

PEN Newsletter

Keeping you updated on our work

Newsletter
February 2013

New PBO Act 2013 repeals the NGO Coordination Act 1990

[read more on page 4](#)

Special Interest Articles

Pg 2

Project Officer Field Experience

Pg 3

Current PEN Community Projects

Pg 4

President assents the PBO ACT 2013

Pg 5

PEN Consulting Services

POVERTY ERADICATION NETWORK (PEN)

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PEN'S COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS



Construction of sand dam in Kalama



Group members water a Community tree nursery

Field work experience - the Natural Resource Management impact

I have worked for PEN as Community Project Officer in the lower Eastern region for the last seven years. Within this period, I have observed the practical transformation of communities.

Most Community Based Organisations have ceased to depend on external aid and instead initiated their own projects by utilising local resources.

Our approach

My team and I have been strengthening the capacity of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to take up the development agenda for sustainable livelihoods for their community. The people through their CBOs have realised that they can be change agents. PEN's approach is to encourage communities to contribute towards any development activity happening within their area for this helps the communities to own and sustain the development projects.

I have seen the community transformed through advocacy on **sustainable sand harvesting** for poverty reduction and environmental conservation in four Districts of Machakos County.

The Billion Tree Campaign, which was a three year project from 2005 spearheaded the planting of over one million trees within the project areas aimed at increasing plant cover and reverse the adverse effects of climate change.

The project supported the establishment of over 30 community tree nurseries by community groups and schools to raise seedlings for the tree planting campaigns on public places and degraded areas. The nurseries were also used as Income Generating Activity for the supported groups.

The CBOs involved in this intervention have moved on to receive funds directly from donors to continue with their work in natural resource conservation.

PEN has been mentoring two such CBOs since July 2012; namely KADEG in Kalama and Kyevaluki in Kangundo. Both CBOs run projects that aim at promoting environmental conservation and livelihood promotion through establishment of nature based enterprises such as bee keeping, water provision through construction of sand dams, tree nursery establishment and tree planting exercises.

I feel privileged to have been part of a process that is truly working to alleviate "absolute poverty" in our communities by empowering our people.

Mary Mutuku – PEN Community Project Officer

“Jukumu Letu” in Machakos

Amkeni waKenya funded project-“Jukumu letu” has been a democracy and governance project that has been spearheading Voter education and devolution work through public forums/Barazas organised by the Community resource persons (TOTs) and through invitations from Provincial Administration-Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs to their monthly Barazas.

In 2012 a total of 89 planned community and youth forums were held where a total of 24,602 people were directly reached.

Estimates of 450,000 people were indirectly reached through secondary information from the people reached directly and the informational, educational materials which included T-shirts Calendars, Posters and fliers.

The IEBC involved PEN staff and TOTs in their training and this enabled them to conduct effective voter education. Machakos County registered the highest number of voters (87%) and IEBC attributed this to the voter education conducted by PEN.

PEN will continue with civic education to sensitise the communities on the **devolved governance structures** after elections.



Villagers Registering at a Baraza and Listening Keenly



Voter Education through Song and Dance

The **CSO Reference Group** is a loose alliance of several civil society organizations including: Akiba Uhaki Foundation, Constitution & Reforms Education Consortium (CRECO), Oxfam GB, AMREF Kenya, Act!, East African Association of Grant makers (EAAG), Peace & Development Network Trust (PeaceNet), Health NGO Network-HENNET, Plan International, Action Aid International Kenya (AAIK), Kituo cha Sheria, African Network for the Prevention and protection of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN), Pambazuko Foundation, Africa Youth Trust, Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Children Legal Action Network (CLAN), International Jurist Commission, International Institution for Rural Reconstruction, Kenya Human Rights Organisation and Poverty Eradication Network (PEN).

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Since 2009, the CSO Reference Group has been instrumental in mobilising, informing and consulting on the review of the **NGO Coordination Act 1990**.

Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) has continued to provide effective secretariat services to the CSO Reference Group.

This CSO driven process led to the development of the **Public Benefits Organisations (PBO) Bill**.

The PBO Bill was submitted in December 2011 as private members Bill with the support of the *Parliamentary Committee on Labour and Social Welfare*.

The PBO Bill was passed by Parliament in December 2012 and assented by the President in January 2013.

Copies of the PBO Act 2013 are available at the Government Printers.

The CSO Reference Group aims to work with all stakeholders to setup structures that support effective implementation of the **Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) Act 2013** which will repeal the NGO Act 1990 once it has been gazetted.



To support any of PEN projects or if you wish to make a donation please contact us.....

Bank Transfer

Donations may be made directly into the PEN Kenya Bank account below:
 Account Name: Poverty Eradication Network
 Bank: Barclays Bank of Kenya
 Branch: Queensway Branch
 Account Number: 030941604986
 Swift BIC: BARCKENX
 Bank Address: P.O BOX 30011, Nairobi. Kenya

Cheque payment

Send cheques to: Poverty Eradication Network

Donate in person

You can also visit us at our offices to make your donation directly and learn how your gift goes a long way to make a difference in the lives of communities.

PEN Kenya 6th Floor, Sir Francis Ibiyam House, AACC Compound, Waiyaki Way, Westlands, Nairobi.

PEN CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ORGANISATIONS

PEN works with organisations in a participatory manner

Our focus has always been that of **building the institutional capacity of; indigenous NGOs, Community based organisations, Public institutions.**

PEN's multi-sectorial approach aims at strengthening poor people's productive, intellectual, physical organisational capacity and stresses self-reliance, a holistic approach and an optimal use of local resources.

PEN provides professional consultancy services offering the same range of offers and services to (fee paying) organisations as well as individuals.

Some of our recent clients include Diakonia, Africalia, Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), Sisters of Mercy, International Rescue Committee (IRC) Somalia Program, African Biological Safety Association (AfBSA), Action Against Hunger

(ACF), International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC), Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Concern Worldwide, CBM, Sightsavers (SSI) and KUONA Trust.

"PEN has been versatile in managing and facilitating our Strategic planning process and challenging us to adapt our work to the changing context"

Wendy Erasmus; ACD, Concern Worldwide Kenya; 2012

PEN Management and Development Consultants Limited (PMDC)

PEN has established a consulting arm called **PEN Management and Development Consultants Limited (PMDC).**

The new Company will work with **businesses, government agencies and civil society** to achieve the impact and sustainability needed to make social change a reality.

PMDC envisions a society and economy in which government works with civil society and the private sector to create positive social and environmental impact while generating economic value.

Purpose Statement:

PMDC is a mission-driven social enterprise, dedicated to advancing best practices and improving capacity in poverty reduction programmes, policy, philanthropy and corporate social investment, through consulting to values driven organisations.

PMDC Goals:

1. Sustainable financial support to Poverty Eradication Network (PEN) Kenyan NGO.
2. High quality consultancy which enables all actors improve their interventions to help positively transform society
3. Values driven organisations and actors across all sectors positively engage and foster collaboration for the transformation of society.

PMDC seeks to work with East African Corporate organisations to create and fine tune their CSR, Foundation and Philanthropy policies.

"The delivery and facilitation skills offered by PMDC consultants create an environment of building consensus and challenging mindsets".

Ronnie Graham;
Global Director for Human Resource for Health, Sightsavers International (SSI);
2012



POVERTY ERADICATION NETWORK
Strengthening Citizens Participation