



ABOUT US

Preserving Culture, Language, and Resilience

Kivulini Trust is an organization that has been established with the objective of documenting, promoting and revitalizing the knowledge, culture and livelihoods of pastoralist communities in northern Kenya. This is achieved through various initiatives that have been developed with the aim of ensuring that traditional wisdom, identity and resilience continue to thrive for future generations.



OUR PURPOSE

To promote and support the perpetuation of cultural knowledge and practices and to facilitate positive change by building on the existing cultural strengths, indigenous knowledge and natural resources management know-how for the realization of holistic and sustainable development.



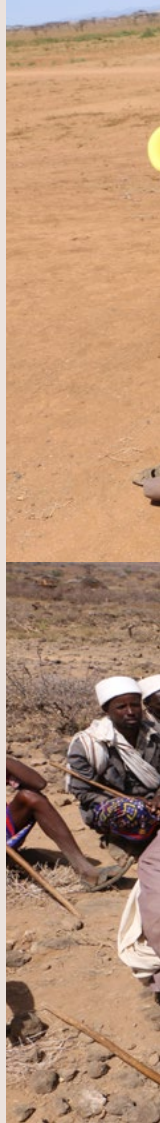
1. Documentation of Traditional Knowledge

Safeguarding Indigenous Wisdom for Future Generations

Our communities have relied on oral traditions to pass down knowledge, values, and spiritual practices. Kivulini Trust is committed to preserving these traditions by recording:

- 1.** Oral Histories: Stories, myths, and legends that reflect the beliefs, struggles, and triumphs of different communities.
- 2.** Traditional Songs and Rituals: Spiritual and cultural expressions that define communal identity and social cohesion.
- 3.** Knowledge on Natural Resource Use: Indigenous methods of land and water conservation, herbal medicine, and livestock management.

By documenting this knowledge, we ensure that vital cultural practices are not lost to modernization and external pressures but instead serve as a foundation for future generations. Our archives and research contribute to education, advocacy, and intergenerational knowledge transfer within communities.





Storytelling sessions guided by Indigenous knowledge holders, preserving wisdom through oral traditions and documentation where children immerse themselves in reading at the Kivulini Trust Documentation Center.



2. Language Revitalization Program

Strengthening Indigenous Languages Through Community Engagement

Language is more than just a means of communication—it is the foundation of cultural identity. However, many Indigenous languages are at risk of disappearing due to modernization, urban migration, and limited intergenerational transmission. To address this, Kivulini Trust runs a Language Revitalization Program that includes:

- 1.** Culture Clubs: Interactive spaces where elders and youth engage in storytelling, poetry, and language immersion activities.
- 2.** Development of Learning Materials: Creating educational Charts, children's storybooks, and audiovisual recordings in Indigenous languages to support learning.
- 3.** Intergenerational Language Exchange: Encouraging direct engagement between elders fluent in traditional languages and younger generations eager to learn.

Through these initiatives, we empower communities to reclaim and celebrate their linguistic heritage, ensuring that Indigenous languages remain a vibrant part of everyday life.



Children's Festival unites elders and young ones in a vibrant cultural exchange, fostering language preservation and identity through performances, storytelling, and interactions in their mother tongues.





3. Enhancing Pastoralist Resilience

Empowering Communities to Adapt and Thrive

Pastoralism is a way of life deeply intertwined with the environment, requiring knowledge of seasonal migration, pasture management, and water conservation. Kivulini Trust works with pastoralist communities to:

- 1.** Facilitate Knowledge Sharing: Organizing dialogues where elders pass down expertise on livestock care, medicinal plants, and climate adaptation.
- 2.** Raise Awareness on Climate Change: Educating communities about shifting weather patterns, disaster preparedness, and sustainable livelihoods.



Resilience of pastoralists in Northern Kenya: Navigating challenges through indigenous knowledge, sustainable practices, and community solidarity to safeguard livelihoods and traditions

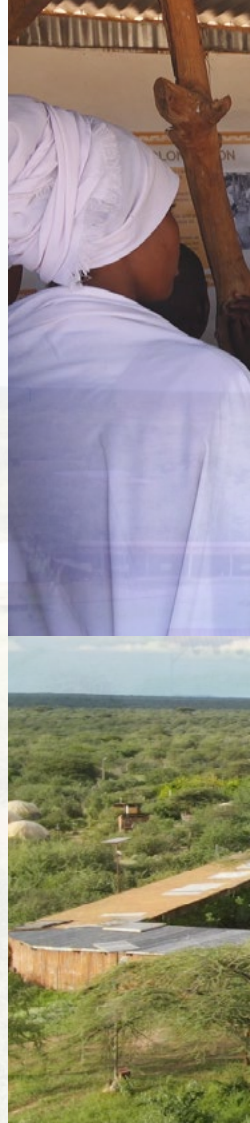
4. Cultural Heritage & Identity – The Waso Museum

A Living Space for Cultural Expression and Learning

The Waso Museum in Gotu serves as a cultural centre dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich traditions of northern Kenya's pastoralist communities. The museum offers:

- 1.** Cultural Exhibitions: Displays of traditional clothing, handcrafted artifacts, and historical tools that tell the story of the community's heritage.
- 2.** Raise Awareness Traditional Food Displays: A look into Indigenous culinary practices, including food preservation techniques and the significance of communal meals.
- 3.** Community Learning Spaces: A venue for cultural education, workshops, and intergenerational storytelling sessions.

The museum not only provides a space for learning and appreciation but also strengthens community bonds by bringing people together to celebrate their identity and traditions.





Young learners exploring the rich cultural heritage at Waso Museum—connecting with history through artifacts, stories, and traditions preserved for future generations.



5. Celebration of Culture and Community Land Rights

1. Celebration of Culture through Cultural Festivals:

Cultural festivals centered around food and music, serve as vibrant celebrations of heritage and tradition. They offer communities an opportunity to showcase their unique cultural expressions, foster pride in their identities, and promote social cohesion among diverse groups. By highlighting traditional foods and music, these festivals not only preserve cultural practices but also create spaces for intergenerational learning and the transmission of knowledge. Such gatherings are powerful platforms for dialogue and mutual understanding, strengthening the social fabric and unity within communities.

2. Promotion of Community Land Rights and Land Use:

The promotion of community land rights is integral to sustaining traditional livelihoods and protecting cultural landscapes. Securing land rights ensures that communities have the autonomy to manage and use their lands according to their customs and needs. It enables the sustainable use of natural resources, supports food security, and enhances resilience against external pressures. Advocating for community land rights also involves recognizing and respecting indigenous and local knowledge systems that have maintained biodiversity and ecological balance over generations. In uniting for these rights, communities assert their agency and contribute to broader movements for social and environmental justice.



Resilience of pastoralists in Northern Kenya: Navigating challenges through indigenous knowledge, sustainable practices, and community solidarity to safeguard livelihoods and traditions



6. Burraaq Children's Culture School

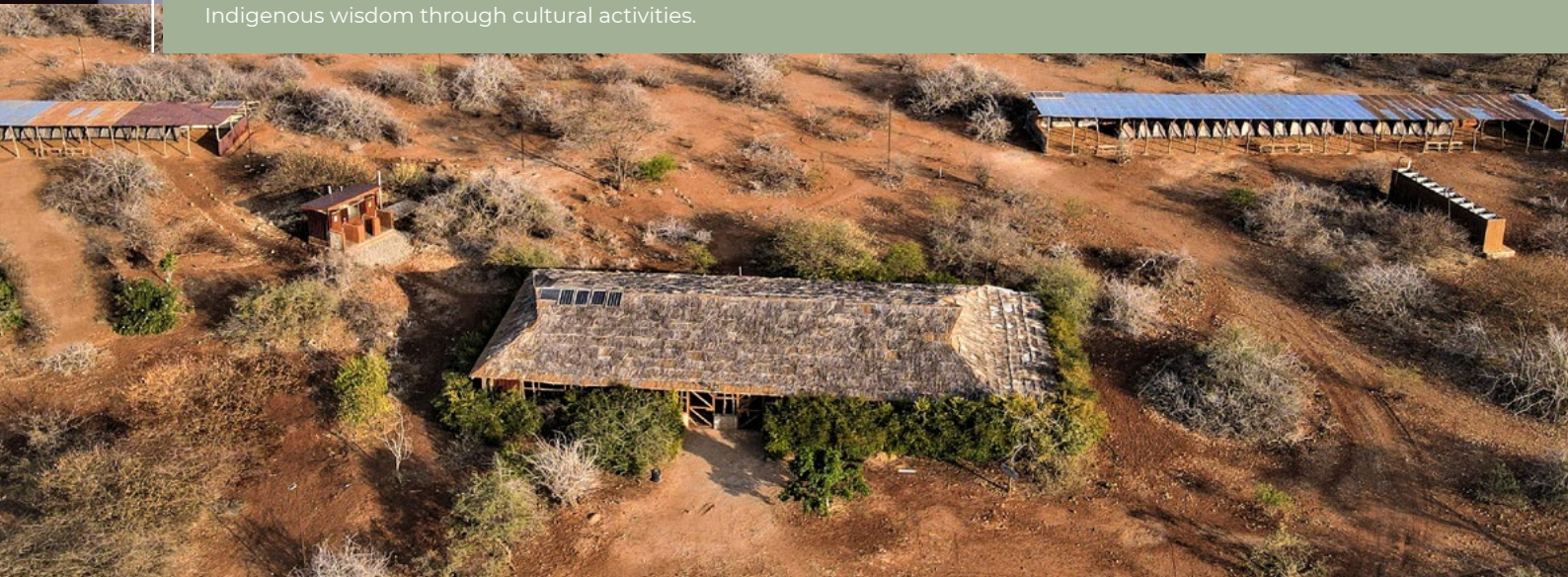
Burraaq Children's Culture School is a community- demand driven initiative by Kivulini Trust, based in Gotu, Isiolo County. The school is dedicated to preserving and promoting indigenous languages, cultural values, and traditional skills among children. Rooted in the belief that cultural identity strengthens community cohesion and self-awareness, Burraaq provides a structured environment where children learn their mother-tongue, traditional knowledge, and artistic expressions through interactive and immersive experiences.

The school primarily serves children from pastoralist communities, offering a safe space for them to learn and practice their heritage while complementing formal education. It fosters intergenerational knowledge transfer by engaging elders, artisans, and cultural practitioners as instructors, ensuring the continuity of indigenous wisdom and skills.





Experiential learning in action- School Culture Club members engage hands-on with traditional knowledge, and Indigenous wisdom through cultural activities.





Gotu, Isiolo County- KENYA

www.kivulinitrust.or.ke