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CONCEPT NOTE

GEF-7 Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI)

Sub-Project Implementing Organisation: IMPACT Kenya

Sub-Project Implementing Period: 2023 - 2027

Sub-Project Territory of Life: Mid Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin

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The aim of this sub-project is to support the self-strengthening of pastoralists within the Mid-Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin, so that they can better manage their territories using their own knowledge systems and in accordance with their own aspirations while also delivering global environmental benefits.





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Global Project Overview

1





Global Project Overview

The GEF-7 Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) project aims to support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to secure and enhance their stewardship over an estimated area of 7.5 million hectares of landscapes, seascapes and/or territories with high biodiversity and irreplaceable ecosystems. This project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and provides resources and support 'hands-on' experiential learning that will enable IPLCs to define and demonstrate an inclusive model for conservation. In this model, IPLCs are recognized and empowered as decision-makers and key actors at all levels of conservation action, from local action on the ground, to national policies that impact their rights, to global fora that define conservation and sustainable development targets and approaches for environmental action.

ICI will be primarily implemented through sub-projects, which are site-based investments, with smaller amounts of funding allocated for cross-cutting, global activities. Nine IPLC organizations have been selected (out of 400+

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It provides resources and support 'hands-on' experiential learning that will enable IPLCs to define and demonstrate an inclusive model for conservation.

applications) to lead sub-projects. These organisations have identified local priorities, developing inclusive, culturally appropriate processes for decision-making, strategies, and implementing action, in regards to biodiversity conservation.

Supervision and technical guidance for ICI are provided by Conservation International (CI) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), serving as joint GEF Executing Agencies. Both organizations bring their decades of collective experience working with IPLCs, as well as their regional and global expertise, to the implementation of the GEF Inclusive Conservation Initiative. The Inclusive Conservation Initiative was approved by the GEF Council in December 2019 and the project proposal was endorsed by the GEF in January 2022.

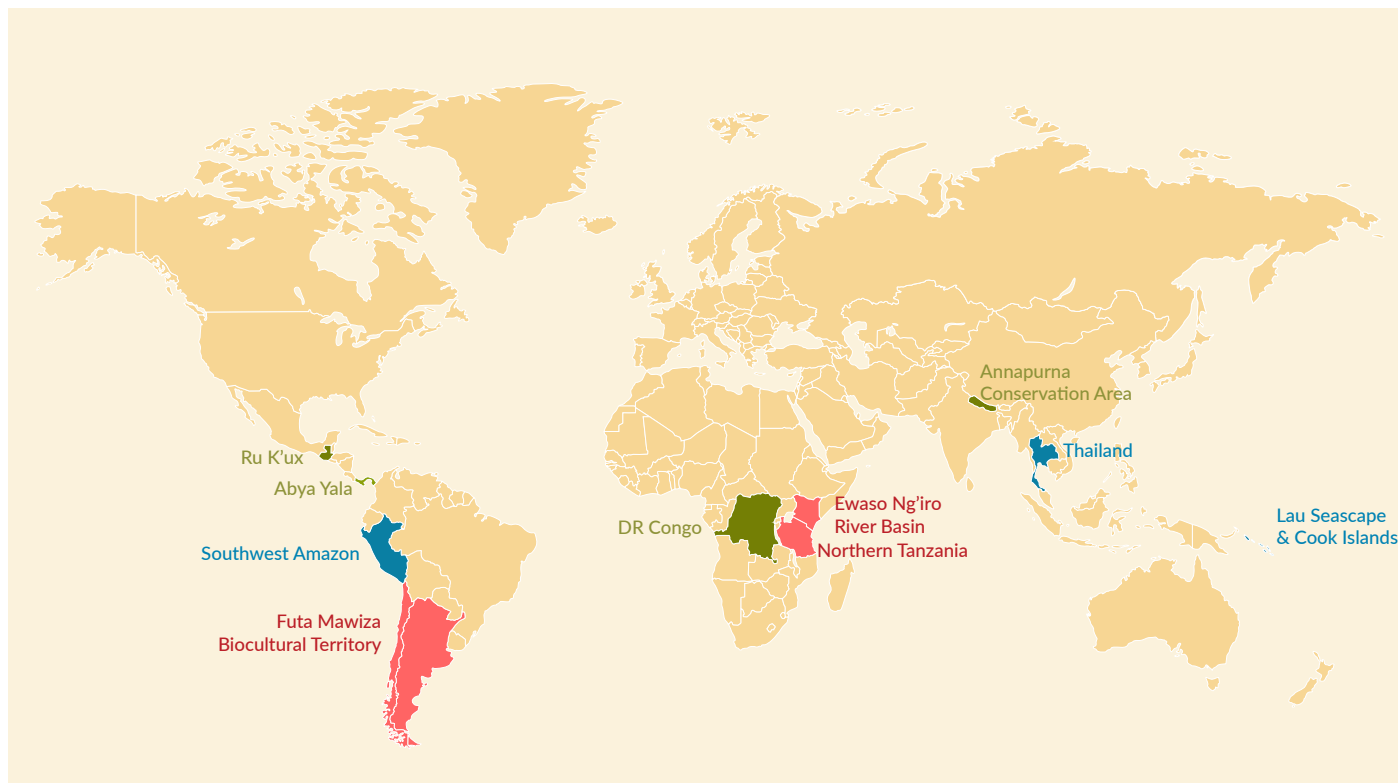


Figure 1: A map demonstration of the distribution of all the global sub-projects



Why ICI?

2



What Sets ICI Apart?



ICI Translates multilateral funding into IP and LCs led conservation by:

- ❑ Breaking barriers IPLCs face in protecting nature such as lack of recognition, compensation, dispossession and access to direct funding etc.
- ❑ Breaking complex multi-layered funding and implementation requirements into IPLCs friendly processes.



ICI is an Indigenous catalyst:

- ❑ Through GEF-IPAG (Global Environmental Facility – Indigenous People's Advisory Group) that acts as guidance and partnership to the GEF Secretariat.



Recognizes, supports and upscales indigenous traditional and local knowledge (ITK)

- ❑ Globally recognizes and upscales effective ITK in a way that respects IPLCs timeframes, models and worldview systems.



ICI promotes Self-determined initiatives and programming governance, and sets a foundation of Rights-Based Approaches (RBA) to conservation through the 9 global subprojects that dedicates direct funding to IPLCs led organizations:

- ❑ Direct access to IPLCs dedicated funding for the 9 global subprojects.
- ❑ IPLCs-led subprojects that promote and strengthen IPLCs leadership and decision-making.
- ❑ IPLCs governance and representation in its Global steering committee
- ❑ IPLCs values and rights are met, valued and respected.
- ❑ Rights to FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent), full & effective participation, consultation & decision-making are fulfilled.
- ❑ Increased Indigenous People's international policy influence through support for IPLCs local action that translate into global impact.

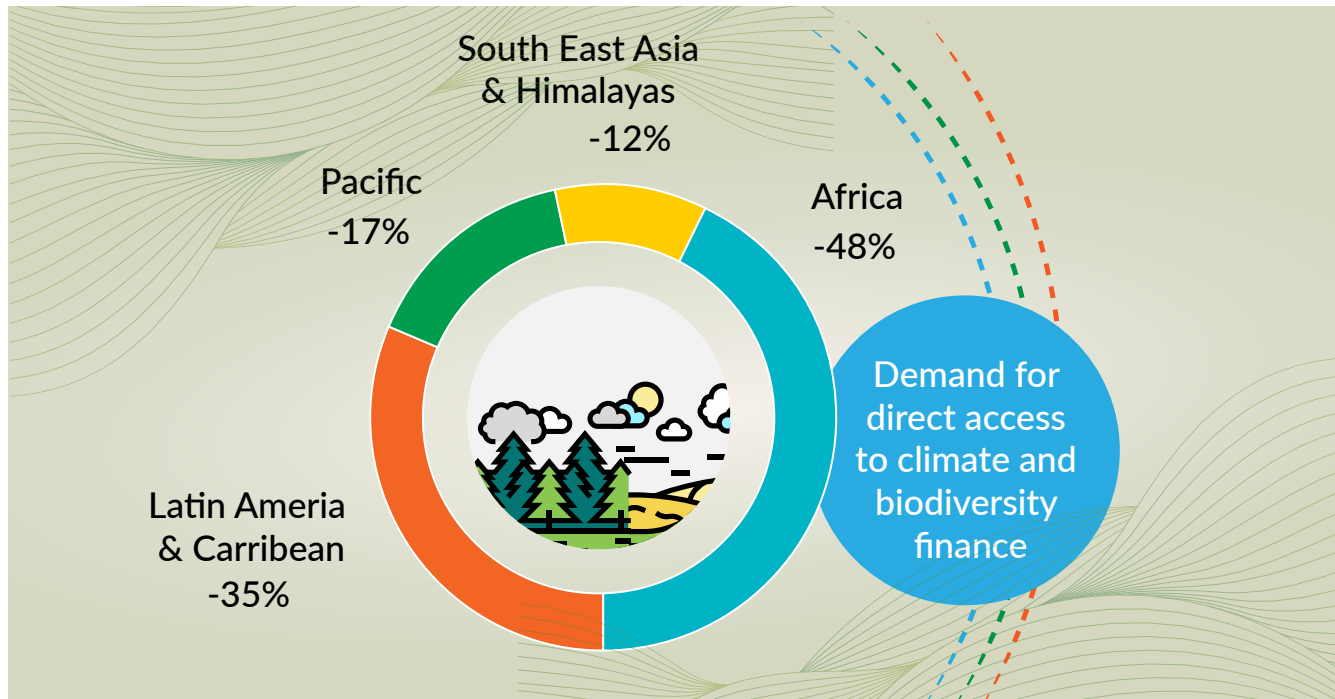


Figure 2: A chart demonstration of the global demand for IPLCs access to direct climate and biodiversity finance (Credits: CI)





IMPACT-Kenya Sub-Project

3





IMPACT Kenya Sub-Project: Overview

The project runs through a 5-year period (2022-2027); a one-year Project Development Phase (PDP) i.e., 2022-2023 and a 4-year Project Implementation Phase (PIP).

IMPACT is responsible for the implementation of the ICI project in the Mid-Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin (referred to as the subproject). The Mid-Ewaso Ng'iro River basin is a cradle of rich biological and cultural diversity that has been collectively managed by pastoralist communities for centuries. Over the years, pastoralists continue to face challenges related to ownership, control, management and access to land and natural resources. Evidently, pastoralists have systems for sustainably conserving land and resources in their territories. However, these systems have long been weakened by mainstream conservation policies and regulations and further challenged by climate change and the lack of appropriate recognition for the role of pastoralists in the protection and stewardship of biodiversity.

The aim of this sub-project is to support the self-strengthening of pastoralists within the Mid-Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin, so that they can better manage their territories using their own knowledge systems and in accordance with their own aspirations while also delivering global environmental benefits. This subproject will also guide pastoralist communities in pursuing official recognition of their land as an area conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities (also known as an ICCA or Territory of

Life). Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are defined by their relationship with and dependence on specific territories. Their association and reliance on specific territories drives the accumulation of local and traditional knowledge that supports the sustainable use of these territories. When such an association is combined with effective local governance and conservation of nature, IPLCs' territories deliver global environmental benefits. As a result, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) formally recognise such areas as 'territory conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities' (ICCA) or 'territories of life'.

ICCAs designation provides formal recognition of IPLC's connections to their territories and further equips them to secure and manage land and resources within their territories in line with their own aspirations. ICCA designation also supports progress towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): Target 3, which is to ensure and enable 30 per cent of earth's land and sea be conserved through protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), including ICCAs, by 2030.





Pastoralists have systems for sustainably conserving land and resources in their territories.



The Project Development Phase entailed: Financial Capacity Assessment; Impact Strategy Development; Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) development; Gender Action Plan (GAP) development; Gender Management Plan (GMP) development; and M&E Results Framework development; as key procedural steps in laying a strong foundation for the project implementation phase.



Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are defined by their relationship with and dependence on specific territories.





Project Scope

The sub-project locally identified as “Uhifadhi wa Kiasili; Ramat ang’; Ayuokor; Horsa Bulcha” in the ethnic languages within its scope; covers 24 Community lands in the Mid Ewaso Ng’iro river basin i.e., Laikipia – 13 Community lands, Isiolo – 4 Community lands and Samburu – 7 Community lands. Using the total land area of

coverage of the registered community lands under the CLA2016 and approximate figures for those yet to register, the total area coverage of the sub-project is approximately 826,184 hectares, with an estimated number of direct beneficiaries being 105,000.

Samburu County:

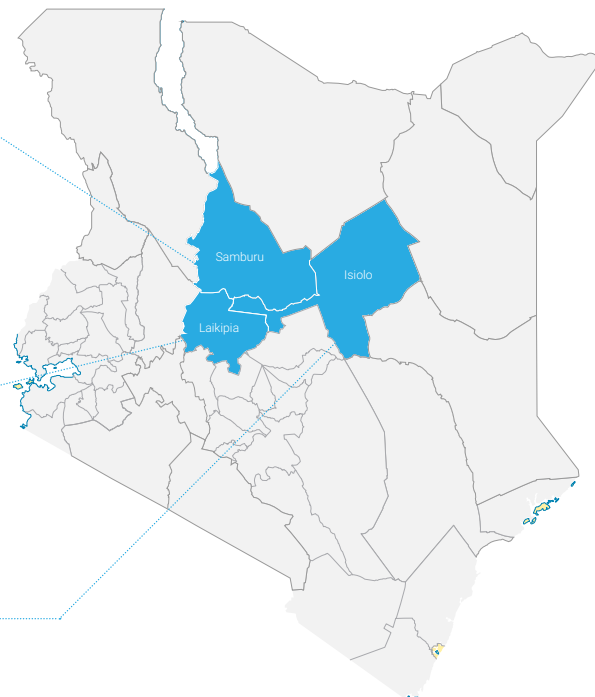
Lpus 12,115 ha; Sesia 41,555 ha; Nkutuk e ngiron 45,190 ha; Ngilai (Ngilai A 17,316.85 ha and Ngilai B 14,432.21 ha); Ltirimini 4,555 ha; Nkaroni 28,033 ha; Sarara 80,000 ha. **Sub-total 243,197.05 ha.**

Laikipia County:

Kurikuri 6,230 ha; Lekuruki 6,847.5 ha; Nkiloriti 2,815 ha; Tiamamut 8,225 ha; Il Ng’wesi 8,675 ha; Musul 2,646 ha; Munishoi 6,785 ha; Il Motiok 3,602 ha; Koiya 7,750 ha; Kijabe 6,251.5 ha; Mayiannat 6,500 ha; Il Polei 1,923 ha; Morupusi 10,627 ha. **Sub-total 78,877 ha.**

Isiolo County:

Ngare Mara 10,000 ha; Oldonyiro 110,000 ha; Leparua 8,000 ha; Chari 376,120 ha. **Sub-total 504,120 ha.**



Theory of Change

Activities:

- ☑ Documenting evidence of pastoralist communities' contributions to biodiversity conservation
- ☑ Supporting legal empowerment to advance territorial claims
- ☑ Guiding communities in developing plans managing land and resources using their own Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK)
- ☑ Equipping communities to monitor and evaluate the implementation of management plans using ITK
- ☑ Communicating and preserving information about communities' contributions to biodiversity conservation for future generations and other stakeholders

Outcomes:

- ☑ Pastoralist communities in the Mid Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin have evidence, support and skills needed to manage their own territories using ITK and customary governance systems.

Assumptions:

- ☑ Insecurity does not worsen
- ☑ Community consent to proceed with the project is retained
- ☑ Political conflict and/or instability does not interfere with the project

Outputs:

- ☑ All communities involved in the sub-project have:
 - Territorial and bio-cultural maps of their land
 - Registered their land (if they wish)
 - Bio-cultural protocols
 - Land management plans rooted in ITK
 - Community-based biodiversity monitoring and evaluation systems in place
- ☑ All communities and conservation stakeholders in the sub-project area have:
 - Access to evidence of how pastoralist communities contribute to biodiversity conservation

Goals:

- ☑ The territories of pastoralist communities in the Mid Ewaso Ng'iro Basin are managed using pastoralists own customary knowledge systems and in accordance with their own aspirations while also delivering global environmental benefits



Description of Sub-Project Thematic Components

Component 1. Documenting presence: Collect information that evidences the contributions of pastoralist communities to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation across time.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Community boundaries and presence are known and clear, demonstrating clear connection between communities, the land and biodiversity

Improved awareness of and evidence to support communities' contributions to biodiversity conservation across time

Communities are informed about and supported in pursuing registration as Territory of Life with UNEP WCMC Global Registry if they so desire

OUTPUTS

Production of community territorial, biocultural maps and calendars that demonstrate their connection to the territory.

Production of peer-reviewed publications, reports and documentaries etc.

Registration of Territories of Life (ICCAs) with UNEP-WCMC Global Registry



Component 2. Declaration and legal empowerment: Supporting communities in ensuring their territorial claims to land and resources are legally recognized by authorities.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

OUTPUTS

Communities attain legal recognition for their territories

Provide technical support for land registration processes according to the CLA2016

Communities have strengthened capacity for protecting their territories when engaging with external actors.

- Deliver trainings in developing and using Bio-Cultural Protocols (BCPs)
- Development of BCPs setting out rights and responsibilities under customary, state, and international law as basis for engaging with external actors



A BCP outlines a communities' core ecological, cultural and spiritual values and customary laws relating to their Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK), based on which they provide clear terms and conditions to regulate access to their knowledge and resources. Combined, these measures will secure IPLCs' right to their territories and empower communities to be the key decision-makers over access to and use of their lands and resources.





Component 3. Management Plans: Guiding communities in developing a strategy for managing land and resources using Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Communities protect land, biodiversity and cultural integrity in their territories

Customary governance and decision-making systems restored and promoted

Communities have strengthened institutional capacity to address environmental problems and root causes

OUTPUTS

Support communities in developing or strengthening existing management plans for land, biodiversity and cultural integrity within their territories using customary governance and decision-making systems.

Implementation of management plans that integrate customary governance and decision-making systems

- Training delivered on addressing environmental problems and root causes identified through management plans.
- Conduct demo projects that illustrate the benefits of customary governance and decision-making systems for biodiversity.



Component 4. Monitoring and Evaluation: Providing support for communities in establishing Community-Based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS).

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Changes to conservation areas and territories are regularly monitored and evaluated using CBMIS.

Communities have strengthened capacity to monitor and evaluate changes to conservation areas and their territories.

Project results, Environmental & Social safeguards and sub-project grievance mechanism are monitored and evaluated with input from communities, as is progress towards GEF indicators.

OUTPUTS

Production of community territorial, biocultural maps and calendars that demonstrate their connection to the territory.

Training in CBMIS provided to community and traditional knowledge holders to enable utilization of CBMIS, which will allow them to better monitor and evaluate the state of their territories and natural resources using indicators rooted in ITK.

Annual reports are prepared and disseminated for input and validation from all communities participating in the project.





Component 5. Communication and advocacy: Preserving ITK to support biodiversity conservation by future generations of pastoralists and other conservation stakeholders.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Communities are better equipped and able to preserve their knowledge systems and evidence their contributions to sustainable land management and biodiversity.

Local, national and international conservation community has better access to evidence about pastoralist communities' contributions to sustainable land management and biodiversity.

OUTPUTS

- Creation of community knowledge centres
- Community-led resources created to preserve knowledge systems about sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation; such as: school curriculum; children's workbooks; cook books; local/Indigenous field guides; pamphlets; or educational films.
- Develop one central knowledge centre
- Develop a virtual platform designed to host and store knowledge products about communities' efforts to preserve biodiversity and their cultures and territories.
- Design virtual knowledge products to disseminate evidence about communities' efforts to preserve biodiversity and protect their cultures and territories.
- Develop a system to manage flow of information into the knowledge platform



**EXPECTED OUTCOMES****OUTPUTS**

Communities have greater influence in relevant regional, national and international decision-making processes about their territories.

- Build links with other institutions that work to protect cultural heritage in Kenya such as the National Museums of Kenya to ensure the legacy of the project and disseminate knowledge products locally, nationally and globally.

Deliver trainings to CLMCs in effective strategies for communicating their knowledge to conservation policymakers and practitioners.



Regardless of whether any communities involved in the project ultimately wish to pursue official recognition, these measures and steps are integral to self-strengthening and will enhance pastoralists' connections to their territories and further equip them to manage land and resources within their territories in line with their own aspirations.

Project components and activities have been structured according to guidelines for ICCAs set out in two key documents: (1) 'A toolkit to support conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities: Building capacity and sharing knowledge for Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs)', prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); and (2) 'The Self-Strengthening ICCAs – Guidance on a process and resources for custodian indigenous peoples and local communities', prepared by the ICCA Consortium.





Sub-Project Governance

Our governance structure is reflected as a boma. A boma is the traditional homestead of pastoralist communities in many parts of northern Kenya. The boma is a fenced circle that encloses multiple homes surrounding one or more livestock corrals.

SUB-PROJECT BOMA



The governance of this sub-project is highly inclusive of communities, including groups of different social identities, and other key stakeholders working in conservation across the landscape.

Departing from a hierarchical typical governance structure, the sub-project will adopt a relatively flat organizational structure. Our governance structure is reflected as a boma. A boma is the traditional homestead of pastoralist communities in many parts of northern Kenya. The boma is a fenced circle that encloses multiple homes surrounding one or more livestock corrals.

The boma symbolizes unity, as within the boma reside extended kin and families, along with their livestock. In the diagram, the core team sits at the centre of the boma, running day-to-day management and implementation of the sub-project while receiving support and guidance from the wider team supporting

the project. The sub-project's supporting team is represented as sub-households in the boma, who may include the Advisory Board; Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs); project partners; a Council of Elders; and the Steering Committee, which is comprised of government representation and community leaders.

The boma has inlets and outlets to demonstrate the exercise

of sharedness, consent, willingness and responsibility among all, for the benefit of all and eventual sustainability of the project. Communities that wish to discontinue or withdraw from a certain activity are allowed to do so.

Sub-Project Outcome



At the end of this project, the following outcomes are projected as:

1. Greater recognition, preservation and protection of pastoralists' knowledge and systems for conserving and sustainably managing land and resources;
2. Secure land and resource tenure rights for pastoralist communities as a pathway to improving the management of land and resources;
3. Integration of pastoralists' knowledge and systems into conservation policy and practice in the Ewaso Ng'iro River Basin;



Sub-Project Sustainability



Actions to secure the sustainability of project outcomes have been built into each component, such as direct support to IPLCs in securing recognition of their territories (including rights to land and resources) and building capacity to advocate and negotiate with external actors. This support will help ensure IPLCs are better positioned to enter into financial arrangements and partnerships that contribute to the protection of land, biodiversity, cultural integrity and human rights within their territories.

- Component 1 of the project will support communities in documenting the boundaries and biocultural resources of their territories and registering their territories of life.
- Component 2 will support communities in securing legal recognition of their territories and building their capacity to engage with external actors, including companies, governments, organizations, and researchers.
- Components 3 and 4 will involve the development of strategic management plans, capacity building for monitoring and evaluation and improvement of governance and decision-making processes.
- All these components (1-4) will better position communities to attract financing and enhance revenue streams that support the realization of their aspirations and visions for the future.
- Finally, Component 5 of the project is inherently future-oriented, providing IPLCs with new means and opportunities to pass on knowledge about their territories to future generations and disseminate knowledge products beyond their communities.





Sub-Project Accountability & Grievance Mechanism

The subproject has established an accountability and grievance mechanism that outlines the procedures that IMPACT will follow to address any comments, suggestions, questions and complaints that stakeholders may have about the Project and its activities.

A grievance is considered to be any complaint, comment, question, concern, suggestion about the way a project is being implemented. It may take the form of specific complaints about impacts, damages or harm caused by the project, non-conformity with IMPACT's safeguards, concerns about access to the project stakeholder engagement process or about how comments and concerns about project activities, during construction or operation or perceived incidents or impacts, have been addressed.

A Grievance Mechanism is a free, open and accessible mechanism, principally designed for Project Affected People (PAP), and

accessible to all project stakeholders, project staff (including contractors and their workers). It is part of a suite of safeguard instruments that accompany the Project's ESMP.

This Grievance Mechanism does not substitute any of the existing grievance procedures, including those established by community, local/county or national authorities in Kenya. This means that local communities can always use formal country level mechanisms, including arbitration, administrative or legal avenues to raise concerns.



