July 9th 2025

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Prequalification of Maasai Scholars and Experts for Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Research

1. About ILEPA

Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) is a registered Indigenous Peoples' organization based in Narok, Kenya. We work to promote human rights, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development through community-driven and Indigenous knowledge-informed processes. Our work prioritizes participatory action, climate justice, and the decolonization of development frameworks.

2. Introduction

In alignment with ILEPA's vision to enhance Indigenous Peoples' self-determined development and deepen our institutional capacity for grounded research and consultancy services, we seek to prequalify a pool of highly qualified experts in indigenous Maasai pastoral knowledge including language for future engagement. This initiative will support ILEPA's ongoing and upcoming assignments in the following critical thematic areas:

- Indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable land use practices

- Climate change adaptation in pastoralist contexts including indigenous weather forecasting and community-based monitoring information systems (CBMIs)

- Carbon markets and natural resource governance from Indigenous perspectives

- Indigenous knowledge institution and governance systems

This ToR outlines the objectives, eligibility criteria, submission guidelines, and review process for the prequalification of experts.

3. Purpose

The primary purpose of this prequalification exercise is to establish a roster of experts on indigenous ways on knowing and doing, with demonstrable academic, research, and/or practical experience relevant to Indigenous livelihoods, natural resource management, nature-based solutions, climate resilience, and (Indigenous Peoples Self Determined Sustainable Development (IPSSD).These experts may be engaged on a short-term or long-term basis as consultants, advisors, or collaborators in case studies development, policy briefs, impact assessments, or community participatory processes, in the context of pastoralist in Kenya.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Hold a PhD or equivalent academic qualification in any of the relevant fields: Indigenous Studies, Anthropology, Environmental Science, Spatial Planning, Sociology, Climate Studies, or related disciplines.

- Have demonstrable experience working with Indigenous Maasai communities.

- Show expertise in community-based research, participatory methods, or policy engagement.

- Exposure/ familiarity to Maasai cultural and linguistic context will be an added advantage.

- Women, persons with disabilities, and younger scholars are strongly encouraged to apply.

5. Submission Requirements

Interested experts should submit:

1. A detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) including a list of recent publications, consultancy roles, or relevant fieldwork.

2. A cover letter expressing interest in being considered for the prequalified directory and highlighting expertise areas.

3. At least two samples of work (e.g., publications, research papers, reports, or community engagement products).

4. Contact details of two professional referees.

6. Review Process

A multidisciplinary internal panel within ILEPA will conduct the review process. The review will focus on:

- Academic and research excellence (40%)

- Practical experience with Indigenous communities (30%)

- Relevance to the thematic areas (20%)

- Contribution to Indigenous-led development narratives (In Maasai context) (10%)

Selected experts will be added to ILEPA's expert database and may be contacted as opportunities arise.

7. Timeline and Submission Address

All submissions must be emailed to procurement@ilepa-kenya.org with the subject line:
"Expert Prequalification – Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use" [Your Name/Company Name]".

Deadline for Submission: 23rd July 2025 at 5:00 PM EAT

Late submissions will not be considered.

Approval

This TOR is subject to approval by the Project team