

Ogiek community pushes for recognition as custodians of culture and forests

BY LAMECH WILLYA
(KNA)

For centuries, the Ogiek people have lived in harmony with the Mau Forest Complex, drawing their food, medicine, and spiritual identity from its vast green canopy. But for a community long excluded from official recognition, their annual cultural festival is more than a celebration; it is a statement of existence.

At the 6th Annual Ogiek Cultural Festival in Nkareta, Narok North, drums, songs, and traditional dances filled the air as the community showcased their heritage.

Yet behind the colourful displays lay a deeper message; the Ogiek want Kenya, and the world, to acknowledge their culture, protect their rights, and secure their ancestral land.

Daniel Kobei, Executive Director of the Ogiek Peoples' Development Programme (OPDP), said the festival serves as both cultural revival and advocacy.

"Every year we bring our people together to remind the younger generation who they are," Kobei explained. "Through weddings, skits,

and songs, we teach them that without culture, you have no history, no heritage, no future. The Mau Forest is our home, our supermarket, and our pharmacy. It gives us food, honey, and medicine, which is why we protect it."

Kobei described the Ogiek as natural conservationists whose survival is intertwined with the ecosystem.

Their beekeeping depends on nectar and flowers, while their traditional hunting and gathering once sustained them with wild berries and tubers. "The forest found us here," he said. "It is part of us, and we must safeguard it for future generations."

But for all their contributions to conservation, the Ogiek have endured repeated evictions in the name of protecting the very forests they helped preserve.

"It is time the government recognized us, resettled those evicted, and affirmed that the Mau is our home," Kobei urged.

His sentiments were echoed by Lee Njiru, former Press Secretary to President

Moi, who praised the Ogiek for keeping their traditions alive.

"Culture is the foundation of every community. Without it, we are floating in the air," Njiru said.

"The Ogiek have reminded us of the power of material culture, but we must also restore what is disappearing, our proverbs. Proverbs are a people's constitution, their distilled wisdom. Today, children in cities no longer know them."

Njiru called for greater institutional support for minority groups. "We need a Ministry of Communities, not just Heritage. Minorities like the Ogiek, Walyangulu, and others must have dedicated representation in government. Their voices matter for Kenya's identity and future."

On its part, the government affirmed its readiness to address the plight of minority communities. Lowoi Josphat Lodeya, Head of the Minority and Marginalized Affairs Unit in the Office of the President acknowledged the Ogiek's exclusion from Kenya's official list of ethnic groups and pledged action.



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Internship Position

Five (5) Internship opportunities in Information Communication Technology are available.

S/No	Professional Areas	No. of Intern Vacancies	Duration of Internship
1.	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	5	12 months
Total		5	

Mode of application:

Applications should be submitted online through TSC recruitment portal Website: www.tsc.go.ke

Candidates who meet the above requirements should submit their applications by **9th September, 2025**

Note

- TSC is an equal opportunity employer. Minorities, marginalized and persons living with disability are encouraged to apply.
- Please note that **ONLY** shortlisted candidates will be contacted using email address or telephone contacts provided during application.
- This is purely an Internship Programme and will not lead to automatic employment at the TSC.
- Provision of false information will lead to automatic disqualification.

SECRETARY / CHIEF EXECUTIVE



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) (CONSULTING SERVICES)

THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MULTINATIONAL HORN OF AFRICA ISIOLO – MANDERA CORRIDOR

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR TRADE AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION STUDY

TENDER NO. KENHA/2892/2025

Transport Sector

Financing Agreement reference : ADF-2100150042744

Project ID No : P-Z1-DB0-249

- The Government of the Republic of Kenya has received financing from the African Development Fund (ADF) towards the cost of the **Horn of Africa Isiolo – Mandera Corridor: El Wak – Rhamu Road (A13) Upgrading Project**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for this loan to make eligible payments under the contract for the **Consulting Services for Trade and Transport Facilitation Study**.
- The Consultancy Services among others will include (i) assessment of traffic and trade flows and baseline data collection along the corridor; (ii) assessment of trade and transport facilitation and identification of key gaps; (iii) analysis of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) and other institutional and policy/regulatory issues; and (iv) conducting a comparative analysis and propose recommendations to improve Terms of Trade. The assignment will take **twelve (12) months**.
- The Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), being the implementing agency of the Government of the Republic of Kenya now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interests in providing the above services.
- Interested firms must provide information indicating they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, in similar conditions and availability of the appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consultants may form joint ventures to enhance their chances of qualification. The shortlisting criteria comprise:
 - Firm's Registration:** The firm shall have been registered for not less than 8 years in the fields of Transportation Engineering, Transportation Economics, Transportation Planning and Multilateral Trading System, Social Science, or related services as its core business.
 - Firm's Experience:** The firm must demonstrate competence and experience in successfully delivering similar assignments in undertaking transportation engineering, transportation economics, transportation planning, multilateral/ regional trade or related social science studies and research. Specific experience of completing a minimum of five (5) similar nature and complexity assignments within the last eight (8) years is required. The nature and similarity of the assignments include the execution of all the aforementioned assignments to the International Standards.
 - Experience in similar conditions:** The firms that demonstrate having experience in similar assignments in Sub-Saharan Africa will be an added advantage.
 - Availability of Key Experts:** The firm must demonstrate the requisite technical and managerial capacity to undertake the assignment. Key Experts will, however, not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
- Eligibility criteria, establishment of the short-list and the selection procedure shall be in accordance with the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations"-August, 2015, which is available on the Bank's website at <http://www.afdb.org>. Borrowers are under no obligation to shortlist any consultant who expresses interest.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours (weekdays from 0800hr to 1700hr local time, excluding public holidays).

Attention: Director (Development)
Street Address: Kenya National Highways Authority, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi, off Mazao road (Opposite Aviation House)
Floor/Room Number: 1st Floor North wing, Block A
City: NAIROBI, KENYA
Telephone: +254 700423606, +254 20 4954200
Email addresses: ddevelopment@kenha.co.ke, procurement@kenha.co.ke
- Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form and clearly marked with the assignment title & Tender No. and deposited in the box at Kenya National Highways Authority Headquarters, 2nd Floor, Block C, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi, Off Mazao Road (Opposite Aviation House) or addressed to the:

Deputy Director, (Supply Chain Management)
Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA)
2nd Floor, Block C, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi
Off Mazao Road (Opposite Aviation House)
P.O. Box 49712-00100, Tel: +254 700423606, +254 20 8013842,
Email: procurement@kenha.co.ke

so as to be received on or before **18th September 2025 at 1100hrs local time.**
- Electronic submission is **NOT** permitted. Late Expressions of Interests shall be rejected. Expressions of interest shall thereafter be opened in public on **18th September 2025 at 1100hrs Local Time** in the presence of the applicants' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below.

KeNHA Headquarters,
2nd Floor, Block C, Barabara Plaza, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi
Off Mazao Road (Opposite Aviation House)
- Interested Consultants are required to continually check the Kenya National Highways Authority website: www.kenha.co.ke for any additional information or clarifications that may arise before submission date.

Deputy Director (Supply Chain Management)
FOR: DIRECTOR GENERAL