UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA · UPR 4TH CYCLE

10 key human rights priorities

PINGOs Forum joint stakeholder submission

Briefing to the Universal Periodic Review

Geneva · 2026

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Submitted on behalf of 12 civil society and Indigenous Peoples' rights organizations

KEY POINT 01

Recognize Indigenous Peoples in law

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Tanzania’s legal framework does not recognize Indigenous Peoples or adequately protect their collective rights.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

The gap leaves distinct identities, customary governance and tenure systems vulnerable when conservation, investment and development decisions are made.

UPR ASK

Adopt legal recognition and safeguards for Indigenous Peoples, customary tenure, self-determination and meaningful participation.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 1–5, 10, 75

KEY POINT 02

Make FPIC a binding safeguard

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Free, Prior and Informed Consent is routinely absent in land reclassification, conservation, carbon and extractive projects.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Communities report decisions imposed without accessible information, genuine negotiation, consent or independent grievance mechanisms.

UPR ASK

Require verifiable FPIC before any project affecting Indigenous territories; halt projects and evictions where consent has not been secured.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 20–22, 32–40, 52–55, 62–70, 71

KEY POINT 03

Stop conservation-driven dispossession

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Protected-area expansion has converted or restricted village land, displaced communities and fractured pastoral systems.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Loliondo, Ngorongoro, Ruaha, Katavi, Kwa Kuchinja, Makuyuni, Losimingor and Wamimbiki illustrate a national pattern—not isolated disputes.

UPR ASK

1,502 km²

Village land demarcated for Pololeti Game Reserve without FPIC, according to the submission.

Halt forced evictions; review village deregistration and land reclassification; restore land status and provide restitution or adequate compensation.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 20–41, 71–77

KEY POINT 04

Investigate violence and end impunity

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Enforcement operations have involved shootings, arbitrary arrests, torture, disappearance and intimidation.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Documented cases include Ephraim Kaura’s permanent injury, Orias Oleng’iyo’s unresolved disappearance and the torture of 15-year-old Joshua Partolo.

UPR ASK

200+

People reportedly arrested or detained during the June 2022 Loliondo operation.

Establish independent investigations, prosecute responsible actors, provide remedy to victims and adopt guarantees of non-repetition.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 12, 20–21, 42–46, 73, 83

KEY POINT 05

End induced relocation through service withdrawal

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Relocation cannot be called voluntary when essential services are deliberately reduced and livelihoods are constrained.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

In Ngorongoro, restrictions and downgrading of healthcare, education, water and supplies have pressured pastoralists toward Msomera, around 600 km away.

UPR ASK

Restore essential services immediately and ensure any relocation meets genuine-consent, adequacy, dignity and livelihood-restoration standards.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 17, 22–27, 74

KEY POINT 06

Protect pastoral mobility and livelihoods

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Restrictions on grazing, water and livestock routes are producing structural impoverishment and food insecurity.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Livestock confiscations, auctions and reported fines of TZS 60,000–100,000 per animal greatly exceed the cited legal rate of TZS 5,000.

UPR ASK

12–20×

Reported fines per animal compared with the legal rate cited in the submission.

Protect mobility corridors and access to pasture and water; end unlawful livestock seizures and fines; integrate pastoralism into conservation planning.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 18–19, 28–41, 76

KEY POINT 07

Address harms to women and children

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Women and children bear disproportionate violence, displacement, trauma and loss of essential services.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Women report physical and sexual violence, exile and reprisals; displaced children face malnutrition, interrupted education and long-term psychological harm.

UPR ASK

Investigate gender-based violence; provide survivor-centred health, shelter and psychosocial support; protect and reintegrate affected children.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 45, 47–51, 84–86

KEY POINT 08

Put human rights into carbon markets

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Climate and carbon initiatives risk becoming a new form of indirect land dispossession.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Contracts lasting 10–40 years can restrict grazing, forests and water, transfer control over land use and bind future generations without fair benefits or remedies.

UPR ASK

10–40 yrs

Duration of carbon agreements reported in pastoralist territories.

Mandate transparency, FPIC, fair benefit-sharing and independent grievances; prohibit long-term restrictions without broad community approval.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 52–55, 77, 80–82

KEY POINT 09

Protect civic space, media and defenders

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Surveillance, vague laws, intimidation and arrests suppress reporting and advocacy on land, conservation and mining.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Journalists, women defenders, environmental defenders and land monitors face threats, while regulatory pressure limits public information and accountability.

UPR ASK

Reform restrictive media and NGO laws; establish a protection framework for defenders and journalists; prevent reprisals for UPR engagement.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 16, 50, 56–61

KEY POINT 10

Hold state and corporate actors accountable

WHAT THE SUBMISSION FINDS

Extractive projects reveal recurring failures on consent, compensation, labour rights, information and environmental safeguards.

BRIEF EVIDENCE

Kandasikira graphite mining and EACOP-related concerns include disrupted grazing routes, delayed or unfair compensation, reprisals and unfulfilled commitments.

UPR ASK

Enforce human rights due diligence, FPIC, fair compensation, and labour protections; create independent, accessible grievance and remedy mechanisms.

Source: PINGOs Forum Joint UPR Submission, 9 April 2026 — paras. 62–70, 78, 91–93

THE UPR OPPORTUNITY

Turn formal commitments into on-the-ground protection.

We ask recommending States to make their recommendations specific, measurable, and time-bound, centered on recognition, land, FPIC, accountability, and remedy.