



# Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation in Kenyan Highlands: A Comparative Study

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## Abstract

The Kenyan Highlands are a biodiversity hotspot, home to numerous indigenous communities that have developed traditional knowledge systems over centuries. A comparative study involving semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and archival research among local communities and government agencies in three highland districts of Kenya. Traditional knowledge showed a strong preference for sustainable land use practices that maintained ecological balance, often contrasting sharply with more recent conservation methods focused on protected areas. Local TEK can significantly enhance biodiversity conservation efforts by integrating indigenous wisdom into modern strategies, although further research is needed to quantify specific impacts. Integrate traditional knowledge into formal conservation plans and support community-led initiatives that respect local environmental practices.

**Keywords:** Kenya, Highlands, Biodiversity, Conservation, Traditional Knowledge, Cultural Ecology, Ethnoecology

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