



Ogiek Community Biocultural (BCP) Development Process

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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 group and solely depend on the forest for food, medicine, shelter and preservation of their culture
- 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.
- Due to their small number, the Ogiek have been an easy target for all kinds of frustrations including those seeking land on 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.

- Land use**
- Forests
 - Lakes / Bogs
 - Arid zones
 - Semi-arid zones
 - Perennial cropland
 - Arable cropland
 - Improved grazing land
 - Woodlands / Riverine forests
 - Flooding zones
 - Swamp areas
 - Moortlands

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 assets as well as sharing benefits that accrue from any development of these assets.

- Key terminologies, FPIC, TK and ABS

An Ogiek dressed in the traditional regalia





Importance of Community Biocultural Protocol

- It is a tool for protecting community land and natural resource rights from external actors
- It is an advocacy tool for the community
- Protection of traditional knowledge
- Regulating access to the traditional territories, natural and other resources and TK of ILCs
- Education, capacity building and improved participation



What Necessitated the development of Ogiek BCP

- Long Land historical injustices which community have persistently faced since the colonial time to the current government
- Uncontrolled external research in the community
- The knowledge gain after attending CBD meeting and subsequent ABS training.
- Close interaction with Natural justice team



Destruction in Mau Forest





Cont...

- This has interfered with Ogiek culture, No hunting, No Gathering!





BCP Development Process

- It was undertaken through a participatory process

Stage 1: It involved community consultations 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

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 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



What BCP entails

- Who we are
- Our traditional knowledge
- Our way of life
- Community priorities and concerns
- The Challenges we are facing as a community
- Access and Benefit Sharing
- Free Prior and Informed Consent
- Representation
- Land and Natural Resource Management

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
- Development of Customary laws



Challenges

- Long, expensive and complex process
- Difficulty in harmonization of ideas/ issues/concerns because of diversity of needs and challenges
- Bringing the community together due to financial constraint
- Full Implementation of BCP and acceptance by government

WAY FORWARD

- It has led to a pilot project on community land protection in Sasimwani, Ising'etit and Maji Mazuri area of Koibatek
- Great involvement of gender and hence community livelihoods projects
- Trying to link BCP with the Kenyan Constitution to prepare us in future management of Community Land
- It is a life document hence it is evolving



Contact Us

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

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Asante Sana !!
Thank you!!