

# IMPACT KENYA KIPOK FUND

Supporting Pastoralist and Other Marginalized  
Indigenous Communities for a Sustainable Future





KIPOK FUND  
GRANT RECIPIENT

### **Collective Farming Initiative**

“The project strives to balance conservation and livelihood by cultivating food and safeguarding the forest.”

*—Nicholas Kodei,  
Member of NASILA,  
Laikipia County, Kenya*



**With nearly 200 individuals across about 42 households, community members contribute to greening their environment by planting trees in shared gardens and homesteads, fostering a sustainable future.**

—NICHOLAS KODEI, Member of NASILA, Laikipia County, Kenya

## Contents

4	Mission Statement, Purpose, Values
5	Kipok Fund: Supporting Indigenous Communities to Prosper
6	Approach to Grant Making
9	The Kipok Fund's Journey So Far
14	Strategic Goals for 2025–2027
21	Program Areas (2025–2027)
24	Financial Strategy
27	Thriving Together

## **Our vision is to create a secure, just, and inclusive society for the Indigenous people of Kenya.**

### **Mission Statement**

The Kipok Fund is a visionary initiative that empowers pastoralist Indigenous communities in Kenya to thrive amid climate change, economic adversity, and social transformation. Rooted in preserving Indigenous knowledge and traditions, its mission is to revitalize sacred landscapes and champion community-driven, eco-friendly enterprises and investments. Through restoration and innovation, Kipok inspires self-determination and sustainable intergenerational growth.

### **Purpose**

To catalyze transformational change within Indigenous communities, fostering healing and well-being while enabling them to address climate risks, sustain their livelihoods, and protect their land and cultural identity for future generations.

### **Values**

- Respect for Traditions Grounded in Ancestral Wisdom
- Equity and Inclusion
- Sustainability
- Collaboration
- Integrity

# Kipok Fund

## Supporting Indigenous Communities to Prosper

The Kipok Fund is a direct financing initiative launched in 2020 that enables Indigenous communities to respond to climate risks, shocks, and vulnerabilities. Using a participatory and inclusive process, communities decide funding priorities, determining who receives funds and how much, ensuring local ownership and sustainability.

**The Kipok Fund provides resources to rebuild traditional livelihoods, fostering community resilience and economic recovery.**

Building on two decades of supporting community institutions of self-governance and natural resource management, the Kipok Fund equips organizations with the skills and plans needed to succeed. These institutions are ready to bring their visions to life.

Now they need the resources to realize their aspirations. The Kipok Fund serves as a catalyst, playing a pivotal role in closing the funding gap, fostering resilience, and enabling communities to lead solutions that secure their lands, livelihoods, and cultural identity for future generations.

*Kipok*—a profound Maasai word meaning **“we shall thrive and flourish”**—embodies the unwavering spirit of hope and renewal. Guided by the foundational principles of the Four Rs, the Kipok Fund is a transformative force for communities striving to reclaim their dignity, heritage, and prosperity:



### RESTORE

dignity and hope by ensuring access to opportunities



### RESOURCES

in financing, skills, and mentorship for innovation



### REBUILD

traditional livelihoods and economies



### RESILIENCE

strengthening by helping communities assess vulnerabilities and develop nature-based enterprises

# Approach to Grant Making

## Participatory Grant Making and Decision Making

Foster a profoundly collaborative approach where grassroots communities lead in defining priorities, shaping strategies, and managing resource allocation. Emphasize building trust, respect, and reciprocal relationships, ensuring that decisions are based on mutual understanding and shared goals. By centering community-led visions for healing, well-being, and sustainable development, this approach supports an ecosystem of redistribution that strengthens social cohesion and long-term resilience. The collaborative process ensures programs are locally relevant, culturally grounded, and aligned with Indigenous values.

## Holistic Support

Address interconnected economic, cultural, environmental, and social needs to achieve comprehensive and sustainable outcomes that enhance community stability and dignity.

## Capacity Development

Strengthen local skills, traditional governance structures, and knowledge systems to empower communities and ensure long-term resilience amid evolving challenges.

## Intergenerational Engagement

Combine elders' wisdom and experience with youths' energy and innovation to balance cultural traditions with modern opportunities, fostering mutual respect and shared learning.

## Cultural Reconnection and Heritage Preservation

Establish a museum to celebrate and showcase the pride, memory, and legacy of pastoralism—a living repository for traditional artifacts, oral histories, and visual narratives that honor Indigenous knowledge systems, cultural practices, and spiritual connections to the land. The museum will provide a learning, storytelling, and reflection space, ensuring that future generations embrace and take pride in their heritage while nurturing cultural continuity.

# The Twala Women Group's achievement is a model for community-driven initiatives.



KIPOK FUND  
GRANT RECIPIENT

©2024 Colectivo

## Enabling Women's Land Rights

"We collectively steward 40 acres of community land, fostering progress and livelihoods."

—Rosemary Nenini,  
Founder, Twala Cultural Manyatta

COLECTIVO



©2024 Colectivo

## Scaling Sustainable Eco-Incomes

"With 20 beehives and financial literacy training, we transformed sustainable beekeeping into a model for uplifting lives and protecting nature."

—Twala Women Group



## IMPACT

**2M**  
USD

disbursed since 2020

**48**  
groups

supported, including  
women and youth initiatives





# The Kipok Fund's Journey So Far

Since its launch in 2020, the Kipok Fund has disbursed USD 2 million to 48 African community groups. The fund has become a lifeline for pastoralist families, women's cooperatives, youth-led ventures, and guardians of the environment.

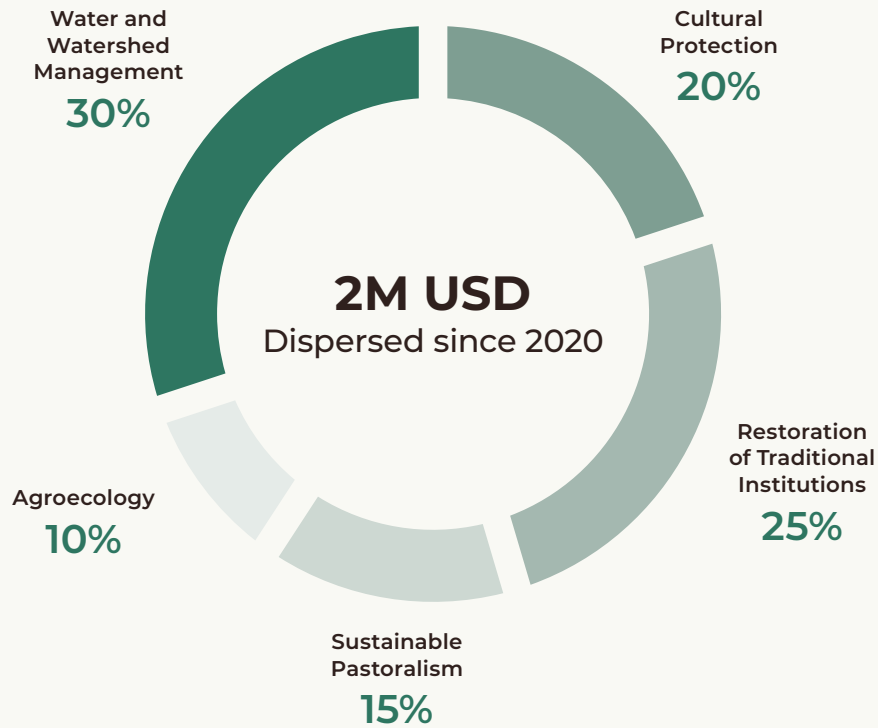
Through the collective efforts of these groups, the Kipok Fund has helped restore degraded ecosystems, safeguard sacred cultural sites, strengthen traditional livelihoods, and build resilience against the growing challenges of climate change. This journey is a testament to the power of community-led solutions, deeply rooted in cultural wisdom and the shared aspiration to thrive and flourish.

## Key Achievements

- **Water and Watershed Management:** Restoration of vital water sources and improved access to clean water for pastoralist communities.
- **Revitalization of Traditional Resource Governance:** Reintegration of community-based natural resource governance systems based on Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- **Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth:** Support for women's cooperatives and youth groups to develop sustainable income-generating projects.
- **Sustainable Pastoralism and Agroecology:** Introduction of sustainable land management techniques, including rotational grazing and agroecological practices.
- **Protection of Sacred Landscapes:** Safeguarding of sacred sites and landscapes to preserve cultural heritage and promote spiritual healing.



## Indigenous-Led Climate Financing Funding Breakdown



**“For over two decades, we have supported community institutions in self-governance and natural resource management.**

**Now, with the Kipok Fund, we provide the vital resources they need to turn their visions into reality—securing lands, livelihoods, and cultural identity for generations to come.”**

—MALIH OLE KAUNGA, Founder and Director of IMPACT Kenya



©2024 COLECTIVO

COLECTIVO



2027 Target

**USD 5M disbursed  
to community-led  
initiatives**

### **Looking Ahead: Building Resilience and Sustainability**

The Kipok Fund is on track to enhance the resilience of Indigenous communities. By investing in eco-friendly enterprises and securing traditional livelihoods, the fund ensures long-term economic and environmental sustainability.



# Ripple effect of land restoration

Thriving ecosystems cultivate prosperity from regenerated soils to brighter horizons for youth.



**300 people**  
across six villages in  
Opiroi Community Land



KIPOK FUND GRANT RECIPIENT

“The Opiroi Community Land has embraced aloe vera farming and managed beehives as key strategies for restoring our lands and building resilience. These efforts not only help regenerate the soil and enhance biodiversity but also provide sustainable livelihoods.

Each aloe plant and beehive strengthens the land, while the sales from produce and honey fund children’s education, ensuring the entire community benefits from this renewal of both land and opportunity.”

—Priscilla Senteina,  
Resilience Programme, Samburu County, Kenya

# Strategic Goals for 2025–2027

## Evolving with Purpose

Since its inception, the Kipok Fund has made meaningful progress in restoring ecosystems, revitalizing cultural heritage, and fostering resilience within Indigenous communities. However, climate-induced challenges, food insecurity, deep-seated poverty, and the erosion of dignity caused by prolonged crises demand an even more intentional and inclusive approach.

The next phase (2025–2027) builds upon the fund's successes, introducing key innovations and deepening its strategic focus to ensure sustainability, equity, and broader impact. Addressing the root causes of poverty, food insecurity, and marginalization, this phase will restore the dignity eroded by poverty, promote economic empowerment, and support cultural and environmental stewardship. Grounded in Indigenous values, the fund prioritizes community leadership and positions women and youth as central figures in advancing food systems, building endurance, and creating a thriving future.



**Revitalize Food Systems**



**Rebuild Livelihoods, Families, and Relationships**



**Promote Cultural, Community-Driven, and Nature-Based Enterprises**



**Provide Emergency Food and Health Support for Crisis-Affected Families**



**Support Transhumance and Scaling Sustainable Pastoralism with Innovation**



**Target Empowerment for Women and Youth**



**Support Cultural Ceremonies and Institutions**





KIPOK FUND  
GRANT RECIPIENT

## Agricultural Renewal

“We’re diversifying our crops with nutritious grasses and leveraging technology to enhance cultivation.”

—*Nicholas Kodei,*  
*Laikipia County, Kenya*



## Revitalize Food Systems

**New Focus:** Centering pastoralism as a significant economic pillar, strengthen food security by restoring traditional and sustainable agricultural practices while integrating innovative methods to enhance local food production systems. The initiative seeks to improve nutrition, create sustainable food sources within pastoral communities, and add value to livestock products, positioning pastoralist economies as drivers of resilience and prosperity.

## Rebuild Livelihoods, Families, and Relationships

**New Focus:** Strengthen community support systems to rebuild livelihoods and relationships after climate-induced disasters such as droughts and floods and the impacts of tribal internal conflicts. This includes providing direct financial support to individuals and families, restoring livestock, and facilitating the recovery of social networks disrupted by these crises. Healing and restoring dignity are primary, particularly in communities where prolonged adversity and conflict have eroded family structures and community bonds.



## Promote Cultural, Community-Driven, and Nature-Based Enterprises

**New Focus:** Support the creation of community-managed eco-tourism cottages and other eco-friendly enterprises that blend traditional knowledge, cultural products, and nature-based solutions. These centers will preserve cultural practices, create employment opportunities, and promote entrepreneurship while serving as hubs for wellness programs, research, and community-driven innovation. By scaling up nature-based enterprises and integrating market access programs, branding initiatives, and capacity-building efforts, communities will co-own and direct these businesses, ensuring that decisions reflect local priorities. This approach will facilitate the introduction of Indigenous innovations to global markets, creating sustainable income streams that benefit both people and the environment while fostering resilience and cultural continuity.

## Provide Emergency Food and Health Support for Crisis-Affected Families

**New Focus:** Supply emergency food support through vouchers and direct food aid to stabilize families during crises. This initiative aims to ensure that families facing immediate food insecurity can survive long enough to engage in longer-term recovery strategies, such as rebuilding livelihoods, restoring local food production, and strengthening community networks. Support will include access to nutrition and health services to help maintain well-being during recovery, enabling families to regain self-sufficiency and resilience.



### Beads to Bioproducts

“Through beehives and aloe cultivation, Twala women create revenue streams from honey, cosmetics, and traditional products, showcasing innovation in conservation.”

—Twala Women Group



## Support Transhumance and Scaling Sustainable Pastoralism with Innovation

**New Focus:** Strengthen transhumance seasonal livestock movement by integrating advanced tools like climate monitoring, digital grazing maps, and adaptive livestock management strategies. These innovations will complement traditional practices, ensuring pastoralists can navigate environmental changes and maintain access to essential grazing areas. Support the safe passage of livestock, provide emergency assistance along migration routes, and restore critical grazing land, ensuring the sustainability and durability of pastoralism in the face of climate change, internal conflicts, and other crises. Embedding technology and knowledge-based solutions into the pastoralist way of life will help maintain food security, economic stability, and ecological health while safeguarding the foundations of pastoral communities' cultural and economic vitality.

## Target Empowerment for Women and Youth

**New Focus:** Expand financial inclusion by establishing dedicated innovation funds for women- and youth-led projects, partnering with cooperatives to foster entrepreneurship, and introducing scalable savings models for diverse community needs. Empowering women and youth will centralize community revitalization, rebuild social cohesion, and enhance cultural vitality. This includes sponsoring pastoralist youth skill development through university and tertiary education.

## Support Cultural Ceremonies and Institutions

**New Focus:** Actively support the preservation and revitalization of cultural ceremonies and institutions integral to the identity and traditions of pastoralist communities. This includes funding and facilitating ceremonies, rites of passage, and other cultural practices that honor ancestral knowledge, promote community cohesion, and strengthen social bonds across generations. Such cultural touchstones are essential for maintaining the spiritual and social well-being of the community, ensuring that traditions are passed on to future generations.

A dedicated museum will further amplify these efforts, serving as a living archive for traditional artifacts, oral histories, and pastoralist innovations. A hub for storytelling, learning, and reflection, it will celebrate the pride and memory of pastoralism while inspiring younger generations to carry forward their cultural heritage.



# Program Areas (2025–2027)

## Strengthening Pastoralism, Food Security, and Emergency Relief

### Actions

- Provide emergency food relief during crises, including food vouchers and direct aid to stabilize families and communities affected by droughts, floods, and other environmental disasters.
- Support sustainable livestock practices and value-added products within pastoral communities.
- Introduce climate monitoring, grazing maps, and adaptive livestock management technologies.
- Revitalize traditional agricultural practices and integrate innovative solutions to improve local food production.

### Impact

- Timely emergency support for communities in crisis, helping them survive and recover.
- Enhanced food security and resilience in climate change.
- Increased productivity in livestock and agriculture, with improved nutrition and sustainable food sources.
- Empowerment for pastoral communities with modern tools while preserving cultural practices and ensuring long-term sustainability.

## Community-Led Recovery and Livelihoods

### Actions

- Provide financial support to restore livelihoods, rebuild families, and strengthen social networks affected by climate crises, conflicts, and internal challenges.
- Assist in restoring livestock and community infrastructure.
- Promote recovery programs focused on healing, restoring dignity, and strengthening family and social ties structures.

### Impact

- Strengthened community resilience and social cohesion postcrisis.
- Restored family units and improved social networks.
- Increased capacity for sustainable, long-term recovery in the face of recurring environmental and social challenges.

## Empowering Women and Youth Leadership

### Actions

- Offer innovation funds, financial inclusion programs, and entrepreneurship support tailored to women- and youth-led initiatives.
- Foster leadership roles for women and youth in community decision making and development processes.
- Promote entrepreneurial ventures in pastoral and agricultural sectors.
- Support university and tertiary education for Maasai youth, empowering the next generation of leaders with skills and knowledge for cultural preservation and modern economic opportunities.

### Impact

- Increased economic independence and leadership opportunities for women and youth.
- Expanded participation of women and youth in decision making and leadership roles.
- Stronger, more inclusive communities with a balanced representation of leadership.
- Youth empowered through higher education and training, bridging the gap between tradition and innovation for sustainable community growth.

## Promoting Cultural and Nature-Based Enterprises

### Actions

- Provide market access programs, branding initiatives, and capacity-building resources for Indigenous innovations.
- Facilitate community ownership of eco-friendly enterprises, codirected by local leaders.
- Support community ceremonies and establishment of healing and spiritual centers, integrating cultural and wellness practices into local businesses.
- Establish a museum dedicated to preserving and showcasing pastoralist heritage, featuring traditional artifacts, oral histories, and innovations celebrating pastoralist communities' pride, memory, and cultural identity.
- Develop eco-tourism cottages managed by local communities, offering visitors immersive cultural experiences and showcasing pastoralist regions' rich traditions, landscapes, and biodiversity.

### Impact

- Preserved cultural practices and wellness and newly created sustainable income streams.
- Increased market access for Indigenous products, contributing to economic empowerment and resilience.
- Strengthened community cohesion through businesses that promote healing, cultural heritage, and spiritual well-being.
- A central space for education and pride, where the museum fosters intergenerational knowledge sharing and preserves the legacy of pastoralism for future generations.
- Enhanced community livelihoods through eco-tourism initiatives that attract global audiences, promote environmental conservation, and provide meaningful economic benefits to residents.





## Financial Strategy

The Kipok Fund is committed to achieving its USD 5 million target by 2027 through a combination of:

- **Grant Funding:** Partnerships with development agencies and other philanthropic organizations.
- **Blended Finance Models:** Leveraging public and private investments to scale successful projects, focusing on community-led solutions and durability.
- **Community-Led Contributions:** Encouraging local communities to contribute resources and efforts to fund ongoing initiatives, ensuring ownership and long-term sustainability.
- **Direct and Unrestricted Funding:** Providing families and individuals with unrestricted funding to support immediate needs and promote long-term recovery and well-being.



## Governance of the Fund

The Kipok Fund's governance structure will be designed to ensure that community needs and priorities are foremost in decision making.

The community will identify funding needs directly so that the resources are allocated based on the most pressing issues. These priorities will be directed to a panel of community advisors, including elders, youth, and women, ensuring a diverse and representative voice in the decision-making process. The advisors will serve on a rotational basis, with two-year terms, and will be responsible for guiding the fund's resource allocation and project implementation. An administrator will be appointed to document and oversee the process, ensuring transparency, accountability, and proper coordination of community-driven initiatives. With this structure the fund will respond to local needs while maintaining strong community ownership and leadership.

## Geographical Coverage

The Kipok Fund will prioritize pastoralists and other marginalized Indigenous communities in Kenya, focusing on regions where pastoralism is deeply embedded in these groups' social and cultural fabric. These communities rely on extensive, often cross-border land areas, using traditional ecological knowledge to manage natural resources, care for livestock, and address the challenges of water and grazing land availability.

Pastoralism in these areas is an economic pursuit and a vital cultural expression shaped by centuries of adaptation to the local environment. The Kipok Fund will support these communities in preserving their heritage and strengthening their resilience in facing modern challenges.



KIPOK FUND GRANT RECIPIENT

### Community Well-being

“The importance of a community. It’s important because people come together. We sit together. People share their experiences. People share their challenges. People unite for a common goal.”

—Stephen Lekiyai, Elder and Chairman Sepei Farm,  
Samburu County, Kenya

# Thriving Together

The Kipok Fund is a financial resource that accelerates progress. It supports Indigenous communities in restoring traditional practices, building sustainable livelihoods, and leading solutions that secure their lands and cultural heritage.

Investing in women and youth, the fund builds resilience and ensures communities can adapt to challenges while protecting their environment. Through collective action and a shared vision, these groups are empowered to shape a future where prosperity, cultural vitality, and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

**The Kipok Fund creates pathways for communities to flourish, building a legacy of strength and sustainability.**

**We are grateful for our incredible funders who have supported the Kipok Fund.**

We aim to raise USD 3 million over the next two years (2025–2027) to empower pastoralist communities across Kenya through the Kipok Fund's transformative initiatives.

Visit: [www.impactkenya.org](http://www.impactkenya.org)

For inquiries about donations, please contact

**Malih Ole Kaunga**

Email: [executive.director@impactkenya.org](mailto:executive.director@impactkenya.org)

Phone: **+25 472 266 3090**

**Elizabeth Silakan**

Email: [operations.director@impactkenya.org](mailto:operations.director@impactkenya.org)

Phone: **+25 472 454 0669**

[impactkenya.org](http://impactkenya.org)

f [facebook.com/IMPACTKENYA2002](https://facebook.com/IMPACTKENYA2002)

X [@Kenya\\_IMPACT](https://twitter.com/Kenya_IMPACT)

📷 [@impacttrustkenya](https://instagram.com/impacttrustkenya)

Karionga Village  
Jua Kali Centre – Nanyuki  
P.O. BOX 499 – 10400  
Nanyuki

+25 472 454 0669

+25 472 266 3090

## Cultivating Change from the Roots: Indigenous-Led, Locally Driven

Photos: COLECTIVO

Designed by:

**COLECTIVO**

[www.colectivo.studio](http://www.colectivo.studio)



**IMPACT**

Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement  
and Conflict Transformation