



Ogiek Community Biocultural Protocol Development Process

Mainstreaming the contribution of Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices across Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Tourism Sectors for the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity for Well-being,

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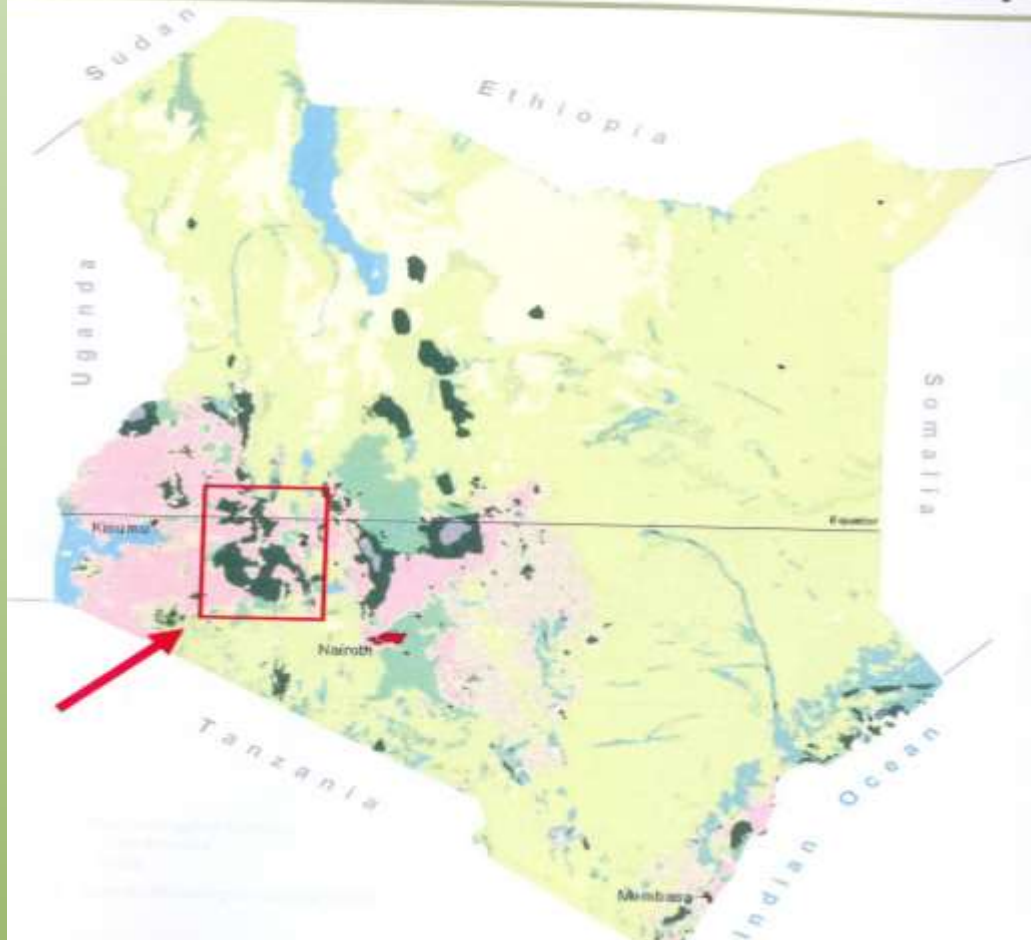
Who are Ogiek?

- Ogiek means ‘ caretaker of all’ of plants and animals, or scientifically the *flora* and *fauna*
- They are a hunter gatherer Indigenous community and solely depend on the forest for food, medicine, shelter and preservation of their culture for posterity
- They have a population of approximately 30,000. Majority of its members live in Mau forest Complex , in the great Rift Valley Province of Kenya and the rest in Mt. Elgon Region, Western part of Kenya.
- Due to their in number in Kenya, the Ogiek have been an easy target for all kinds of frustrations including those seeking land and their naon which to farm or graze.



Ogiek Ancestral Land in Mau Forest Complex

Location and extent of the Mau Complex



The Mau Complex covers some 400,000 ha, as large as Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares combined.

It is the largest forest of Kenya.

As a montane forest, it is one of the five main "water towers" of Kenya, with Mt. Kenya, the Aberdare Range, Mt. Elgon and the Cherengani Hills.



Introduction

Values

Threats



Ogiek Lifestyle

An Ogiot during hunting



Harvesting of Honey





Cont.....

Wild Fruits

Ogiek Man holding a hyrax





What is Biocultural Protocol (BCP)

It is a tool to safeguard community's rights as well as traditional knowledge and resources providing clear terms and conditions to regulate our access as well as sharing benefits that accrue from any development of these access

An Ogiek dressed in the traditional regalia





Importance of Community Biocultural Protocol

- It is a tool for protecting community land and natural resource rights, moreso the destruction of Mau forest complex
- It is an advocacy tool for the community
- Protection of traditional knowledge and Customary use of biodiversity
- Regulating access to the traditional territories, natural resources and other resources and TK of IPLCs
- Education, capacity building and improved participation of the Ogiek community



What Necessitated the development of Ogiek BCP

- Long Land historical injustices which community have felt since the colonial time
- Uncontrolled research work done by researches both within academia and research companies
- Protection of our Traditional knowledge and customs
- A tool for transfer of knowledge to younger generation
- To be a living document for the Ogiek community



Destruction in Mau Forest





Cont...

- This has interfered with Ogiek culture, No hunting, No Gathering of Medicine and wild fruits , destruction of our biodiversity and our cultural biodiversity!





BCP Development Process

- It was undertaken through a participatory process

Stage 1: It involved community consultations through FPIC in different parts of Mau Forest Complex.



Community Consultation meeting

Cont. ..

Stage 2: Capacity building training of the community members on the BCP Process and development



Community members who participated in the capacity building training

Cont....

Stage 3: Selection of the drafting committee from the five major regions inhabited by Ogiek

Stage 4: Capacity building of the drafting team to better understand and effectively execute their role in BCP Development process



Drafting team during discussion groups

Cont....

Stage 5: Exchange visit to Lamu by the Drafting team . It was meant to provide insight coverage of the process involved through interacting and sharing

Stage 6: Documentation -This was done by the drafting committee through interviews and dialogue forums

Stage 7: Assembling and collection of data

Stage 8: OPDP meeting with the drafting team to incorporate all the information and final draft

Stage 9: Editing of the document

Stage 10: Printing of the 1st edition

Stage 11: Launching and sensitization to government and agents

We since revised and we have the 2nd Edition

What Came out of the Process

- Ogiek People are more aware of the valuable resources that exist within the community
- The community is enlightened on how natural resources and traditional knowledge can be utilized to create wealth
- Community strengthening through interaction and engagement between the younger and older generation
- Awareness of rights and entitlements through capacity building
- Great involvement of gender



Challenges

- Long and complex process due diverse need of the community in vast area
- Difficulty in harmonization of ideas/ issues/concerns because of diversity of needs
- Bringing the community together due to financial constraints
- Implementation and full acceptance by the government and

BCP Outcomes

- It has led to a pilot project on community land protection in Sasimwani, Ising'etit and Koibatek , communities are now busy developing community by laws to merge with BCP
- Community process is on now in 3 areas with Mau forest Complex , where Ogiek inhabit



Contact Us

For more information, Clarification, Comments and or Questions, kindly contact;

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Asante Sana !!
Thank you!!