The Commission’s approach to ensuring the protection of the environment and biodiversity conservation, fully integrates the crucial human development dimension and respect for human rights. Therefore, the Commission is closely following the developments relating to the communities living in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and in the Loliondo Game Controlled Area.

While ensuring the protection of these areas, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania should avoid any measures, which would negatively impact the lives, livelihood and cultures of communities living there, including the Maasai. The Commission reiterates that all measures related to these communities need to be in full compliance with the rule of law and uphold respect for human rights. To this end, human rights issues are raised by the EU in the context of its political dialogue with Tanzania.

Although the EU and Tanzania have a constructive and longstanding cooperation in relation to the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources, the Commission does not implement any project in the disputed Loliondo Game Controlled Area. In addition, there is no EU-funded project in the pipeline to intervene neither on the topic of forced displacement nor in this particular geographical area.

Before implementation, projects supported by the Commission are assessed for their conflict sensitivity and possible impact on human rights with a ‘do-no-harm’ approach at the centre. All possible efforts are made to avoid any negative impact on populations and to foresee mitigating measures if necessary.

The Commission and the European External Action Service will continue following the developments in close coordination with the Member States.