



**Land and
Equity Movement
in Uganda (LEMU)**

*We promote and defend our customary
land, our heritage, our pride, our identity*



Leaders of Arimonyang Community Grazing Land erect a signpost showing a public notice that their community land is Not for Sale, Amudat district, September 2021

Annual Report 2021

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List of Acronyms:

LEMU – Land and Equity Movement in Uganda

NES – National Engagement Strategy

IDRC – International Development Research Center

UCOBAC - Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children's Welfare

CLA – Communal Land Association

GBV - Gender Based Violence

SOPs – Standard Operating Procedures

DLB – District Land Board

PPRR - Principles, Practices, Rights and Responsibilities

B.O.D - Board of Directors

NGO – Non- government organization

GPS – Global Positioning System

UWA – Uganda Wildlife Authority

ADR – Alternative Dispute Resolutions

LDDM – Land Demarcation and Documentation Manual

CDO - Community Development Officer

SAS – Senior Assistant Secretary

CA - Community Activists

CL – Clan Leaders

LC - Local Councils



Message from the Chairperson Board of Directors

The year 2021 marks the second last year to the end of LEMU's five-year Strategic Plan 2018- 2022. In the year 2021, LEMU planned to increase strategic partnerships with local actors, to provide evidence of how customary land can be effective in the eradication of poverty for the landowners – both women and men. This, however, required increased funding and programming in some key areas. Implicitly, it also meant that staff recruitment and retention particularly of the front line staff was prioritized to raise LEMU's profile as a leading NGO expert on customary land tenure in Uganda.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am happy to report that in 2021, LEMU continued to engage on these issues successfully. It is no doubt that LEMU's staff is sought after when it comes to expertise in the area of customary land governance. As an effort towards raising LEMU's profile, Theresa Auma, who was a Programme Director with LEMU and had taken leave to pursue a Doctorate at Makerere University, was recruited as the new Executive Director in late 2020, taking over from Judy Adoko who had served LEMU since its formation in 2003. In 2021, the new LEMU administration brought on board competent staff that have strengthened LEMU's capacity, both in programs and in finance and administration. In the year 2021, the Board also activated the discussions of a new strategic plan, additional funding sources, and proceeded to recruit members of an International Advisory Board to support the Board of Directors in setting the research agenda on customary land that will shape LEMU's future directions. I am therefore please to welcome our 12 international members of the Advisory Board Members, led by Prof. Mahmood Mamdani, who is also a member of LEMU's Board of Directors.

In 2021, we have seen increased support to field work in the field through new funding. The Board appreciates the three-year research on project preventive legal empowerment for communities in the context of land-based investments to be funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC) and the one and half year funding on promotion of responsible investments to be funded by GIZ's Responsible Land Policy in Uganda (RELAPU) program. These two related new projects gives LEMU a fresh insight into the less supported area of security of tenure for local communities in a context where land is being prioritized for "development projects" and investments.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I welcome IDRC and GIZ's Responsible Land Policy in Uganda (RELAPU) program as new financing sources. These two new funding sources are bridges into the new strategic plan 2023- 2027 that LEMU management at the secretariat and the Board have started to develop. As we welcome our new partners, we also bid farewell to Trocaire, one of LEMU's long term funders since 2009, but closed its country program in Uganda at the end of 2021. Over the years, Trocaire demonstrated its continued interest in supporting LEMU's organizational goals and generally work on land justice in Uganda. We sincerely thank them. We are also grateful to the Dan Church Aid (DCA), which is dedicated to supporting LEMU's activities in Karamoja. We are also grateful to the International Land Coalition (ILC), who supported LEMU to host a network of land actors in Uganda under the umbrella of the National Engagement Strategy/ National Land Coalition also in 2021.

The Board appreciates the work of the field staff and the Coordinating Unit, based in Kampala. We understand that they have to make many sacrifices, including earning lower than they would elsewhere, and this, we think is a noble thing to do. I give thanks to partners and financiers, community members, local governments and like-minded NGOs for their continued support to LEMU's programmes.



Dr John Jaramogi Oloya

Chairperson, Board of Directors



Message from the Executive Director:

The year 2021 for LEMU can be described as a year of transition. I can speak about transition in major two areas; first, a strategic transition from focusing mainly on debates around customary land tenure, to a rethinking about the need to embrace interventions in land from a holistic point of view. The coming to an end of the current strategic plan in 2022 occasioned the re-thinking about this transition. It was also occasioned by the growing link between land work and other related concepts such as agricultural investments, climate change adaptation. The Board of Directors together with the newly constituted International Advisory Board of LEMU will lead the process of rethinking LEMU's strategic intervention areas through a rigorous process which will include wider participation of relevant local stakeholders. The coming year 2022 will therefore be dedicated to the development of a new strategic plan for LEMU to steer interventions for the next five years. We welcome all relevant stakeholders to join LEMU in this important process. As LEMU plans to celebrate its 20 years of existence in 2023, the strategic planning process will work towards evaluating the past and charting a way for the future.



The second major area of transition for LEMU in 2021 regards management and administration. As a new Executive Director, I have focused on raising a competent team that can keep LEMU afloat in the 21st century where expertise and technology is crucial for institutional survival. To ensure that LEMU survives the storm that always overcome many local NGOs, we have established a strong finance and administration team, a research team constituted by well qualified academics and constituted an international Board of Advisors to augment the contributions of the well qualified Board of Directors. With the winding up of the current strategic plan, and the beginning of new long term funding relationships with donor-partners, we are more than hopeful that LEMU's transition will improve debates and land interventions in Uganda for the benefit of the poor rural communities whose livelihoods depend on soil.

Without our team of dedicated staff in the Lango, Teso and Karamoja regions where LEMU works, community level beneficiaries, local government officials, NGO partners and donor partners, it would not have been possible for LEMU to achieve what it planned in 2021. To you all, we wish to extend our appreciation, and we are counting on your support as we embark on a new journey in the year 2022.

Sincerely,

Theresa Auma

Executive Director, LEMU

1. Who we are:

Land and Equity Movement in Uganda (LEMU) LEMU is a national NGO that has made significant contributions towards the recognition and protection of land rights under customary tenure at both local and national levels in Uganda. Based on grounded action and research since 2003, LEMU has effectively engaged the various stakeholders (state, non-state and academia) in an attempt to reduce inequality in (the understanding of) customary land rights and prevent dispossession of the most vulnerable sections of the society such as women, youth, the elderly, the indigenous people and the rural poor. LEMU aims at mobilizing the collective power of the vulnerable sections of the population and empowering them to analyze their own situation and engage effectively with actors and factors that undermine their rights to land and other natural resources. One of LEMU's major achievements at the national level has been the successful and significant contribution to the advocacy for the recognition of customary land tenure as equal with other land tenure systems in Uganda. LEMU comes uniquely placed as a single-issue organization focused on land, but is currently creating new synergies and strategies to consider land from a more holistic perspective. To achieve this, LEMU has begun to work around the links between land and other thematic areas, these may include the drivers of conflicts around land (such as investments, climate change) or opportunities that come from securing land (such as increasing productivity). Over the years, LEMU has mainly partnered with clans/traditional institutions, state agencies in the land administration and land justice arena, and customary landowners to generate key areas of consensus around what customary land is, what it is not and how security of tenure can be achieved within the realm of customary land tenure.

Over the years, LEMU has mainly worked in the regions of Lango, Acholi, Bunyoro, West Nile, Teso and around key National advocacy issues regarding land facilitating the process of clarification and documentation of land governance under customary land tenure and these resulted to the documentation of "Principles, Practices, Rights and Responsibilities (PPRR)" for customary land management in these regions. LEMU also undertook the implementation of Community Land Protection as an approach for sustainable land and natural resource management in Lango and Karamoja sub-regions from 2009 until 2016. The key strategies and learning from the community land protection in Lango region was scaled-up and adapted to the Karamoja context from 2017 to date. Some of the key areas of interventions LEMU has had on land in the Karamoja region (Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts) since 2017 includes but not limited to; identification of communal grazing areas, development and dissemination of the Principles, Practices, Rights and Responsibilities of customary-communal land management, development of the principles and rights into district ordinances, community education and awareness on land rights, laws and policies, providing options for improving security of tenure through formation of communal land associations,

documentation of community rules for grazing land management, election of leaders of grazing land committees, conflict resolution and boundary demarcation of communal grazing lands using technologies such as; 1) MY GPS application to capture coordinates and draw maps using satellite imagery and, 2) concrete pillars.

LEMU is a member of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and currently the host of the ILC initiative of the National Engagement Strategy (NES-UG), a platform that brings together all land actors in Uganda for key advocacy issues with the aim of attaining people-centered land governance. LEMU is also an active member of other national and regional networks such as the Legal Aid Service Providers' Network (LASPNET), and the Northern Uganda Land Platform (NULP). LEMU also made contributions to international land policy dialogues such as making presentations at the World Bank Land Conferences in consecutive years from 2015 to 2019.

Finally, LEMU is fully registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (registration number 60601) and has a valid operational permit valid until February 2022 (permit number 3953). LEMU currently has four offices located in Kampala, Moroto, Soroti and Lira but works regionally in the regions of Karamoja, Lango, and Teso and at the national level. LEMU is governed by a seven member Board of Directors and also has an International Advisory Board composed of land and development experts that guide the strategic intervention areas on the land question in Uganda, especially on the customary land question. LEMU also already has MOU's and working relationships with District Local Governments within Karamoja region where it has current projects being implemented such as Moroto, Napak and Amudat.

Our Vision

A Ugandan society with land tenure security and equitable land rights that make land secure for all for equitable development.

Our Mission

LEMU works to uphold and secure land rights for the well-being of the most vulnerable in Uganda.

2. How we work:

LEMU mainly works with and through its relevant stakeholders. Since its inception in 2003, LEMU has identified four major categories of stakeholders that it works with, including;

- The communities living and working on the land who are the owners of family and community land, particularly the most vulnerable.
- The institutions that have duties under Customary land tenure, especially traditional institutions
- The institutions that have the duty to implement the Land Act 1998 and deal with its violations
- The institutions that make policies and fund interventions intended to protect the rights of vulnerable people and improve their livelihoods.

3. Description of activities and achievements of the year under each objective:

Through the implementation of different program activities, LEMU reached a total number of 4,166 direct beneficiaries during the year 2021 as stated below;

Project	Region	No. of Male	No. of Female	Total
Protecting community lands, improving livelihoods	Karamoja	1,152	889	2,041
Securing Land, Ending Gender Exclusion (SLEDGE)	Teso	1,008	1,316	2,324
Promoting evolution of customary land tenure	Teso	658	457	1,115
National Engagement strategy	Nation-wide	222	245	467
Total beneficiaries reached				5,947

3.1 Objective One: Customary Land owners and other stakeholders convinced of the comparative benefits of customary tenure and prepared to defend and promote it.

Community Education – On laws, policies, customary tenure rights and how to deal with investors

In Karamoja region, a total of 16 community education sessions were conducted in sub-counties of Amudat district on laws, policies and around community-Investor relations all of which commenced with respect to COVID-19 SOPs. In addition LEMU made efforts to increase community understanding

of customary tenure by developing 1,000 copies of the CLA constitution and 500 copies of ordinances in Napak district which were distributed to 13 CLAs in Karamoja region. Trainings on GBV in the context of customary land rights were also conducted focusing on primarily building women's capacity in communities. In Teso, a total of 1,807 people (including 924 females and 883 males) from 23 villages in the districts of Kalaki, Katakwi and Bukedea participated in community education and awareness raising sessions that focused on upholding women's land rights within Customary land tenure. LEMU's information leaflet *"From which family do land rights come?"* highlighting the different categories of persons including women and how they acquire their rights to land was used to facilitate discussions. There was also focus on the relevant laws and policies and encouraging communities to document their land rights as a way of preventing conflict.

The outcome of community education

- 1) Several questions were asked and this improved understanding of women's land rights.
- 2) More women came out to claim their land rights by reporting land cases and expressing interest to demarcate their land.

In Bukedea 40 awareness raising sessions were held in 10 villages of Kangole and Kabarwa sub counties and a total of 455 Male and 653 Female participants. The sessions focused on informing the community about alternatives choices instead of violence, the available GBV services for supporting using the referral pathway and encouraging shared responsibilities among family members. From this awareness the local leaders reported a reduction in GBV cases reported to them which they attributed to the peaceful coexistence in families. Community women especially in Kajesan village which had the highest cases of GBV reported a reduction or non existence of GBV incidences in their families and community.

Radio Programs and mass communication

A total of 540 radio spot messages were aired in Karamoja region on kukowo FM in Kenya in collaboration with Amudat DLB, more messages were also aired in moroto targeting communities in Napak district. The spot messages urged communities to rent rather than sell their land, be vigilant when dealing with investors and use their land instead for production. NES platform which is hosted by LEMU also organized a radio talk show in karamoja sub-region at ATEKER FM, Moroto municipality: this was meant to create mass sensitization and awareness on the customary registry. The major topic discussed was; towards building an appropriate customary land registry for Uganda. In Teso, a total of 208 spot messages were aired on Mama Bukedea FM on two major aspects of; GBV prevention, with a focus on the encouraging community men and women to report violence to the available service providers for support. The other aspect was on formal and informal legal systems where the message highlighted the clan systems at villages, Sub county and district level as avenues for one to report land disputes but also the state systems in place such as the courts of judicature incase the clans fail. During the follow up, it clearly came out that the spot messages were not efficient in reaching women who are always busy with care work and hardly sit to listen to the radio. This led to a shift in the approach from radio spot messages to incorporating the messages in awareness sessions using the public system community drive which was successful in reaching more community members.

Publications

In Karamoja, a total of 1,000 copies of CLA constitution booklets for 13 CLAs were designed, printed and disseminated in Amudat district to 26 leaders from morungole, 9 leaders from Arimonyang, 215 leaders in Napak district (Lokitela angidokeyi CLA leaders, Lorengechora S/C officials, and other community members) during the GBV prevention trainings and other community outreaches. A total of 155 copies of the "Lessons from the Field" paper was also designed and printed using the supplementary funds from DCA, the paper was then distributed to more than 50 participants during the regional CLA dialogue in Karamoja and the National CLA working group meeting in Kampala, 7 LEMU Board of Directors and 13 members of the LEMU international advisory Board. A total of

500 copies of the Napak district ordinance was also designed, printed and disseminated to 373 people, but this was not translated into the local language since the project had not yet received final comments and approval from the Ministry of Justice, directorate of first parliamentary council.

LEMU in Teso also designed and printed 500 copies of the referral pathway posters which give survivors information on where to go to seek support when they experience violence as they exercise their land rights. The posters were used by the community activists and clan leaders for creating awareness on GBV prevention, which helped communities to easily understand the referral service providers available in their communities for support. Copies of the posters were hung on notice boards of public places such as Health centers, sub county and district notice boards, police and under big trees within the market points for wide viewership at one's convenience. In addition, 287 Teso Principles, Practices, Rights and Responsibilities (PPRR) books were distributed to 112 Male and 175 Female in Bukedea and 71 Female, 38 male in Kalaki district to community activists Local councils, sub county and district stakeholders and community men and women. During follow up on the use of the books, the land managers were using as a point of reference as it clearly stipulates rights of every category of persons including women. LEMU together with partners SOCADIDIO and Trocaire collated information and developed the The LDDM and Gender sensitive ADR toolkit in 2020, the manuals were translated into Ateso Language in January 2021 and Trocaire supported to print the manual. LEMU distributed copies of LDDM and toolkit to 80M, 55F community leaders, the two sub counties of Kangole and Kabarwa with Bukedea district were given a copy each and these are used for reference while conducting ADR and Land demarcation by CAs, CLs and influencers.

Building alliances

LEMU renewed its memberships with Legal Aid Service Provider's Network (LASPNET and International Land coalition (ILC). LEMU also participated in the steering committee meeting of the Northern Uganda Land Platform (NULP) where it made presentation on community land associations and was subsequently elected to chair the National CLA working group. Through this, LEMU convened a CLA regional dialogue meeting in Karamoja with relevant partners and a national CLA working group in Kampala. Still at the national level, LEMU successfully hosted the National Engagement Strategy (NES) that bring together local and national partner working on land under four major themes. The hosting mandate included taking charge of financial disbursement of funds to respective partners which was done successfully. In Teso, LEMU organized activities during 16 Days of activism against gender based violence under the theme '*Orange the world; End Violence against women now*'. In Teso, LEMU together with partners; Trocaire and Socadido with funding from USAID used Land demarcation guide, which was previously drafted by LEMU to develop a gender sensitive manual for land demarcation and documentation Manual (LDDM). The purpose of the manual was to define the steps taken in land demarcation using the My GPS Application and how to produce the final maps, which is printed and disseminated to the landowners as evidence of their land rights. The manual was translated into Ateso languages and was printed disseminated and used to train relevant community leaders in September 2021.

3.2 Objective Two: Training on Gender Based violence prevention in relation to land rights.

- **Gender based violence -in land trainings**

Local leaders and influencers were trained both in Karamoja and Teso on Gender-Based Prevention in the context of Land rights protection.

In Karamoja, In order to integrate issues of women's land rights under communal-tenure with women's land rights at the household, the project conducted training of community leaders, parish chiefs, CLA leaders, sub-county leaders, clan leaders from the three sub-counties of; Lorengechora, Amudat, and Loro on GBV prevention and land rights protection. Each training lasted three days and was attended by a total of 151 trainees. Topics covered during the training included; key words and

definitions associated with GBV, types of GBV, roots and contributing factors of GBV, how violence impacts society, understanding violence against women and violence against men, understanding power, stakeholder roles and responsibilities in GBV prevention, circles of influence, stages of change and motivators/barriers of change. A pre- and post training evaluation was conducted at the beginning and end of each day's training, and 96% of participants demonstrated a great improvement in their understanding about GBV and how it limits women's realization of women's land rights.

In January 2021, LEMU trained 50F, 80M leaders (CAs, CLs and influencers) on GBV prevention in Kangole and Kabarwa Sub counties in order to equip them with the Knowledge and skill to detect GBV and have the necessary skills to respond to such cases. The leaders were also trained on appropriate handling of disclosure when GBV occur and they are limited to provide psychological first aid and making referrals. From the pre and post analysis, the results showed that only 29/50F and 32/80M had knowledge on GBV prevention while 20/50F and 18/80M demonstrated knowledge on appropriate handling of disclosure. These results informed LEMU to conduct refresher trainings for both GBV prevention and Appropriate handling of disclosure and the assessment indicated an increase in knowledge among the leaders where by 42/49F, 69/81M had knowledge on GBV prevention while 38/49F, 60/81M had knowledge on appropriate handling of disclosure.

The two year USAID-Trocaire funded project focusing on improving women's land rights held a campaign against violence against women during the international 16-days of activism in December 2021. During this campaign, LEMU with one of the partners in Soroti district TERELEPA held a joint ceremony in Kabarwa Sub-County grounds in Bukedea District on a campaign to end violence against women. The event was attended by various Stakeholders including the Gender officer of Bukedea, Senior Assistant Secretary (SAS) of Kangole S/C, the Community Development officer, Kabarwa and Kangole S/Cs, the police, CAs and CLs and community men and women. The community presented MDD performances to demonstrate the need to end violence against women, protect their land rights and the different service providers available for GBV. During this year's event, LEMU recognized school-going girls who supported their parents during the covid 19 lock-down and they looked forward to returning to school. These were supported with scholastic materials, preparing them to return to school. LEMU printed 2 banners and 140 T-shirts distributed to all LC1s of the 10 villages, 20 CAs, 10, 30 women invited to the ceremony government leaders in attendance. A banner depicting the theme "*Orange the world: end violence against Women*" and was held up during the village match in the company of the band. Women held out posters of messages encouraging the end of violence against women and girls. The match was guided by the police to ensure safety during the match. This rallied a lot of people to attend the ceremony. The government leaders at sub-county and district level pledged to continue supporting survivors of GBV and to bring perpetrators accountable.

Land conflict resolution and mediation

In Karamoja, The project had resolved most disputes in existing project communities in 2020 and planned that in 2021, conflict resolution would be conducted only in new project communities, but fresh conflicts broke out in two communities (Lokitela Angidokei in Napak and Arimonyang in Amudat districts) during boundary demarcation using concrete pillars. During the project period, conflict resolution activities were carried out and although boundary disputes were not fully resolved until new GPS maps are produced, they were managed well and communities resumed the planting of their concrete pillars in the two communities of Arimonyang and Lokitela Angidokei. In Arimonyang community in Amudat district, the community members became suspicious about the conflict resolution meeting convened by LEMU and Amudat district leaders since they perceived that the government is securing land for UWA and this was brought by the large number of concrete pillars delivered to the community which sparked rumours about land grabbing by government and scared the community and made them more suspicious even when their leaders had requested for these pillars to secure their land. In Lokitela Angidokei community in Napak district, a multi-sectoral approach to conflict resolution was pursued which involved the RDC, LC5, DPC, Lands Officer, Chairperson Napak district Land Board, The Secretary Lands, Sub county Chiefs, opinion leaders,

peace committee members, Local council leaders. The conflict resolution exercise in Lorengechora sub-county (Lokitela Angidokei community) can be said to be partially successful because even if there is a reported element of tension between the communities, the community of Lokitela Angidokei at least succeeded with the start of planting concrete pillars on their grazing land, and within a three weeks from the conflict resolution meetings 30 pillars were planted, this is a positive development which the program will build on in 2022.

In Teso region, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR initiative of LEMU registered total of 35 cases but 7 were from outside Bukedea district (outside project area) and not supported. All the remaining 28 cases which included violence over women's claim to land from Bukedea were mediated by clan committees and resolved amicably. During the mediation process, the police mainly at sub county level were involved in cases where there were threats and violence from the parties. The clans have proved to have sufficient capacity to mediate land cases using the materials developed by LEMU such as the PPRR, the ADR toolkit and case management forms and samples of consent agreements. The office of LEMU in many cases only came in to conduct land demarcation using My GPS application.

Facilitating community land protection through documentation of rules and strengthening of community land management, in the process of CLA formation.

This activity is mainly implemented in the Karamoja region under the community land protection program. During the reporting period January to June 2021, the project supported the development and popularization of community CLA constitutions in two new grazing territories called Dale (located in Loro sub-county) and Toreikinai (located in Kongorok sub-county) grazing lands that make up the 14 new Communal Land Associations (CLAs) formed in Amudat district in 2021. During the year, a total of 14 CLA rules/constitutions were therefore written by communities in preparation for CLA incorporation. These constitutions captured the traditional rules for land management and they have no difference with their traditional way of living. The rules also capture the key provisions of the Land Act, regarding the role of the management committees and the land rights of community landowners. After documenting their rules, these communities were also facilitated to elect a 9-member committee for communal land management, in preparation of the formation of communal land association. When funds are available in 2022, these communities will be incorporated into CLAs, under the direct supervision of officials from the ministry of lands.

Develop district ordinances for promotion of customary land governance.

Since 2019, LEMU initiated the process of developing district ordinances in Napak (Karamoja region) and Kalaki (Teso region). In 2021, both districts actively participated in the drafting and reviews of the ordinance but none of them reached a final document because the final approval from the office of the attorney General delayed. LEMU provided the documented customary rules for land management as the main content for these ordinances, and part of the delays could be because the (national) state is still "cleaning" some of the repugnant provisions of these customary rules. In LEMU's view, these provisions is how society wants to govern their land and should be passed in that state.

Boundary demarcation and documentation of customary land using sketch maps, boundary trees, GPS maps and concrete pillars

In the Karamoja region in 2020, the project supported elders and ALC members to undertake boundary marking and boundary harmonization with neighbours. This activity led to drawing of community maps which helped in determining actual land size and harmonizing of boundary. The communal grazing lands are however very vast taking several days to map. GPS maps of the three communal grazing lands where project implementation begun in 2020 was produced as follows; Arimonyang

8,290.37 acres, Morungole 3,615.5 acres and Lokitela Angidokeyi 1,824.10 acres. This year 2021, the project procured a total of 850 concrete poles and 3 sign posts with the logo of LEMU, DCA and the respective local governments of Amudat and Napak. The three signposts procured were planted by the roadside showing where the grazing land is. In 2021, it was planned that concrete pillars would be planted around the three grazing lands of Lokitela Angidokeyi in Napak district, Morungole in Amudat and Arimonyang in Amudat district. Due to boundary conflicts and suspicion that emerged in these communities, the planting of pillars could not be completed. What was actually achieved is that a total of 30 concrete pillars out of 215 were planted in Lokitela Angidokeyi grazing land in Napak; In Amudat district, 200 concrete poles were also delivered to Arimonyang but only a total of 60 pillars have so far been planted; In Morungole community, only 50 were planted. To overcome the challenges of suspicion, conflict resolution meetings will be held in the coming year and the planting of concrete pillars is hoped to continue.

In Teso, the program focused on proactive land-boundary demarcation: As a means to documenting land rights and mitigating conflict, 110 individuals in Kalaki and Katakwi districts were supported to demarcate and document their land using My GPS Application. Those supported have expressed confidence in their tenure security since they are able to support their households with average basic needs such as food, income from sale of farm outputs, medical care etc. Women supported to demarcate their land have full access and control over their land and are farming and tending livestock on their land but also have their homesteads on the land uninterrupted because one's land rights are defined and affirmed through neighbors, clan leadership and LCI who signed signing against the map of the land. To sustain the GPS land mapping work begun by LEMU in Bukedea district, a total of 10 community leaders were identified and trained to pick coordinates at community level to prepare them to continue to support the community men and women interested in demarcation and documentation. The office also donated 4 smart phones to the leaders to enable them continue with GPS land mapping. Under the SLEDGE project in Bukedea, LEMU supported 28F and 47M to demarcate their land. In Bukedea, 28 cases were reported from 20F and 8M. The staff mediated cases from 18F and 5M and could not mediate 7 cases because they were from outside the project areas. In Kalaki and Katakwi, 7 cases from 3F and 4M were mediated.

Below is Adeke Deborah, a widow from Kakutot village Kangole sub County in Bukedea district, displaying the "MY GPS map" of her land after successful mediation and demarcation of her land by LEMU with the support of the clan.



Youth in Arimonyang community, Amudat district plant a concrete pillar to demarcate the boundary of their community grazing land to prevent it from encroachment, September 2021.



3.3 Objective Three: Enhanced harmonization between customary tenure principles and practices and statutory

Facilitate Ordinance process in Kalaki and Napak Districts; Napak District Council passed the Napak District Local Government Communal Land Management Ordinance 2020 with amendment. A select committee was put in place to receive and respond to feedback from the Ministry of

Constitutional affairs where the ordinance was submitted for approval. LEMU also worked with Kalaki District Local Government to pass an ordinance for protection of customary land. The ordinance was tabled before Kalaki District council and has progressed to third draft. The ordinance has increased popularity of customary principles especially on protection of women's land rights embedded in the ordinance. In 2021, both districts actively participated in the drafting and reviews of the ordinance but none of them reached a final document because the final approval from the office of the attorney General delayed. LEMU provided the documented customary rules for land management as the main content for these ordinances, and part of the delays could be because the (national) state is still "cleaning" some of the repugnant provisions of these customary rules. In LEMU's view, these provisions are how society wants to govern their land and should be passed in that state.

Strengthening state and customary/non-state collaboration through the National Engagement Strategy (NES) Uganda

LEMU has promoted a better understanding and linkages between the state, customary, civil society and faith based organizations through its publications on customary tenure. LEMU hosts NES platform that brings together 35 local and international organizations, private sector and research institutions working on land and natural resource governance in the country. NES held the annual platform meeting where member organizations shared their experiences, successes, failures, lessons and way forward on issues of land governance focusing on customary tenure.



Image 1.2 - Annual NES meeting that took place on 9th December 2021 at Hotel Africana

Through the NES program, LEMU supports a total of four thematic lead organizations to work within the framework of their membership on themes such as Women and vulnerable groups, Investments, Natural Resources Management, Land Governance and Land Rights Defenders. Through this network, LEMU with funding from International Land Coalition (ILC) is able to create networks where communities experiencing injustices on land can be supported to access land rights. NES which is hosted by LEMU held its annual platform meeting with over 30 participants from different organizations trained on multi-stakeholder governance (decision making, roles, membership, principles, and structures), these skills are to be put in practice by LEMU and its partners for better organizational practice. Safer world a member of NES also trained members (LEMU inclusive) on the LANDex tool on land governance which aims to put people at the center of land data, democratizing land monitoring and building on data eco-system that better captures the complex experience of land governance from diverse perspectives. LEMU staff took part in capacity building initiatives organized by its partners like UCOBAC that organized training on "existing national and regional land frameworks process including the "Kilimanjaro Initiative (Charter of demands)"² in accelerating and

guiding advocacy efforts towards securing women land rights”.¹

3.1.1 Objective Four: Strengthening institutional capacity of LEMU to fulfill its capacity.

Improving the human resource gap

Strengthening LEMU's capacity this year prioritized addressing the Human Resource gap in both program and administration. During the year, LEMU recruited a project manager based in Moroto field office to improve on project delivery in that region. LEMU also recruited a Finance and Administrative Manager to lead and strengthen financial management and compliance in LEMU. Following the recruitment of the Executive Director (a PhD candidate), another expert with a doctorate in land Governance was recruited to coordinate the NES program of the ILC and also to strengthen the research capacity of LEMU. To further support the efforts of the team at the secretariat and the Board of Directors in charting the strategic direction of LEMU and designing new research questions, an international Board of Advisors was constituted, drawing from a wide range of fields including scholars, activists and practitioners. The advisory board held its inaugural meeting was held in December 2021 with subsequent meetings due every six months. Below is a table showing the staffing distribution of LEMU in 2021.

Category	Female	Male	Total
Programme	4	5	9
Administrative	3	0	3
Finance	0	2	2
Staff support persons	1	1	2
Volunteers	1	1	2
Security	0	3	3
Transport/logistics	0	1	1
Overall Total	22		

Maintaining a strong governance and oversight system

With regards to governance, LEMU maintained a strong and independent decision-making Board of Directors composed of seven members. The Board met three times during the year to assess program progress, ensure compliance to relevant state laws and regulations, approve institutional documents such audit reports, annual reports, work plans, budgets and aid the smooth running of the organization.

To boost its operations and increase program intervention, LEMU embarked on aggressive fund raising during the year. Out of the six project proposals that were submitted to potential donor partners for funding, two were successful. One with International Development Research Center (IDRC) based in Canada funding a three year research project on how preventive legal empowerment can empower communities in the context of land-based investments. The second proposal on Promoting Responsible Investments in Land (RGIL) will be funded by GIZ's Responsible Land Policy in Uganda (RELAPU) project. Both projects gives LEMU the opportunity to intervene in cases where land sales and investments has undermined the customary land rights of community members. The IDRC funder project will be implemented in the four regions of Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja, while the GIZ funded project will be implemented in Lango sub-region. Implementation of both projects will begin in early 2022. With the constitution of an international advisory Board and the development of a new strategic plan, LEMU hopes to raise more funds related to research and addressing the current crisis on customary land arising from the development of land markets.

¹ Kilimanjaro Charter of Demands- a grass root women movement/ initiative in Tanzania that climbed Mt Kilimanjaro to express their dissatisfaction on rights violations. This initiative was officially launched in Arusha.

LEMU also ensured a presence and visibility in all the three regions where its programs are implemented by keeping offices operational in Lira (to serve Lango region), Soroti (to serve Teso region), Moroto and Amudat (to serve Karamoja region) and Kampala (for national-level coordination and policy advocacy).

4.0 Activities planned but not implemented

Mainly as a result of funding shortfalls, some of the major deliverables anticipated in the LEMU 2021 annual work plan did not materialize. Some of these activities included research initiatives such the relation between youth land rights and agricultural production; the implications of land registration on customary land governance that did not get funded, despite proposals being submitted to potential funders. Some the process-oriented activities such as conflict resolution, boundary demarcation of communal grazing lands, development of a district ordinance registration of communal land associations were also not implemented (fully), both due to the limited time period of one-year grant contracts and also due to limited budget allocations. In the coming year(s), LEMU will continue to pursue these interventions and those planned in the 2022 annual work plan or in the five-year strategic plan to be developed.

The growing (military and political) insecurity in the Karamoja region paused a risk to the life of LEMU staff and also delayed completion of some activities. Community grazing lands that LEMU was demarcating was turned into “battle fields” in the military battles between the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) and Karamojong cattle rustlers. LEMU could not directly resolve the security stance, but secured staff through workman’s compensation insurance and adjusting work schedules based on local security details.

5.0 Impact of LEMU work observed in 2021

1. Because of the community trust LEMU has built over the years, there was a high level of enthusiasm in almost all new communities engaged in 2021 and LEMU supported projects progressed faster than expected in spite of the setbacks caused by Covid-19. It is also because of the high reputation that LEMU managed to mobilize distinguished scholars and practitioners to join its International Board of Advisors. The two major funds secured in 2021 for LEMU’s future work also draws a lot from the impact of successful implementation and advocacy in Uganda, for example the IDRC research project that builds on the success of previous/similar projects.
2. In Karamoja, LEMU’s community land protection work increased the sustainable use and maintenance of natural resources and ecosystems that exist the community grazing lands since most CLA rules prohibit the cutting of trees, over exploitation of building materials such as sand and rocks and strictly allows for only community usage and not sale of these natural resources.
3. Through our communal land protection work, LEMU has created opportunities for women to challenge local practices that discriminate against them and promote changes that strengthen their land rights and decision-making. Traditionally, the role of women in land management and

decision making in Karamoja was not conspicuous. Out of 81 communal land Managers elected, 28 are women.

4. LEMU boundary marking guide was upgraded into a Land Demarcation and Documentation Manual and adopted for use by all partners (such as Trocaire and SOCADIDO) under the USAID Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Environments (RISE) Project to promote inclusive and participatory land demarcation in Teso. LEMU and its Partners also developed an ADR toolkit for Teso.
5. From the successful role of the staff in land dispute mediation work in Teso, more clan leaders requested LEMU for support on difficult cases after several attempts of failed mediations. The local government officials from Kangole sub-county also reported a significant reduction in the number of cases reported to them as explained by the chairperson LCIII Kangole, who chairs the LCIII court.
6. Our approach of working with Community Activists and Clan Leaders in Teso to practically use the My GPS application to pick GPS coordinates during the land demarcation process has earned LEMU greater credit and trust in the community because more people interested to demarcate and mapped their land can easily approach these leaders and have their land mapped. This is also a sustainability strategy.
7. The GBV awareness raising activities in Teso have enabled more women to demonstrate change in knowledge as some women reported that social norms that especially burden women with domestic work is reducing, more men are supportive to women to claim their land rights and there has been a reduction of mainly physical violence in the communities.

Some Lessons from our Community land protection work in Karamoja

- i) Some aspects of community vulnerability on which project assumptions were made while designing interventions are considered by the community as unnecessary. For example, the project assumed that communities would need more information on how to deal with investors since this is one of threats to their land tenure security, but it turned out that the community were not interested in any further awareness about the topic as a defence mechanism. They believe that since they do not want investors on their land, they also do not want to learn anything about it. This, however appears to be the case in communities that have not yet encountered an investor because some new communities in Amudat district such as Kosiroi in Amudat where Tororo cement is making an establishment of a cement factory and there is an influx of people from outside Karamoja, so people are getting anxious about the threat that will be brought about the investment.
- ii) With no eminent external danger, even when the size of the communal land is gradually reducing due to encroachment and with evidence of changing land uses, especially from exclusively being used for grazing to introduction of cultivation in some sections of the communal grazing land, some community members are likely to see no need to protect their land.

- iii) Project implementation can be unnecessarily delayed by bureaucratic government agencies, such as the process of ordinance development in Napak district being delayed at the National level office mandated to give final approval. One of the key lessons we have learnt is that trying to fit activity completion to the short yearly project implementation cycles is not feasible, as the implementation may delay beyond the yearly project implementation period. For such activities that rely on government institutions for delivery, only minimal targets will be set and in a manner that is feasible to complete during the project implementation period. For general program development and land related projects that require long processes therefore, it may not be possible to achieve all intended results in short term projects and funders should always take this into consideration.

6.0 Board of Directors:







The following individuals served on the board of directors the whole of 2021.

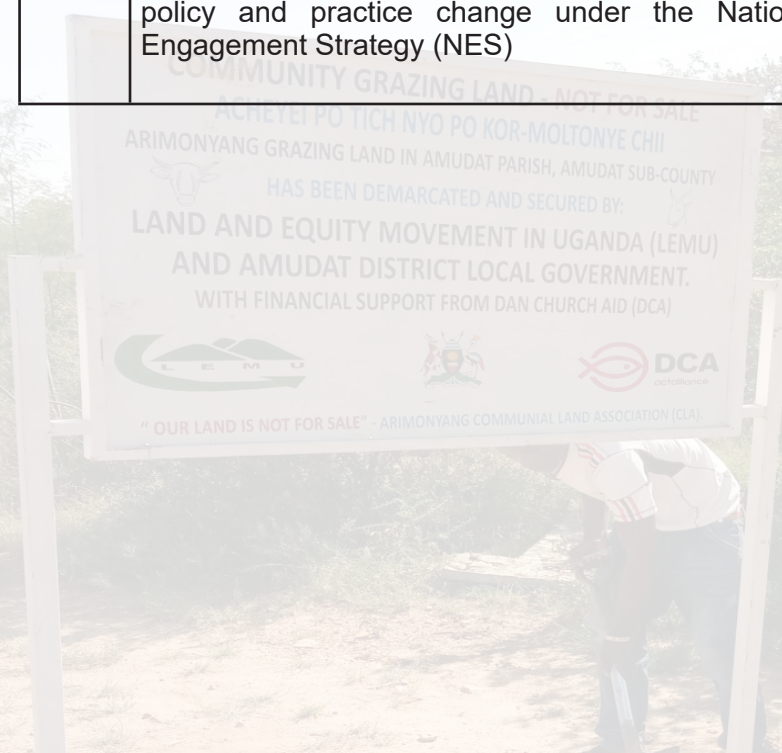
NAME	GENDER	ROLE	OCCUPATION
Dr John Jaramagi Oloya	M	Chairperson	Consultant with over 30 years of field based and hands on experience in development
His Worship Gabriel Nyipir	M	Member	Retired Chief Magistrate - Lira
Ms. Karen Lillian Naluyimbazi Atamba	F	Treasurer	Chartered Accountant with ACCA, CPA and MBA from Heriot Watt University, United Kingdom
Prof Mahmood Mamdani	M	Member	Executive Director, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Professor of African studies, political science at Columbia University, New York
Dr John De Connick	M	Member	An economist by training and worked as director at Accord Uganda, Lecturer Makerere Uganda and currently works at cross cultural foundation Uganda
Mr. Anthony Okech	M	Member	Freelance consultant and former senior lecturer at Makerere school of adult and community education

Magdaline Adhiambo Kasuku	F	Member	18 years of professional media reporting. Currently working as managing director, Radio Waa 89.8FM in northern Uganda.
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7. Donors and development partners that supported LEMU's work in 2021:

The following are the development partners that have supported LEMU to implement the set objectives. LEMU extends her sincere gratitude to these partners.

NO.	PROJECT NAME	PARTNER
1	Securing Land Rights and Ending Gender Exclusion	Trocaire - USAID RISE  
2	Improving livelihoods by securing communal Land Rights in Napak and Amudat Districts of karamoja.	Danish Church Aid 
3	Promotion of evolution of customary tenure in Teso	Trocaire - Irish Aid  
4	Promote people centered land governance through policy and practice change under the National Engagement Strategy (NES)	International Land Coalition 



Profiles of International Advisory board.

Convener:

Prof. Mahmood Mamdani, Convener (also member LEMU Board of Directors and the Director of Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR).



*Professor Paris Yeros, UFABC, Brazil
(also member of the Editorial Board
for Agrarian South: Journal of Political
Economy)*

Prof. Paris Yeros is a Professor at the Federal University of ABC (UFABC), São Paulo, and faculty member of the undergraduate programmes in Economic Sciences and Sciences & Humanities and the postgraduate programmes in World Political Economy and Human & Social Sciences.

He is former coordinator of the programme in World Political Economy (2018-2020).

He is an editor of *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy* and director of Coletivo Novo Bandung.

He is also a member of the Nucleus of African and Afro-Brazilian Studies at UFABC.

He has research experience in the field of Political Economy, working mainly on the following topics: World Economy; Contemporary Africa; Agrarian Question and the Food System; Work and Gender; Decolonization and the National Question.

Prof. Issa Shivji, Professor Emeritus, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (also member of the Editorial Board for *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*)

Was nominated to this Board due to his eminent contribution in the field of political economy and agrarian studies, specifically on the land question under neoliberalism. Land struggles and conflicts under customary land tenure in Uganda which emerged after the adoption of a neoliberal land reform in Uganda is one of the key intervention areas of LEMU.

Prof. Jun Borrás, Editor, *Journal of Peasant Studies*

Was nominated to this Board due to his eminent contribution in the field of Peasant and Agrarian studies. The agrarian question of access to land by smallholder producers is one of the key one of the core issues LEMU has grappled with in an attempt to provide guidance on how access to customary land can contribute to economic development.



Dr. Lynn Ossome, Institute for Economic Justice, South Africa (also member of the Editorial Board for Agrarian South: Journal of Political

Practitioners/scholars:

Dr. Lorenzo Cotula is a Principal Researcher in Law and Sustainable Development at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), a policy research institute based in the United Kingdom. He is also a Visiting Professor at the School of Law, University of Strathclyde. For the past 20 years, Lorenzo has been collaborating with researchers, civil society and government agencies in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as with bilateral and multilateral development agencies. His research and policy work focuses on the legal arenas where natural resource governance meets the global economy – cutting across land and natural resource law; international investment law; law and transnational value chains; human rights; political economy of natural resources and foreign investment; and legal empowerment, citizen agency and public accountability.



Dr. Barbra Nakangu,
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), USA



*Dr Walter Chambati,
Sam Moyo African Institute of
Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS), Zimbabwe*

Walter Chambati (PhD) is Executive Director of The Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS), Harare, Zimbabwe and Associate Editor of the Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy. He has written extensively on land, labour and agrarian relations in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa. Some of his recent published works include Labour Questions in the Global South(2021) (co-edited with Praveen Jha & Lyn Ossome) Land and Agrarian Reform in Zimbabwe: Beyond White Settler Capitalism(2013) (co-edited with Sam Moyo) and Rethinking Social Sciences with Sam Moyo(2020) (co-edited with Praveen Jha and Paris Yeros).

Practitioners:

Rachael Knight is an attorney with expertise in land tenure security, access to justice, legal empowerment and sacred sites. She is currently a Senior Associate of the Legal Tools for Citizen Empowerment team at the International Institute for the Environment and Development (IIED). She helped to found Namati, a global legal empowerment organization that helps disenfranchised communities to understand, use, and shape the law. She founded Namati's Community Land Protection Program, then served as its Director from 2012-17 and as its Senior Advisor from 2018-2019. In this capacity, together with land rights advocates throughout Africa, she co-created an integrated model of community land protection that is now practiced around the world. Previously, she was Director of the International Development Law Organization's Community Land Titling Initiative. She has advised the governments of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Belize, Nepal, and Kenya throughout their land law and policy drafting processes. She has worked as a consultant for FAO since 2004; in this capacity she wrote "Statutory Recognition of Customary Land Rights in Africa: An Investigation into Best Practices for Law-Making and Implementation." She has also written various books and guides for community land protection advocates and activists, available at: <https://namati.org/ourwork/communityland/community-land-protection-publications/>



*Rachael Knight,
International Land Expert, USA*

Also worked in close partnership with LEMU from 2009-2015.



*Liz Neate, MSc MRICS,
International Advisor to LEMU, United Kingdom*

Liz Neate is a chartered surveyor with a long-held interest in customary land rights. Liz has a degree from the University of Oxford (BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics) and is a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Liz's relationship with LEMU started in 2012 when she spent a short period in LEMU's Kampala offices in 2012 working on a research report. Until Covid began to limit travelling, she spent time each year in Uganda supporting LEMU, and continuing to learn about customary land, and she hopes to return when possible! In the UK, Liz is a Director at Deloitte, where she advises on land and real estate development, specialising in compulsory acquisition.

Jimmy Ochom is an Environmental Human Rights Lawyer, a specialist in land policy and Natural Resources Conflict Management, he is also currently the Land Rights Lead at Oxfam in Uganda, and supports Oxfam Global team on advocacy work on Land rights, Food Security, and Climate Justice. He is an Expert on the Political Economy of Land Governance in Africa. He holds an LLB/LLM from the University of South Wales and Post Graduate Diploma in Poverty Land and Agrarian Studies from the University of the Western Cape(PLAAS) the He has worked as the Programs Manager at the Uganda Land Alliance. He has been progressively working for and with several organizations that look at improving access to Justice through litigation and ADR. He has managed several research programs on Land Access and Conflict in Uganda. He managed research on The Role of Women's Land Rights Advocates in partnership with the University of Essex, UK, and the Robert Bosch Foundation. Jimmy worked with Uganda Land Alliance and has implemented several Natural Resources Governance projects and developed experience in Climate Justice, Protection of Human Rights, Access to Justice and Gender Equality through land rights advocacy, provision of legal aid services(ADR) to the vulnerable and poor; carrying out research and documentation of access to justice bottlenecks; and public interest litigation through the various organizations. Jimmy has served for the government of Uganda as the Chief Mediator(Land) during the Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters in 2019.



*Jimmy Ochom,
Land Rights Coordinator, OXFAM, Uganda
jimmy.ochom@oxfam.org*



*Dennis Tabaro,
Executive Director, African
Institute for Culture and Ecology
(AFRICE), Uganda
Website; www.africeug.org*

Dennis Tabaro is a trained Community Educator, Agroecologist and Earth Jurisprudence Practitioner, with Msc. Agroecology. Of Uganda Martyrs Un., Bachelors Degree in Adult and Community Education(BACE) Muk.,Dip Adult Education, Dip. Accounting.

He also trained in Earth Jurisprudence EJ; A member of UN harmony with Nature Initiative.

A founder and Executive Director of African Institute for Culture and Ecology (AFRICE) and a strong advocate for African indigenous Knowledge systems in food, land and Natural heritage.

Tom Balemesa Kitembo is passionate about peace, development and social research. For over 10 years, he has worked within and outside Uganda on land, gender, mining and minerals policies, post conflict development, monitoring and evaluation, social and participatory research. Tom is currently leading the team documenting the process and approach of the issuance of Communal Land Associations (CLA) and Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCO) in 3 districts of Karamoja. Recently he was a land governance and rights expert for the National Planning Authority's World Bank-funded project; a Report on the concept of Land banking and Guidelines for implementing Land Banking in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

Tom possesses a Masters of Arts in Peacebuilding and Conflict studies that focused on land conflicts as a result of Oil exploration in Hoima and a BA Education degree from Makerere University. He also possesses a post graduate diploma in monitoring and evaluation



*Tom Balemesa Kitembo,
Peace and Development Consultant
and Land Expert in Uganda*

from Uganda Management Institute, certifications in conflict analysis and mediation in violent conflicts from United States Institute of Peace and was; a visiting professional at Landesa –Seattle on women land rights, United States Peace Corps-USA as an Atlas Fellow on post-conflict programming and training and Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)-Durban as a junior fellow knowledge production department. He is a certified practitioner for achieving responsible land-based investments from the Social License Platform and gender inclusivity in mining governance from UNDP. He divides his time between family, travel, research and has published on land, conflicts, and extractives' policies.

8.0 Conclusion:

LEMU remains committed to work to ensure security of equitable land rights for the well-being of vulnerable people in Uganda despite all the challenges. LEMU will continue to work with traditional institutions, communities, NGOs, government of Uganda and development partners to advocate for customary tenure until it is treated and supported the same as Mailo, Freehold and Leasehold. This is because this tenure system is where the majority of Ugandans derive their land rights and livelihood. While LEMU continues to be one of the leading NGOs contributing to debates and development of best practices for the protection of customary land rights in Uganda, it also faces the general challenge of securing funding to do its work, a challenge that is not unique to LEMU but a growing problem for the majority of local NGOs in Uganda. LEMU therefore continues to mobilize resources from like-minded donor partners in order to work in a manner that it preserves its core mandate to the work on customary land tenure while at the same time fulfilling donor objectives.



Youth in Moroto town load concrete procured by LEMU for demarcation of community grazing lands for transit to Arimonyang and Morungole communities in Amudat district, with financial support from Dan Church Aid (DCA).



**Land and
Equity Movement
in Uganda (LEMU)**

***We promote and defend our customary
land, our heritage, our pride, our identity***

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