Increased Community Capacity

UCRT aims to build community capacity to manage their lands, resolve conflicts, enter into beneficial economic arrangements with investors, and make wise decisions regarding their natural resources. The diverse nature of the indigenous populations involved in our programs provide opportunity for UCRT to positively impact areas in conflict through mediation as well as sensitize communities to legal and political rights and policies.

In 2015 UCRT was instrumental in resolving a conflict between Mongo wa Mono and Yaeda Chini where land boundary disputes were impacting forested areas under Hadza CCRO protection. UCRT mediated discussions between the villages to clarify the boundary and reach agreement on by-laws to enforce protection of the CCRO area. One key outcome was the establishment of penalty charges of 5,000 Tshs per head of cattle found in the protected area, which during the year raised 1,000,000 Tshs for the Yaeda Chini Village Council, which is being reinvested in CCRO boundary and bylaw protection.



*"UCRT helped resolve a conflict in our area through distribution of lands and land use planning zones for farming and agriculture. They helped us to establish boundaries that work for the people using the land which enabled peace among farming and pastoralist families here for the first time in many years.*

*"What we have been surprised to also see is improved health of the land and increased income from our land use. Pastoralists are benefiting from healthier grazing lands with an increase to their milk production and farmers are seeing greater crop yield. **"The economic benefit to the village has been substantial, and it keeps growing."***

Evaline Sanka, Executive Officer  
Mulbadaw village, Hanang District

**19 villages in Monduli and Longido were provided training on land governance, policy and planning.** Anticipated outcomes of the training include increased community capacity to defend and advocate for land rights on their own behalf, as well as ensure that their land use planning and practices meet local policy requirements.

**Support for this women's economic group increased their income balance from 980,000 in 2014 to 1,880,000 in 2015**

UCRT assisted the community women's tourism project in Mingenyi village by linking them with markets to sell their locally-made clothes. The group is called Gemwaschi and has 27 members.

**Continued development of the Makame WMA in Kiteto** has seen local communities benefit from increased employment opportunities and income as the result of tourism and investment contracts established in 2014. Additional local staff members to manage project administration and community development were recruited during 2015, in addition to the continued support for 30 community members employed and trained as game scouts for improved protection of land and natural resources including wildlife.



# Strengthened Women's Rights and Role in their Communities

UCRT's women's rights programmes aim to empower women as local leaders within their communities, to participate in government processes and to assert their legal rights to land ownership.

In 2015 UCRT's women's land rights programmes continued to build on momentum created in 2014, with a further 228 women requesting and receiving land titles in the Siimanjiro and Kiteto Districts



## **2,200** hectares of grabbed land returned

to Loiborsoit A (Simanjiro) after local women led a successful political request on behalf of their community. Demarcation has been completed and formal ownership of the land returned to the communities.

## **18,000** women participated in family planning programmes

through The Olasiti Women's Programme which aims to increase awareness and uptake of facilities and support for issues of sexual reproductive health. A sensitization project was also carried out to raise awareness and education levels about HIV and AIDS. Group members affected by HIV and AIDS are gaining confidence and increasingly working on prevention measures for women and girls in their communities.

## **Maa Constitution to formalise equal rights**

has reached the point of final approval at District Community level in Ngorongoro. This constitution will formalise equal rights for women within these traditionally patriarchal Maasai societies, by defining equality for women across inheritance rights, land rights, participation in village leadership and decision making processes, and forced marriage. The constitution also documents and gains legal recognition of positive traditional Maasai cultural practices for posterity.

*"For a long time, Maasai traditional leaders suppressed women's rights.*

*Through UCRT's WRLF initiative of engaging with male traditional leaders we are regretting being the source of pastoral women suffering from bad cultural practices, social discrimination and domestic violence. We thank UCRT who opened our eyes and minds to recognize that we all have equal rights. **From now on we will be at the frontline to ensure no women will suffer from discriminatory cultural practices."***

Abraham, Traditional Leader, Ndedo village



# Leading by Example

Noorkitoip Lengilaa first joined a UCRT Women's Rights and Leadership Forum (WRLF) in her local village in Ngorongoro District three years ago. At the time she hoped to be part of positive change in her community, but Noorkitoip could never have dreamed how much strength and growth she would personally achieve.

At 40 years old, Noorkitoip is a divorced mother of five. Her husband divorced her as punishment for producing five daughters and no sons. As is common in Maasai tradition, upon divorce Noorkitoip was forced to forfeit all her cattle and land to her husband, making providing for her large family as a single parent a daily struggle. Noorkitoip remembers hearing about the WRLF back in 2012.

"At the time I wasn't really sure what to expect, but my community voted me to be a member so I joined. As a mother of five daughters I understand the need for women's rights and support" she says.

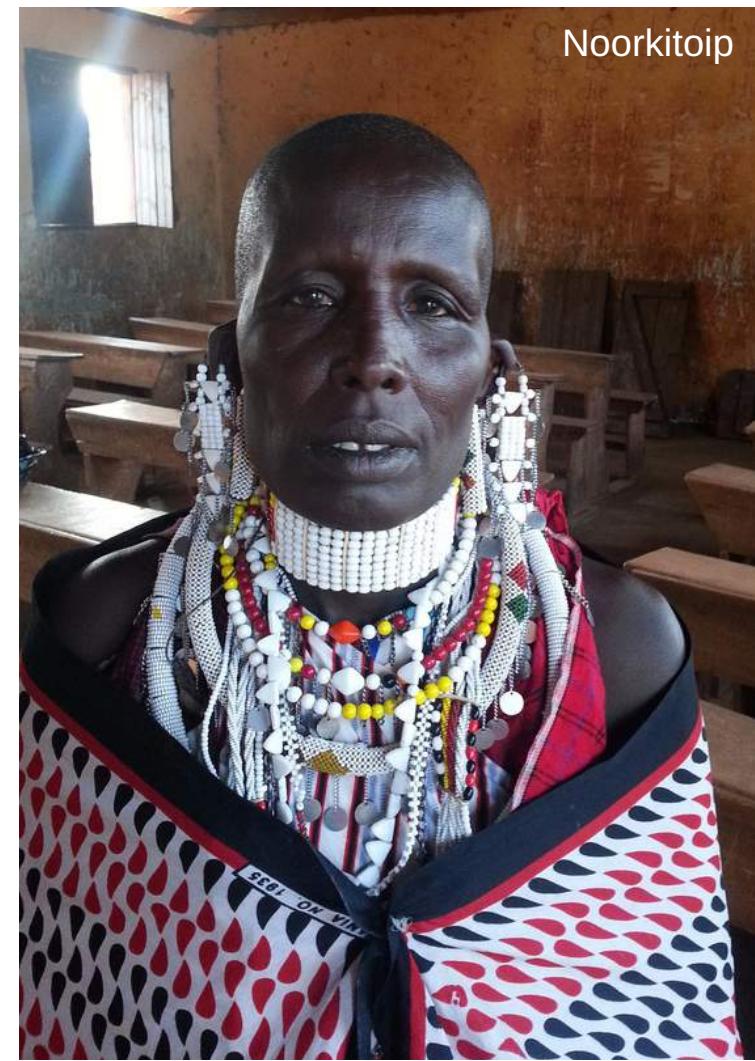
Over the last three years Noorkitoip is proud to have contributed to great positive change for women and girls within her community.

**"Through the WRLF the community as a whole is now more aware of women's rights to property ownership. Over the last three years I have seen an increase in awareness, concern and support for women in pursuing their rights.**

"Another positive change in the increase in women's involvement throughout community discussion and decision making. Most men are now also including their wives in decision making at the family level."



WRLF Summit 2015



Noorkitoip

Within her community, Noorkitoip herself is a shining positive example of how Maasai women across northern Tanzania are speaking up for their rights and finding success and independence.

“Being part of the WRLF has made me more confident in my legal rights. I realised that I was entitled to the livestock and land which was mine before the divorce, and so I pursued my legal rights and have now had both the land and livestock returned.

“Recognising my rights and standing up for them has enabled me to have financial independence. The income my returned livestock provides is enough to support my two youngest daughters through their schooling.”

Now that she has financial and legal independence, Noorkitoip is focused on supporting other women in her area who have lost property due to divorce.

“There are many women in the same situation as I was in, who have lost their livestock and land due to a divorce. I am proof that women’s rights can be successfully pursued and I hope I can support other women to find their rights to ownership and independence.”



*“Now that we understand our land rights and effective environmental planning, the next step for Mulbadaw village is increasing land ownership for women. The women in our community already contribute so much to our economic growth through their participation in UCRT’s planning and their care for the land and livestock. It’s only right that we now pursue opportunities for women to have security of that land for themselves.*

*“Education on women’s rights and continued encouragement and progress through UCRT will be the key.”*

Fabian, Councillor and Chairman  
Mulbadaw village Hanang

# Influenced National Policy and Dialogue

UCRT works to improve national policies and promote good governance by

1. Informing policy and law makers about how to best 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.

## 150 lawyers in Arusha and Dar es Salaam

received training on the rights of indigenous populations. UCRT aims to increase awareness and understanding of indigenous rights to sustainably ensure rights violations are identified and resolved throughout Tanzania. The training seminar increased understanding of who Tanzania's indigenous peoples are and how they are legally defined; how indigenous populations are especially dependant on land and natural resources for their livelihoods; and what their national and international rights are.

***"This seminar has made it clear to me that indigenous people wherever they are have rights over the resources surrounding them. That there is a need for those rights to be specifically provided for under the Constitution of the country."***

- Participant in legal training course

## Advocacy and conflict resolution in Kiteto is helping to secure Akie land

from ongoing encroachment and appropriation by neighbouring villages. In recent years the Akie land area has been greatly reduced. UCRT-led appeals to the local Kimana Village Council has resulted in CCRO demarcation approval to recover some of the lost land. The pursuit of new land borders has increased conflict with neighbouring villages who cannot reach agreement. As at the end of 2015 negotiations for return of land suitable for grazing and honey production is underway, with demarcation expected to be finalised in early 2016.

**Monduli and Simanjiro communities mobilised** through media coverage which informed Terrat and Naitolia area residents of the importance of CCRO establishment and protection of livestock migratory routes. Promotion included a program on local radio and distribution of informative t-shirts. The project resulted in increased understanding and support for CCROs among community residents.

# Education Support

UCRT provides education support to pastoralist and hunter-gatherer communities to bring about positive changes for these vulnerable groups through improved livelihoods and increased community skills as well as enhanced ability to represent themselves in the political and legal framework of modern Tanzania.

In 2015 36 scholarships were provided to primary, secondary and tertiary students to enable their continued education.



## Meet Dayness Naftal

UCRT sponsored student and Hadza hunter-gatherer.

"UCRT has supported my education since 2007, when I started Form One at Mang'ola Secondary School. I am now at University, still pursuing my studies with the support of UCRT. My community is very poor and so without the scholarship support I would not have been able to access education at all – I would likely be at home now, maybe married. Most of my friends who have not received this opportunity have ended up in early marriage.

This support has brought a sort of light in my life, right now I am sure about my future. I'm very proud for this opportunity as one of the few Hunter-gatherer girls to reach this level of education. I'm studying Teaching at University and I hope after the completion of my studies to return to my community to reinvest this opportunity I have received and instil the educational spirit in my community. I hope as a teacher I will be able to impact my fellow young girls who are facing the danger of early marriage.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to UCRT and my sponsors who have given me this opportunity. Hunter-gatherer communities have a serious problem with land grabbing and the only lasting solution will be education of the younger generations. We are facing this problem because our understanding of our rights is low and we lack senior decision makers who can speak on our behalf to achieve long-lasting solutions."

# Our Collaborators and Alliances

UCRT believes that building strong collaborative relationships with other organizations and stakeholders is the most effective approach in dealing with the complexities associated with land and resource rights. We are proud to partner with, or be members of, the following organisations, alliances and platforms:

**African Initiatives**

**Carbon Tanzania**

**Hadzabe Survival Council**

**Honeyguide**

**Heifer International**

**KINNAPA**

**Kivulini Trust**

**Mama Ardhi Alliance**

**MVIWATA Arusha**

**Northern Tanzania Rangelands Initiative**

**Pastoral Women's Council**

**Pastoralist Indigenous NGO Forum**

**Pastoralists Katiba Initiative (KAI)**

**Tanzania Land Alliance**

**Tanzania Natural Resource Forum**

Thank you to the following 2015 donors who helped finance UCRTs projects and outcomes:

**Department for International Development UK**

**Dorobo Fund for Tanzania**

**Flora Family Foundation**

**Friends of Serengeti**

**Global Green Grants**

**IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility**

**International Land Coalition**

**International Working Group for International Affairs**

**Maliasili Initiatives**

**Oxfam**

**The Nature Conservancy**

**The Womadix Fund**

**Veterinaries Sans Frontieres Belgium**

**Wildlife Conservation Society**

UCRT also wishes to thank the many Tanzanian government leaders and bodies who have enabled our positive outcomes in 2015.

# Our Finances

Overview of financial results for the year ending 31 Dec 2015:

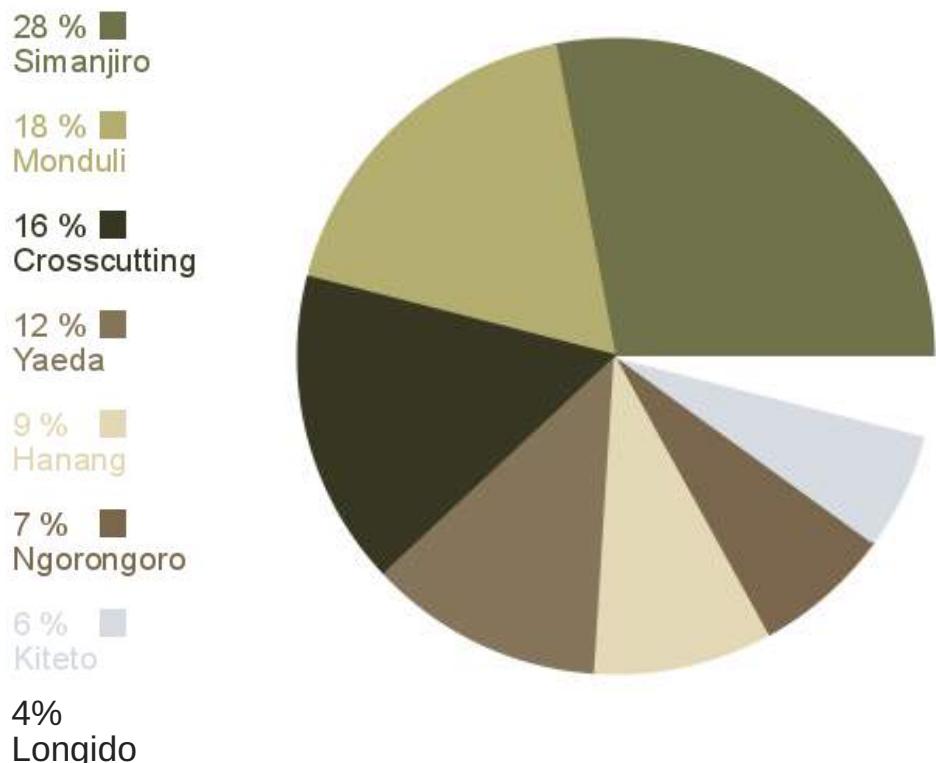
Total Income	2,069,527,313 TSHS	\$1,034,764 USD
Plus 261,294,161 TSHS carried over from 2014		
Total Expenditure	1,827,376,985 TSHS	\$913,689 USD

## Expenditure breakdown:

- 38 % ■ Human Resources
- 12 % ■ Core & Capital Costs
- 33 % ■ Direct Program Costs
- 9 % ■ Fees
- 4 % ■ Program Consumables
- 4 % ■ Travel Costs



## Program expenditure by geographic area:



# Join Us

At UCRT we believe that lasting change can only come from sustained collective efforts. We recognise that in every stage of our work – from working on the ground with marginalised communities, to influencing change in national level policies – collaboration is the key to success.

You can support our work as a donor by funding our programs in the field or engagement in the policy arena.

You can also support our work as a partner, collaborator, or as a community volunteer by joining our efforts to strengthen community rights to their land, influence national policies, and promote justice.

Learn more on our website  
[www.ujamaa-crt.org](http://www.ujamaa-crt.org)

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