



**Advocacy for Survival & Wellbeing
of the Yaaku Indigenous Tribe
of Mukogodo Forest
(Laikipia- North) Kenya**

Yaaku Indigenous Young Moms

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous young moms from the Yaaku community face immense challenges. Their strength and resilience is compromised by multiple complex problems, including historical and ongoing dispossession, marginalization, as well as the legacy of past policies of forced removal and cultural assimilation. These issues contribute to the high levels of poverty, unemployment, violence etc. They also impact negatively on Indigenous children, who demonstrate poor health, educational, and social outcomes.

Indigenous young moms (C.B.O) aims at ensuring improved outcomes for Yaaku Indigenous young moms, children, families and the entire community.





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Our Vision & Mission

VISION

We envision creating a poverty free Yaaku community. Where every persons dignity is protected especially those affected by human and natural crisis.

MISSION

To provide people affected by human & natural crisis in Yaaku community with educational programs, sustainable social economic programs and promote peace building & effective governance.



Our Objectives



The Indigenous Young Moms helps in revival of Yaaku culture, since Indigenous knowledge is a valid and necessary pathway for understanding the world. Also working hard in revival of our dying language because we can't be recognized without differentiating ourselves from the communities which assimilated the Yaaku community.

Initiating campaigns that aim to inspire our community to take simple, impactful actions which will directly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, accelerate the uptake of climate solutions towards transitioning to Net Zero.

Also working hard to combat climate ; unsustainable human activities that attribute to soil salination such as deforestation in our ancestral land(MUKOGODO Forest) Indigenous Young Moms is dedicated to gender equality and empowering women ending violence against women, and economic empowerment, also as well working hard to eliminate FGM which contribute to school dropouts of young girls.

By initiating a Yaaku women Eco village ; the women strive to produce the list possible negative impact on the natural environment by regenerating agro ecological practices .

Background History

In the expansive Rift valley (Laikipia north district) western slopes of Mount Kenya lives one of the smallest indigenous tribes in the world. The Yaaku, with a population of approximately 8000 and only 1 Elder who can speak fluent native yaakunte language Mr. Leriman Leitiko who is the motivation behind formation of our organisation .Making it one of the worlds endangered languages as per UNESCO'S Red Book under "language endangerment and facing extinction"

The Yaaku tribe lived in rock caves and stick thatched houses in Mukogodo forest which is a forest which is one of the largest Indigenous forests in Eastern Africa and is protected by the community with minimum government involvement. It covers approximately 74,000 Acres and habitat of indigenous species of trees and animals. The forest was and still is somehow the main source of their livelihoods and being hunters and gatherers they depended on it for bush meat, nuts, fruits , bee keeping for honey & natural dyes.

The indigenous Young Moms CBO is a Yaaku Community Welfare organisation founded in the year 2019. Since its inception, IYM ultimate priority is the survival & revival of Yaakunte dialect and the Yaaku culture in general , Protection of Mukogodo Forest, Indigenous Knowledge and livelihood support for the Yaaku people.





"Seeing their efforts , I'm emotional , not with tears of pain but tears of joy, the language was pronounced 'dead'. Now I see that its alive again"

Mr.. Leriman Leitiko
(The last fluent Yaakunte speaker)
on France 24 News
Monday
, 21 February
International Mother Language Day 2022

Core Values



Accountability

We are committed to being responsible & transparent in all our activities.



Advocacy

We seek to ensure the most vulnerable people in our society are able to take part in decisions that affect their lives.



Innovation

We are a learning organization dedicated to seeking appropriate and effective interventions for poverty and enhancing the standard of living in Yaaku community.

Our **Programs**

Yaaku SICA Honey

Yaakunte Language (Learning & Documentation)

Climate Change - Agro ecology Project

Women Table Banking Project



Yaaku Tribe ethnologue

Native to

Kenya

Region

Laikipia North District

Ethnicity

Yaaku people

Native speakers

(1 Remaining fluent Speaker)

Language family

Afro-Asiatic

Cushitic / Semitic

Language codes

ISO 639-3

muu

Glottolog

yaak1241

ELP

Yaaku

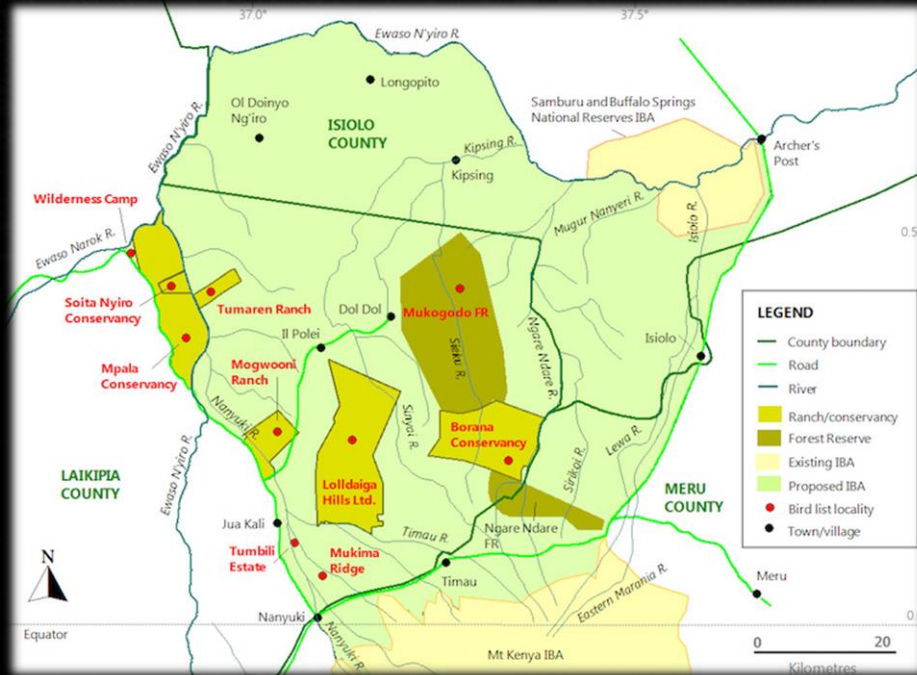




8,000

Approximate Number of Yaaku Indigenous People

Territory of the **Yaaku** People



The Yaaku tribe lived in rock caves and stick thatched houses in Mukogodo forest which is a forest which is one of the largest Indigenous forests in Eastern Africa and is protected by the community with minimum government involvement. It covers approximately 74,000 Acres and habitat of indigenous species of trees and all grassland animals like giraffes, Zebras, Lions, Elephants, and more.

The forest was and still is somehow the main source of their livelihoods and being hunters and gatherers they depended on it for bush meat, nuts, fruits, bee keeping for honey & natural dyes. The forest also has sacred sites used for religious and traditional practices. Leaves, roots and bark of various trees and herbs is source of medicine used to treat various illnesses. The name "Mukogodo" is a Yiakunte language term meaning people who live in rocks while Yaaku means "hunting people".

Yaaku **Sica** Honey

SICA, Raw organic honey from the YAAKU people of Mukogodo forest (Laikipia) , is a Raw ,Unpasteurized Pure Organic Honey Product. Indigenous Young Moms A Yaaku Community/Women Welfare Organization collects the honey at the source from individual beekeepers/ bee keeping groups and engages them in the harvesting process to ensure authenticity and quality of the product .Proceeds made from the honey enable us run our Yaaku community Empowerment programs .

[sika] – ‘honey’ (cf. Maasai *en- aisho o lotorrok*)

[íno] – ‘greater honeyguide (*Indicator indicator*)’ (compare Maasai *ncesharā*)

[kantála] – ‘wooden honey container (about 60 cm)’



Climate Change

Agro-ecology has become high on the global agenda i.e.. Towards achieving the SDG'S whereby it has a strong potential & contribution towards resilience against climate change impacts & preservation of biodiversity and to reversing land degradation trends.

IYM is in the fight for climate change & related issues which affects the community biodiversity through various communal projects.

- Kitchen Gardening Project
- Carbon Bed Project
- Agroforestry projects



Language Revival & Cultural Preservation



Yaakunte Learning Centre



The IYM Yaaku Cultural Resource Centre
For passing cultural knowledge and Teaching Yaakunte
Language to Yaaku community members (Generation
to generation) in an effort to revive the almost extinct
dialect.

Thumbnail Extract - France 24 News on Mother Language Day - 2022 (21st Feb.)

Language Documentation



IYM is involved in a Yaakunte Language Documentation
Program Through Creation of an Artificial Intelligence
powered Chatbot App



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