

**Liana
annual
report
2005**



Liana

Liana is a non-profit Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) operating in the field of development cooperation. It was established in 2005 and is registered in Finland*.

The organisation was established to link local development initiatives with expertise, resources, information and knowledge. It helps fill the gap that often separates proven knowledge and practical development activities. Liana's role in development is advisory and supportive, aiming at building local capacity. It accepts only development and development research professionals with considerable developing country and project management experience as its Regular members. Other individuals or registered organisations can become Supporting members.



Purpose

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

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 follow the livelihood status of the poor, putting forward proposals and initiatives, and giving statements
- to support local practical development work through local development organisations with whom agreements of collaboration have been signed
- to facilitate action by development professionals who have the knowledge, the skills and the vision to develop and implement projects aiming at alleviating poverty

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

Contacts:

E-mail: liana@liana-ry.org

Address: Pihkapalontie 385, 03850 Pusula, Finland

Tel: +358-(4)00-706322 (Mobile Finland), +254-(0)722-318083 (Mobile Kenya)

Web page: www.liana-ry.org

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Compiled by Eija Soini on behalf of the Liana board

1. Establishment of the organisation

Liana, a non-profit Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) operating in the field of development cooperation, was established in April 2005 by a group of three research and development professional representing different fields of expertise. These three founder members are Richard Coe, Ari Koivu and Eija Soini.



Richard Coe (MSc) has a professional background in biometrics and statistics. For the last 14 years he has been based at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Kenya as the Head of the Research Support Unit. At ICRAF he has provided support to scientists and development professionals working throughout the tropics.



Ari Koivu is a Geographer (MSc) and has been actively involved in development research or development co-operation in Africa since 1994. Koivu has specific expertise in Sports Development. Koivu is currently leading a large primary school support project in Mtwara, Tanzania. In addition he runs other smaller cooperative projects in Kenya and South Africa, and works actively in making 'Sports for Development' concept more widely known.



Eija has a Masters degree in Geography from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Her research and project management work has concentrated on land use change and sustainable livelihoods, ecologic implications of land use change, land cover monitoring system methodology development, capacity building related to spatial tools for sustainable development and livelihood surveys, and digital map production.

Ric, Ari and Eija became the Secretary, the Vice-Chairperson and the Chairperson, respectively, of the new organisation. Miika Mäkelä has been a great help in establishing the computer based accounting system for Liana.

Liana was established to facilitate action by development professionals who have the knowledge, the skills and the vision to develop and implement projects aiming at alleviating poverty. It was established to link local development initiatives with expertise, resources, information and knowledge. Liana helps fill the gap that often separates proven knowledge and practical development activities. Its role in development is advisory and supportive, aiming at building local capacity. It works through local development organisations and local governments. It helps local development organisations become effective and independent. Liana supports groups that allow people to develop and implement their own solutions leading to change. 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.

Considering the mode of operations described above, and the requirements it brings, Liana accepts only development and development research professionals with considerable developing country and project management experience as its Regular members while other individuals or registered organisations can become Supporting members.

Eija and Ric gradually outlined the rules of the organisation on the second last week of April in Karisjärvi while planting fruit trees in the springtime garden. The purpose of the organisation was left relatively general, making a variety of functions and interventions possible provided that they all aim at improving the livelihoods of the poor.

Registration documents together with a letter requesting for an urgent registration were posted to the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland on the 23rd of April, however, registration was finally accomplished only on the 25th of August.

2. Project development

Development of the first project on “Improving rural livelihoods by rainwater harvesting in the lowlands of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania” was started by a fact-finding mission to Tanzania 9-15 May. Subsequent concept note was posted to McKnight Foundation Africa Grants Programme on the 22nd of June. It was accepted for further development and the full proposal was submitted on the 6th of September, and further information was provided on the 22nd of November and 27th of December.

2.1 Problem to be addressed

Eija’s recent study in Kilimanjaro forms a basis for the ongoing project planning for the area. The land use change analysis of the past forty years showed a major expansion of agriculture to the lowlands. This expansion has created a new and distinct group of farmers who have settled in the dry lowlands previously considered by the Chagga as unsuitable for permanent settlement due to inadequate rains and malaria. Due to the marginality of their farming land, this group of farmers is potentially the most vulnerable group in the area.

According to the study in the Kilimanjaro lowland area, 47% of lowland farmers interviewed mentioned lack of enough water amongst the most crucial problems in growing crops. Further, 33% said they cannot grow trees due to inadequate water. There is basically no rainwater harvesting in the lowlands at the moment. However, many have tin roofs. During heavy rains a lot of water is lost in run-off and during long dry periods there is no water to grow anything at all.

Much could be done to improve the livelihoods of the poor farmers of the lowlands. The obvious problem to tackle first is the water issue.

2.2 Fact finding mission in May

The purpose of the fact-finding trip was to facilitate planning the first Liana activities –specifically for rainwater harvesting - in the area south of Mt Kilimanjaro.



The main aims of the trip were:

1. To be able to decide with and through whom to work in the area (local NGOs).
2. To know who does what in the area, especially, who works in rainwater harvesting.
3. To visit rainwater harvesting sites in Makanya area (Same) where RELMA together with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) have been facilitating the building of demonstration rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, and trained local *fundis* to construct them. The aim of the visit to Makanya was to learn about technicalities and collective financing schemes for building rainwater harvesting systems.
4. To take part in the first annual meeting of KILEA (Kilimanjaro Land-Care and Ecological Association), a local NGO initiated by Albin Kessy together with more than 20 professionals from different fields of life.
5. To brainstorm with Albin Kessy about Liana project plans and KILEA ideas.
6. To help Albin Kessy to edit KILEA Constitution and Brief Information.

The main accomplishments from this trip were the links created to other ongoing activities in NRM in the area and the technical and socio-economic know-how on rainwater harvesting activities that the visit to Makanya offered. A separate trip report was written and is available.



2.3 The short summary of the project

The project proposes to raise awareness of rainwater harvesting and to facilitate building rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation structures with the aim of providing water for home consumption nearer to homes easing women's workload, and enabling diversified crop options for improved food security. It facilitates collective action for continuation of the activities to enable as many families as possible to start harvesting rainwater and diversify their farming.

The first nine months includes awareness raising, farmer visits to see rainwater harvesting being practiced in another location, tank constructors (*fundi*) training by building demonstration tanks, and awareness raising on collective action (group formation) and its advantages. Subsequently more tanks are built by project support, groups begin to form and function, and at the start of the long rains drip irrigation and potential crops are introduced and more training follows on how the crops are grown and irrigation used. This first eighteen months of the activities is planned to be the first phase concentrating mainly in awareness raising and adoption of the new technology. If the technology is received with interest, a follow-up phase will be implemented with an emphasis on i) crop experimentation leading to recommendations of crops grown for markets, and ii) market channel creation and facilitation of further processing of farm produce.

2.4 Discussions with the donor

After the concept note was submitted to McKnight Foundation, Liana was invited to write a full proposal of 36,000 US\$. However, this budget was later lowered to 20,000 US\$, and raised again to 30,000 US\$ after a meeting in Arusha with a consultant working for the foundation. Later on Liana has been asked to provide detailed

technical and economic information on the feasibility of different sizes of water tanks for domestic and irrigation use and the economic benefits of irrigated kitchen gardens. This information has been provided to the donor. The annex "Feasibility of rooftop rainwater harvesting for domestic and drip irrigation use" was sent on the 27th of December. We are hoping for a favourable decision.

3. First annual meeting in Karisjärvi

The first ever annual meeting of Liana was held in a sunny Friday evening, the 5th of August, in Karisjärvi. Participants in the meeting were Richard Coe, Ari Koivu, Eija Soini, Miika Mäkelä, Helmi Meri-Tähti Pulli (4 months!), Teija Pulli and Kirsi Saaristo. While the participants enjoyed delicious barbecued meat and vegetables followed by English berry crumble made of juicy Finnish berries from the garden topped with cream, day-to-day procedures and forms of Liana were formally



approved, membership fees were agreed on, the first project idea presented and more general discussion on strategic directions for Liana were initiated. Action plan till the next meeting was put together and the budget till the end of the year fixed.

In addition to the annual meeting the board met twice in an e-mail meeting.

4. Interactions with other organisations

4.1 Assisting local organisations in project development

Kirsi Saaristo and Eija Soini have volunteered in helping local NGO officers in concept note and project proposal writing. East Africa must be full of organisations with people eager to bring in development to their communities, improve livelihoods, educate their people... but the technical knowledge and skills in getting the good ideas funded is missing. This is an activity that Liana could do full-time if it wanted to be a demand driven organisation! Could this activity be funded?

Some of the big challenges for small local organisations are lack of facilities like computers of their own and/or no access to electricity. Money to pay postage of proposals, phone calls and travelling to see potential collaborators are other thresholds.

4.2 Learning from others



14.12.2005: Malesu Maimbo, an experienced rainwater harvesting engineer from RELMA-in-ICRAF invited Eija to join the RELMA-UNEP team to Olepolos to see

rainwater harvesting activities of the Maasai on the slopes of the Ngong hills and the plains below. This was a very encouraging trip. Lots of enthusiasm, pleasure to see livelihoods improved and self-esteem of the women raised, interesting comments on men and women working or not working together, and lessons for us to learn from...A separate report on this trip is available.

4.3 Opportunities

17.12.2005: Eija's visit to Olepolos with the RELMA-UNEP group triggered an interesting half a day meeting in Olepolos. Ric and Eija met with the Coordinator of KEPI (Kenya Environment and Pastoralist Integrated Development Initiative) and a representative of a local CBO in Olepolos to discuss possibilities of collaboration.



28.12.2005: Half a day meeting arranged by Ric, Eija and two representatives of KEDA (Kapeddo Educational Development Association) of Kapeddo to discuss needs and development intervention options for improving livelihoods in Kapeddo in the dry Turkana land, 200 km north of Nakuru town. The area is extremely challenging due to the harsh climate and extreme poverty, but would acutely need technical assistance.

KEDA will conduct a problem analysis (problem tree) and list possible solutions for assessment and further development in the next meeting with Liana.

On the same trip food was delivered for a New year's feast for the children and the elderly of the seriously drought stricken village. The *sherehe* with *wimbi* porridge, biscuits and sweets was organised by two KEDA members and long term Kapeddo hospital workers on the 1st of January.



4.4 Training and more proposal writing

Eija attended the KEPA (Service Centre for Development Cooperation) Workshop of Finnish and Tanzanian NGOs in Morogoro, Tanzania 1-3.11.2005. Albin Kessy from KILEA got the opportunity through Liana to attend the course as well. The visit to Morogoro gave Eija and Kirsi the welcomed opportunity to meet some of the members of the Soil and Water Management Research Group (SWMRG) of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and discuss collaboration of the Makanya field staff and Liana in the proposed Liana rainwater harvesting project. After Morogoro, one day was spent in Kilimanjaro. While Kirsi assisted Albin Kessy in project planning and writing a concept note, Eija had some fruitful discussions on the Liana rainwater initiative with two NGOs (TIP and TRETA) in Moshi. A separate trip report is available.

5. Members joined

The board meeting of 6th of September accepted two new regular members to join Liana. These were Jarno Hämäläinen and Kirsi Saaristo.



Jarno Hämäläinen has completed his Master's studies with specialisation in environmental forest management at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Joensuu, Finland. He has gained long-term fieldwork experience from two African countries. In Tanzania he assisted the Rural Integrated Project Support Programme (RIPS) within the fields of IT facility and community forestry support in Mtwara and Lindi Regions. In the Province of Zambézia, Mozambique he served the Sustained Forest Resource Management Programme (PMSR) as the Provincial Forest Adviser. Recently Jarno Hämäläinen has started working as raster production manager in a Danish ground surveying and mapping company in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Kirsi is an Educationalist and an Environmentalist with MSc degree in Management of Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics (NORAGRIC/ Agricultural University of Norway) and a post graduate diploma in Practical Pedagogic. Kirsi has almost twenty years of experience from education sector including teaching Geography and Environmental Science, improving quality of basic education, education management and research. She has worked eight years in Africa Her areas of expertise are Environmental Education, community mobilisation and empowerment, participatory methods, training needs assessment and project cycle management. Kirsi is currently working in the Life and Peace institute in Nairobi, facilitating the peace process of Somalia.

The board meeting of 18th Nov - 1st of Dec accepted Nick Quist Nathaniels as a regular member and Juha Honkala as the first supporting member of Liana.



Nick Quist Nathaniels (PhD) studied Biology at London University and specialised in Crop Protection and Plant Pathology at Exeter and Manchester Universities in the United Kingdom. After working as a plant pathology advisor for the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food in England, he went on to work in various agriculture development projects first in Bhutan in Asia and later in Tanzania where he stayed for 10 years.

Nick has a keen interest in tools and processes that empower and build competence and capacity and is therefore an enthusiastic advocate of action research/action learning principles and practice. He is currently working as a freelance consultant.

Liana is looking forward to the New Year 2006 with great expectations. May the New Year bring the blessing of much valuable work accomplished - directly or indirectly - for the improvement of the livelihoods of the poor.

6. Budget of 2005

Accounts & Balance sheet 31.12.2005

Profit and loss account

| Program expenditure: | Revenue | Expenses | Total |
|---|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Aid to local partners | | -23.08 € | -23.08 € |
| Emergency aid in crisis areas | | -166.28 € | -166.28 € |
| Project planning | | -451.29 € | -451.29 € |
| Project support (info dissem, training, fund raising costs) | | -573.36 € | -573.36 € |
| Administration | | -135.18 € | -135.18 € |
| - | | | |
| reserves | | | |
| Program expenditure total | | -1,349.19 € | -1,349.19 € |

| Fund raising: | Revenue | Expenses | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Membership fees | 195.00 € | | 195.00 € |
| Donations | 5,661.70 € | | 5,661.70 € |
| Fund raising total | 5,856.70 € | | 5,856.70 € |

Balance of the accounting period 4,507.51 €

Balance sheet

Assets:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Bank account (Euro) | 4,328.78 € |
| Cash (Euro) | 178.73 € |
| Total assets | <u>4,507.51 €</u> |

Liabilities:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Capital 22.04.2005 | 0.00 € |
| balance of the accounting period | 4,507.51 € |
| Capital 31.12.2005 | <u>4,507.51 €</u> |
| reserves for... | 0.00 € |

Total liabilities 4,507.51 €

Nairobi, 31.12.2005

Eija Soini, Chairperson

Richard Coe, Secretary