



# *Sweet Are the Waters: Ogiek Rights to Land and Development and the African Court on Human and People's Rights Court Ruling*

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## 1. Context

- The Ogiek, one of East Africa's last hunter-gatherer groups, live mainly in Kenya's Mau Forest and have faced marginalisation since colonial times.
- In 2017, the community won a landmark case against the Kenyan government at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

## 2. Research Focus and Question

- Examining the factors behind Ogiek marginalisation and the impact of changes to the Mau Forest, in light of the 2017 court ruling.
- Research question: How can forest preservation and the Ogiek's right to development be achieved amid the land pressure surrounding the Mau Forest Complex?

## 3. Methods

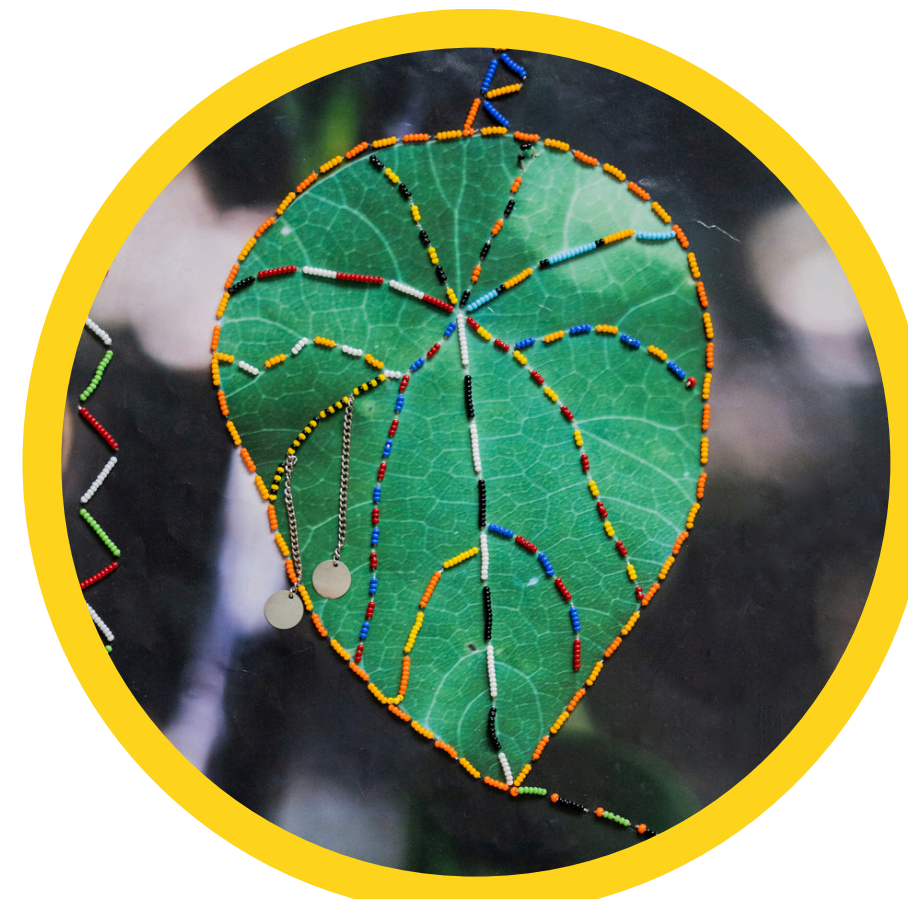
- Theoretical grounding informed by modernisation theory, land grabbing, and alterglobalisation.
- Case study enriched with anthropologically informed visual interventions.
- Participant observation, semi-structured interviews, documentary photography, and collaborative visual practices.
- Research areas: Eastern and Southern Mau.

## 4. Findings

- The Ogiek's integral connection with the Forest differs from modernity's division between humans and nature.
- Current conservation practices restrict Ogiek access and marginalise indigenous methods.
- Development is seen holistically, as opposed to modernity's constant progress and linear, Eurocentric view.

## 5. Conclusion

- The wealth of knowledge and Ogiek cosmologies require re-examining research approaches, inviting to step away from conservative methods.
- Visuals are less about their content and more about the meanings attached to them.
- More time is needed to seek deeper ways of collaboration and further centring Ogiek epistemes and voices.



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