

Civil Peace Service (CPS) - Uganda

Peaceful Transformation of Past and Present Conflicts over Natural Resources in Northern and North-Eastern Uganda

Background

After years of armed conflict and insecurity, Uganda's North has been considered mostly peaceful since the early 2000s. What followed were years of post conflict challenges marked by displacement, chronic poverty, food shortages and droughts.

Agriculture and animal grazing remains the major source of livelihood, and so the increasing demand for land has become a central subject of dispute.

In Acholi, Karamoja and Teso land ownership is largely customary, owned by families and clans and managed according to community customs and traditions. The long period of armed conflicts and displacements disrupted the social structure, rendering the customary institutions weak. On top of this, customary law, even if formally accepted, often differs from the national law, which increases conflict - especially for vulnerable groups.

More recently, the increased demand for mineral resources and agricultural products have attracted commercial investors causing a land crisis that has destabilized the largely customary tenure system of land ownership.

Consequently, conflicts over land and natural resources between the local population, private investors and the government, as well as disputes within communities and families are at the core of conflicts in these regions.

Other conflicts include disputes over protected areas, such as forests, wetlands, and gameparks as well as repeated confrontations between herders and farmers over access to grazing land and water supply which are adding to the tension.

A recent surge of cattle raids in the Karamoja region has exacerbated the situation and pushed back many efforts towards a more peaceful co-existence.

Project name	Peaceful Transformation of Past and Present Conflicts over Natural Resources in Northern and North-Eastern Uganda
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Project region	Uganda
Lead executing agency	Civil Peace Service – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	January 2023 – December 2025
Previous projects	2013 – 2015 Support of Peacebuilding Initiatives 2016 – 2018 Promoting Participatory Management of Land Conflicts in North-Eastern Uganda 2019-2022 Participatory Transformation of Land Conflicts in North-Eastern Uganda

CPS approach

Using a participatory multi-stakeholder approach, the GIZ Civil Peace Service works on transformation of conflicts over land and natural resources in Acholi, Karamoja and Teso.

This process was developed in 2014 together with over 150 partners representing civil society organisations, government, business, the informal sector as well as cultural and spiritual leaders organised through networks of Interest Groups (IGs). To date, the GIZ Civil Peace Service supports and coordinates 12 Interest Groups with over 200 key stakeholders and member organisations from Acholi, Karamoja and Teso and one national partner organisation based in Kampala.



L.: Cross-Border Dialogue between Teso and Karamoja. The recent surge of cattle raids has become a central subject of our peace-building efforts.

R.: Partners of IG Environment and Protected Areas collaborating with conservancies to find solutions for human-wildlife conflicts in Acholi.



A dialogue meeting with Elders. Cultural leaders are important partners in the peace-building process.



'Land Matters' radio talk show. CPS is strengthening peace-building efforts through conflict-sensitive media work.



'Dealing with the Past' is CPS' new program component in 2023.

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CPS partners

Together, we work on transforming conflicts over natural resources caused by insecurity, large-scale investments and protected areas, as well as supporting governance of customary land including women's land rights.

We do this by providing safe spaces to expand on peace-building methods of non-violent conflict transformation such as mediation and dialogue. Providing access to information on land management and protection of land rights is central to this process.

By supporting partners to implement community dialogues, mediation trainings, radio talk shows, awareness campaigns, guidebooks and information materials, we aim to drive change towards peaceful co-existence in Northern Uganda.

This year, the component of 'Dealing with the Past' was added to our program, addressing conflicts related to ethnic and historical grievances to pro-actively prevent re-occurring conflicts.

The 12 interest groups are multi-stakeholder networks consisting of representatives of civil society, national and local government, the private sector, academic institutions, media, spiritual and traditional leaders, as well as informal actors.

Interest Groups in Acholi

- ❖ Interest Group on Environment and Protected Areas (EPA)
- ❖ Interest Group on Large Scale Investments (ALSIIIG)
- ❖ Interest Group on Women Land Rights Inter and Intra Clan conflicts (WoLRIC)

Interest Groups in Karamoja

- ❖ Interest Group on Formal Land Management (FLM)
- ❖ Traditional Land Management Systems (TraLaMs)
- ❖ Karamoja Integrated Peace Initiative (KIPI)
- ❖ Karamoja Mining Interest Group (KAMIG)
- ❖ Karamoja Interest Group on Protected Areas (KIGPA)

Interest Groups in Teso

- ❖ Teso Network on Conflicts on Borders and Settlements (TENCOBS)
- ❖ Ateker Women Land Rights Partners (AWOLARIP)
- ❖ Teso Land Management Advocates (TELAMA)
- ❖ Teso Land Conflicts on Institutional Partners (TOLIPA)

Partner Organisation in Kampala

- ❖ LANDnet



The annual Joint Multi-Stakeholder Meeting brings all CPS partners together providing an interactive platform for joint efforts towards peaceful co-existence.

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