



Center For Justice Governance And Environmental Action

THE RESOLUTION OF THE THIRD ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (EHRDs)/LAND AND ENVIRONMENT DEFENDERS (LEDs) CONFERENCE HELD AT THE FLAMINGO HOTEL IN MOMBASA FROM THE 12TH TO 14TH OF JUNE, 2019.

Land and Environment defenders from across the country met in Mombasa County from the 12th to the 14th of June this year for the 3rd Annual Land and Environmental Defenders conference. This year's theme was on environmental human rights defenders engagement with county environmental committees and assessment of emergency and non-emergency needs and support.

The conference received massive support from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Land and Environmental defenders Coalition (LED), the Global Green Grants fund, the international development partners and the Environmental Human Rights Defender together with the Land and Environment Defenders from across the country.

Between April 2018 and April 2019, the Land and Environmental Defenders under the banner of Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action carried out a [baseline](#) study on the implementation of the county Environmental Committees (CECs). The study revealed that only 10 out of the 30 counties covered in the study had gazetted the County Environmental Committees and complied with section 29 of the amended EMCA Act 2015. The Act requires all the counties to constitute the County Environmental Committees. However, despite the governors being in office for seven years this had not been implemented. This is very concerning at a time when the country is facing numerous environmental challenges including: - Climate change, food shortage, drought, water scarcity, conflicts arising from sharing of the natural resources, low harvests and several land conflicts among others.

The [World Bank](#) recently announced a conditional grant, whereby the counties were required to have County Environmental Committees in place before accessing the grants. We have since witnessed a speedy rush by the governors to gazette the committees in order to access the grants. We are however concerned that the constitution of the committees is ignoring the spirit behind the legislation of these committees and the governors are neither looking for competence nor proper community representation while constituting these platforms.

We greatly appreciate the support the Council of Governors (CoG) towards the environmental communities. We the Environmental Defenders Community of Kenya urge our governors to properly constitute the CECs. We are concerned that the Environmental Community in Kenya has been ignored and left out during the constitution of these committees when they are essentially the ones who meet the needed standards of experience, expertise and even the academics needed to perform these roles. We hereby continue to open our doors to volunteer on these committees and will monitor the committees on behalf of the public and share shadow reports to other

institutions including the World Bank about the membership of these committees and their performance thereafter.

We urge every citizen to remain vigilant in monitoring our environment. The future of mankind depends on this generation and its decisions concerning the environment. We remain Vigilant to resist environmental Impunity and any form of violation as every citizen has a right to a clean and healthy environment as guaranteed by the 2010 Kenyan constitution in articles 42, 69 and 70.

Executive Director,

Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA)



Ms. Phyllis Omido.