



MY INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN ACTION (MIKIA KENYA) 2025 Impact Report



mikiakenya.org



+254 728 528788



info@mikiakenya.org

Along Laikipia Road,
Laipha House, 3rd floor, room 29A
P.O Box 418-10400
Nanyuki, Kenya

Table Of Contents

01	Executive Summary	01
02	Our Goals	02
03	Geographic Scope	02
04	Communities Reached	02
05	Core Interventions and Impact	03
06	International Engagements	05
07	Cross-Cutting Outcomes	06
08	Institutional Approach	05
09	Institutional Strengthening	07
10	Looking Ahead: 2026 Priorities	07
11	Strategic Significances	08

Acronym	Full Form
MIKIA	My Indigenous Knowledge In Action
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
COP	Conference of the Parties
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
GBFF	Global Biodiversity Framework Fund
IFIP	International Funders for Indigenous Peoples
SB8J	Subsidiary Body on Article 8J and Related Provisions
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
UNEA	United Nations Environmental Assembly
WCC	World Conservation Congress
APEA	Africa Peace and Environment Summit
GEF	Global Environment Facility

January – December 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

My Indigenous Knowledge In Action (MIKIA Kenya) is an Indigenous-led organization working with and for Indigenous Peoples in Kenya. The name MIKIA derives from the Maa language and means “don’t take me away.” The phrase reflects the urgency of protecting Indigenous heritage for future generations, while calling on elders to pass Indigenous Knowledge forward.

Indigenous heritage is a broader system that includes; language, knowledge, cultural practices and the environment. Indigenous Knowledge remains central within this system to guide land stewardship, biodiversity conservation, cultural preservation, and sustainable livelihoods. MIKIA Kenya recognizes Indigenous Knowledge as a living resource that strengthens resilience and supports sustainable futures.

In 2025, MIKIA worked alongside Indigenous Peoples in Il-Ngwesi and Lekurruki to document, protect and strengthen knowledge systems at risk of disappearing. Through participatory resource mapping, Indigenous Knowledge documentation with elders, community gatherings, and a baseline survey for a women-led Cultural Learning Center, communities led the process of preserving their heritage while shaping the institutions that will carry it forward.

The results strengthen community ownership of knowledge, elevate women as Indigenous Knowledge holders, and create structured pathways for intergenerational knowledge transfer. Community-owned resource maps and baseline evidence now stand ready to guide biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and cultural preservation efforts.

OUR GOALS

MIKIA Kenya engages communities to co-create tools that support the documentation, protection, and regeneration of Indigenous heritage.

These tools are flexible. They evolve based on community priorities and context. They include participatory resource maps, FPIC forms, participatory research methods, Indigenous Knowledge documentation tools, Indigenous heritage archives, culturally responsive documentaries, books and Cultural Learning Centers that anchor heritage in everyday community life.

The goal is not only preservation. The goal is regeneration. Heritage must remain active, practiced, and relevant to present and future generations.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

MIKIA Kenya operated across two Indigenous landscapes in Laikipia North, each holding deep Indigenous heritage and knowledge systems, rich biodiversity, and cultural governance rooted in Indigenous practice:

- Il-Ngwesi Community Land
- Lekurruki Community Land



COMMUNITIES REACHED

MIKIA Kenya engaged both the Il-Ngwesi and Lekurruki communities, working directly with elders, knowledge holders, women, and youth. Participatory activities created inclusive spaces for dialogue, documentation, and cultural exchange ensuring that all voices, particularly those most at risk of disappearing forever, remained central throughout.

CORE INTERVENTIONS AND IMPACT

Participatory Resource Mapping

Communities: Il-Ngwesi & Lekurruki

Communities worked with MIKIA Kenya to produce detailed participatory maps documenting forests, grazing areas, water sources, wildlife corridors, cultural sites, tourist sites, human settlements, and education centers. Elders guided the documentation process using Indigenous ecological knowledge.



Impact:

These maps now serve as community-owned tools for land governance, conservation planning, cultural site protection, and intergenerational learning. They transform oral spatial knowledge into usable community assets without removing ownership from knowledge holders.

Indigenous Knowledge Documentation

Community: Il-Ngwesi

Elders and MIKIA Kenya documented historical land occupancy, governance systems, age set structures, ecological indicators, land use systems, and cultural practices. Documentation followed oral traditions and community protocols.

Impact:

This process preserved critical heritage at risk of disappearance and established a foundation for community-controlled archives. It also reinforced the role of elders as primary custodians of heritage systems.



Baseline Study

Community: Lekurruki

Community members assessed readiness for a women-led Cultural Learning Center and defined priorities related to cultural preservation, leadership, collaboration, livelihoods and economic opportunities.

Impact:

Findings confirmed strong support for a permanent heritage institution. The proposed center will function as a community tool for learning, documentation, enterprise, and heritage regeneration.



Community Gathering for Intergenerational Learning

Community: Il-Ngwesi

A structured community gathering created spaces for storytelling circles where women elders shared oral histories, values, language, and ecological knowledge with youth.

Impact:

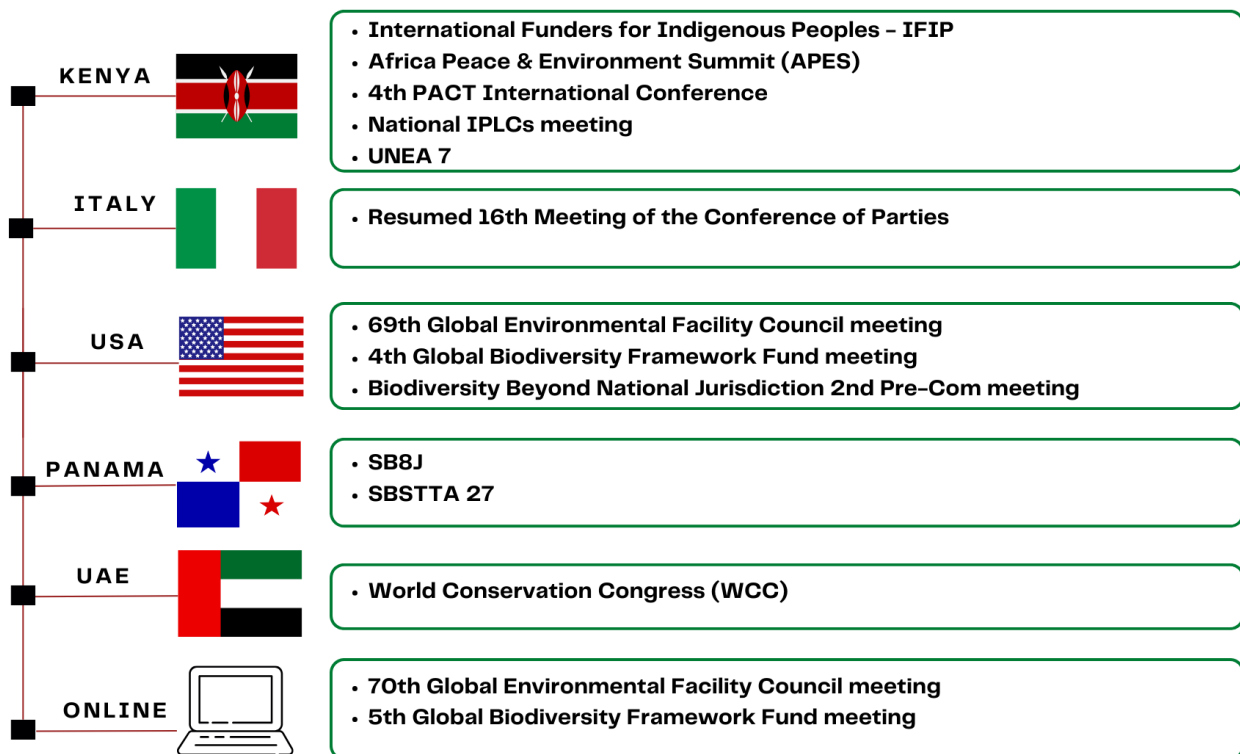
These gatherings strengthened cultural identity, elevated women as heritage custodians, and ensured intergenerational transmission remains active. Youth engagement supports continuity of language, practices, and ecological stewardship.



INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, MIKIA Kenya participated in significant international forums, bringing the

voices, knowledge, and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples to the global stage. These engagements reflect MIKIA's commitment not only to community-level work, but to ensuring that indigenous heritage and Indigenous rights are represented and advocated for in the space where global decisions are made.



CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOMES

Women's Leadership

Women elders and women groups played a central role throughout 2025, leading storytelling sessions and shaping the vision for Cultural Learning Centers. Their status as custodians of Indigenous heritage gained wider recognition, setting the stage for sustained women-led governance of Cultural Learning Centers.

Youth Engagement & Cultural Continuity

Young participants gained direct access to oral histories and ecological knowledge, positioning the next generation as future custodians. These connections between youth and elders are essential to ensuring intergenerational knowledge transmission does not break.

Conservation Outcomes

Mapped forests, cultural sites, wildlife corridors, water sources, and grazing areas now inform community-led land stewardship and biodiversity conservation, providing a tangible evidence base for sustainable long-term land management decisions.

INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH

MIKIA Kenya applied a community-centered methodology grounded in Indigenous rights, community protocol and ethical research practice. Every aspect of the work was designed to prevent extractive research within Indigenous Peoples' territories and build lasting community ownership:

1. Communities gave free, prior, and informed consent.
2. Knowledge holders retained ownership of all recorded knowledge.
3. Research processes were co-designed with communities.
4. Documentation remained accessible in community formats.
5. Indigenous languages and oral traditions remained central.

This approach built deep trust and established MIKIA Kenya as a credible partner within Indigenous Peoples' territories and not merely an outside organization, but an institution that communities shape and own.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

The 2025 body of work substantially advanced MIKIA's position as a trusted Indigenous knowledge institution in Laikipia:

- Community trust deepened through consistently participatory, community-led methods.
- Foundations for community-owned knowledge archives were established in both landscapes.
- Evidence gathered now supports the case for Cultural Learning Centers and long-term land management planning.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 PRIORITIES

The 2025 activities created a strong foundation for expansion. The primary priority

for 2026 is the establishment of women-led and women-owned Cultural Learning Centers in both Il-Ngwesi and Lekurruki community lands. These centers will serve as hubs for intergenerational learning, Indigenous knowledge documentation, and women's economic empowerment.

Additional 2026 priorities include:

- Expanding Indigenous Knowledge documentation with additional elders and knowledge holders.
- Validating and publishing key research outputs.
- Scaling co-production of books and documentary materials.
- Strengthening community-managed Indigenous knowledge archives across both landscapes.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCES

The work completed in 2025 protects Indigenous heritage systems at risk of disappearance. It strengthens land stewardship, supports cultural identity, advances women's leadership, and builds foundations for sustainable livelihoods.

MIKIA Kenya continues to ensure Indigenous heritage remains a living resource held, guided, and owned by the Indigenous Peoples to whom it belongs. Each activity in 2025 was a step toward a future where Indigenous Knowledge is not merely remembered, but actively practiced, transmitted, and protected for generations to come.

Our Donors and Partners



PAWANKA
FUND



Land is Life

