

**L**iana is a non-profit Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) operating in the field of **DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**. It was registered in Finland in 2005 (192.207, Y-tunnus/BI 1982505-3). The organisation was established **to link local development initiatives with expertise, resources, information and knowledge**. It aims to network local and international researchers and development professionals. Liana works through farmer groups, local development organisations and/or local governments. It focuses its interventions on the most vulnerable groups of rural dwellers, starting its work from problems perceived by the people themselves as the most critical. Liana's role in development is advisory and supportive, aiming at building local capacity. To accomplish this it accepts only development and development research professionals with considerable developing country and project management experience as its Regular, 'active' members. Much of the work of the 'active' members is voluntary. Individuals or registered organisations who want to support the purpose and activities of the organisation can be accepted as Supporting members.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the organisation is to use the best proven knowledge to improve the livelihoods of the poor while sustaining the environment, emphasising equality and joint responsibility.

#### **Activities**

- To fulfil its purpose the organisation operates
- ✿ To meet local development needs by generating, finding and evaluating relevant reliable information
  - ✿ To enable local organisations and through them local people to use this information by connecting sources and experts
  - ✿ To support local practical development initiatives

Liana aims to base all its activities on best evidence and understanding that comes from:

- ✿ Lessons learned from practical development interventions
- ✿ Local knowledge
- ✿ The wide existing scientific knowledge base on development methods and practices
- ✿ Analysing and interpreting the relevance of information to local problems

Where critical knowledge gaps occur Liana is well equipped to generate more information by conducting experiments and surveys with its partners, and learning from other fields. Specific expertise within Liana includes:

- ✿ Rural development
- ✿ GIS and remote sensing for environmental monitoring and land use planning
- ✿ Research methods
- ✿ Natural resource management
- ✿ Organisational development
- ✿ Environmental education
- ✿ Community mobilisation and empowerment
- ✿ Project cycle management
- ✿ Project evaluation
- ✿ Youth development

#### **To support its operations Liana**

- ✿ Applies for project funding from governments, foundations and other relevant bodies
- ✿ Helps local development organisations secure funding
- ✿ Finances its activities by accepting donations and other assistance

Any funds Liana receives as donations or Supporting members' membership fees are used for actual development activities that fulfil our purpose. Liana does not have any office or office costs, and it does not pay anyone for administrative work except if it is budgeted within a project budget and as such accepted by a donor organisation.

Liana is a member organisation of KEPA (Service Centre for Development Cooperation) [www.kepa.fi](http://www.kepa.fi)

*"The unprecedented combination of resources and technology at our disposal today means that we are truly the first generation with the **tools, the knowledge and the resources** to meet the commitment... freeing the entire human race from want" (Kofi Annan, 21 March 2005)*

*Lianas reach to attain new heights*



*Lianas connect, link and form networks*



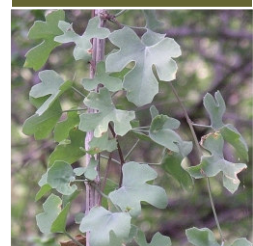
*They use existing structures*



*They seem to have no beginning and no end*



*Lianas can be used for climbing*



*Lianas are beautiful*

## Improving rural livelihoods by rainwater harvesting in the lowlands of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

The project makes rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation techniques known in the dry lowlands of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It facilitates building rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation structures. Local people are trained in the construction skills. For the continuation of the activities the project facilitates establishment of self-help groups for collective saving. Rainwater harvesting will ease women's and children's workload by providing water within the homesteads. With drip irrigation added, rainwater harvesting also enables diversification of the lowland farming by the establishment of kitchen gardens (1.5 x 7.5 m irrigated vegetable/tree seedling patches). This improves food security and can bring cash income. Liana's role is advisory and it bears the responsibility of overall coordination. Farmer groups, local partners and experts implement all activities. The total budget of this project is US\$ 113,500 out of which US\$ 92,500 comes from McKnight Foundation. Local contribution from the farmer groups is US\$ 13,750. The project started in Sep 2006 and is scheduled to run till Nov 2011. ([www.liana-ry.org/rainwater.htm](http://www.liana-ry.org/rainwater.htm))



### Linking current knowledge and information to practice

Local NGOs, and the local government and traditional institutes they work with, often have gaps in their ability to access and use the current, science based information needed to solve problems and design interventions. New technical information produced by many international and national research organisations does not often reach the local development worker or the potential end user. Liana uses part of its Supporting members' membership fees and individual donations to make the latest science based agricultural technical books and manuals together with relevant books on development and organisational management available to the users.

### Volunteering through Liana

Volunteer professionals do specific short-term tasks in Liana development activities and project planning.

**Compilation of an adult education package for drylands of East Africa.** Some remote places in the semi-desert East Africa can be out of touch with ideas and knowledge that could lead into improved modes of livelihoods and improved quality of life. These communities remain stagnant with no way out from extreme poverty. Environmental conditions are usually very challenging limiting the obvious livelihood options available. Transport to the nearest town hospital may be available only once a week. Common diseases transmit rampantly as people lack the most basic knowledge of how to avoid them and how to treat them. These areas are very challenging for a development organisation to start any development activities. Adult education may be the only starting point that can prepare the way for practical changes later on. Subjects include: Literacy, health, hygiene, nutrition, environmental education, dryland agricultural methods, livestock and rangeland management, rainwater and water harvesting, simple maths.



### Small development activities

In April 2006 Liana together with KEPI (as a voluntary activity) assisted 83 women in Olepolos south of Nairobi in planting a total of 1206 trees in their homesteads. Species included Papaya (*Carica papaya*), Orange (*Citrus sinensis*), *Casuarina* sp., *Grevillea robusta* and Wild Olive (*Olea africana*). To demonstrate tree planting some trees were planted together in eight centrally located



homesteads. Planting and caring of trees were also taught by using brief written instructions with illustrations. Photocopies of the instructions were left to the women to remind of the important points. Species descriptions were left to those who can read English and can translate the descriptions to the others.