

# Sengwer Ancestral Land Ambobut - Kenya

INTERNATIONAL  
TRIBUNAL  
ON  
EVICT  
IONS



## Evictions Session on Climate Change



Embobut forest has been home to the indigenous Sengwer community since time immemorial. **Forceful evictions perpetrated by the state have seen the community lose a huge chunk of their indigenous territory.** The Sengwer have lost an estimated 9,000 ha of their territory.

**The Kenya Government has refused to accept expert advice that the Sengwer as an Indigenous communities are the ones who are best placed in conserving the forest.** Research worldwide have shown that the forests which are still well protected are the ones under the control of an Indigenous community

The Kenyan government applied to the EU for funding of the **WaTER project**, a forest protection and climate change mitigation project, which provided funding for the KFS, which was used to support their eviction actions. The government insists that to implement WaTER it must evict all humans from affected forests no matter if indigenous.

**In Jan/Feb, 2014, an estimated 2,625 people were evicted by the government from their homes.** Successive evictions have seen more people rendered homeless and in total an estimate of **more than 4,615 people has been left in the cold.** Despite the cyclic wave of eviction and violence against the Sengwer, more than 2,000 people are still residing in the forest under makeshift structures while the vulnerable- women, children and the elderly are seeking refuge in the potato farms of the forest adjacent communities outside the forest

Without a title deed to their land, the Sengwer have faced evictions and their lands remain at risk of being cordoned off in relation to **World Bank and EU-funded** conservation projects (<https://bit.ly/2FildHP>).

Although the Sengwer have suffered evictions since the 1970s, the situation has worsened in recent years.

The resumption of forced evictions in 2014 has resulted in death due to health complications as a result of exposure to the biting cold of Embobut and also **violent nature of eviction.**

The Ogiek of Mau, a hunter-gatherer community like the Sengwer won a landmark case against the government in the African court of justice in a case rule on 26 May, 2017 .

The community has also started a dialogue process with the county(local) government and national government with the aim of securing **a pilot project where the community will be supported to implement their by-laws without evictions for a period of between 5-10 years.**

The community aims at using this period of peace and control to demonstrate ability to live sustainably inside the forest. **Satellite imagery and TIMBY reports** will be used to evaluate the project.

The Sengwer were granted an injunction by the court ordering the government to stop evictions, **but evictions were still carried out disregarding the court order.**

**Contact :**  
Sengwer of Embobut CBO  
[kipro529@gmail.com](mailto:kipro529@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/287445808111256/>



Photo Credit  
Video Films for Action  
Honey at the top

# HABITAT WORLDMAP

GO TO THE WEBSITE : <https://habitat-worldmap.org>

GO TO THE WEBSITE : [tribunal-evictions.org](http://tribunal-evictions.org)

