



Dr. Eric M. Kioko

Environmental Anthropologist

Kenyatta University

Department: Environmental Studies & Community Development

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Research Interests: Peace & conflict; Climate change and Sustainability; Environmental Anthropology; African Futures; Political ecology; Forest crimes; Community conservancies and Land rights; Mega infrastructures.

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=NFZe-LoAAAAJ&hl=en>

Orchid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7318-7609>

Research Gate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Eric-Kioko>

Academic Qualifications

- 2013 – 2016: **Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy).** Social and Cultural Anthropology
University of Cologne, Germany.
Grade: 1,0 “Magna cum laude” [With Great Honours]
- 2010 – 2012: **MA (Master of Arts):** Culture and Environment in Africa
University of Cologne, Germany.
Grade: 1,3 [Very Good]
- 2004 – 2008: **BA (Bachelor of Arts):** Anthropology
University of Nairobi, Kenya
Grade: First class honours

Professional Qualifications

- 2013 – 2016:
- i. University of York, UK. Marie Curie ITN Workshop: Cross-disciplinary perspectives on landscape resilience in East Africa: Research communication, organization, inter- sectoral skills and grants writing.
 - ii. Multimedia University, Kenya. Marie Curie ITN Workshop. Scientific Video Production and Reporting.
 - iii. National Museums of Kenya. Marie Curie ITN Workshop. Remote Sensing, Archival Sources and Historical Methods.
 - iv. Stockholm University, Sweden. Marie Curie ITN Workshop. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Methods and Challenges.

Employment

- 2023-2025: **Senior Research Fellow -** British Institute in Eastern Africa
- 2022-2025: **Project Co-PI/Senior Lecturer -** Geography Department, **University of Bonn, Germany.** This position is within the framework of the Collaborative Research Centre, “Future Rural Africa: Future-Making and Social Ecological Transformation”;
<https://crc-trr228.de/c03-green-futures/>
- 2021 to present: **Visiting Lecturer -** Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, **University of Cologne, Germany.** MA Course “Urban Environment in Africa” – Summer Semester.
- 2017 to present: **Lecturer/Research Fellow -** Kenyatta University, School of Environmental Studies

- 2016: **Visiting Lecturer** - University of Cologne, Germany,
MA Course, “Vulnerability and Resilience in African Pastoral Societies-Sose
- 2013 – 2016: **PhD Fellow** - Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Cologne, Germany.
Funding: European Union through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.
- 2013 – 2014: **Junior Lecturer and School Coordinator**, Kenyatta University, Kenya,
School of Environmental Studies, Mombasa Campus.
- 2012: **Part-time Lecturer** - Kenyatta University, Kenya
- 2010 – 2012: **MA student**, Culture and Environment in Africa - University of Cologne, Germany.
Funding: North Rhine-Westphalia.

Research –Internationally Funded Projects

- 2025-2030: **Danish Fellowship Centre, Denmark**
Project: Green Conflicts in Kenya’s Northern Drylands (FRONTLANDS)
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2026-2030: **Danish Fellowship Centre, Denmark**
Project: PlastiCITIES: Changing Waste Work in Urban Kenya
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2022-2026: **Volkswagen Stiftung [Volkswagen Foundation] Germany**
Project: “Local Dynamics and Integration of UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Outstanding Universal Value: Evidence from Cultural Landscapes in Ethiopia and Kenya”.
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2018 - 2030: **German Research Foundation (DFG) grant, Germany:**
Project: “Future Rural Africa: Future-Making and Social-Ecological Transformation”
Role: Co-Investigator
Project Outputs: <https://crc-trr228.de/c03-green-futures/>
- 2021-2025: **Danish Fellowship Centre grant, Denmark**
Project: “Governing Adaptation Finance for Transformation (GAP). A Comparative Study of Climate Change Adaptation Finance Implementation in Tanzania and Kenya”.
Role: Principal Investigator
- 2021-2024: **Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) grant, UK**
Project: “Connecting agro pastoral Food culture research to livestock commercialisation policy”.
Partners: i. Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK; <https://www.ids.ac.uk/>
ii. The Source Plus; <https://thesourceplus.org/>
Role: Lead Co-Investigator, Kenya.
Outputs: i. IDS Policy Brief; <https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2023.018>
ii. IDS Working Paper; <https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2023.037>
iii. A Photoset; <https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2023.016>
- 2020: **Argelander grant, Germany**
Project: “Contending with COVID-19 Shock in Selected African Countries: Micro-Evidence from Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Namibia”
Role: Lead Co-Investigator, Kenya
Outputs: i. Peer reviewed journal: [Full article](#)
ii. Blog (Developing Economics); [Full article](#)
- 2018-2020: **German Research Foundation (DFG) grant, Germany**
Project: “Future Rural Africa: Future-Making and Social-Ecological Transformation”
Role: Partner
Project Outputs: https://www.crc228.de/projects/project_a04/
- 2013-2016: **European Commission/Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions/The Innovative Training Networks grant, Germany.**
Project: ‘Resilience in East African Landscapes (REAL)

Role: Early Career Researcher (PhD fellow grant)
www.real-project.eu; <http://www.real-project.eu/category/eric/>
2010-2012: **German Research Foundation (DFG) grant**, Germany:
Project: “Resilience, Collapse, and Reorganization in Social-Ecological Systems of the African Savannas”.
Role: MA grant: www.fg1501db.uni-koeln.de

Membership of professional bodies

Since 2025: Working Group Member -Motion 53/2021 – Cultural Ecosystem Services
under the FSC Global Development GmbH
Since 2025: Editor, Journal of East African Studies-Routledge, Taylor & Francis
2023: Editorial Advisory Board, Journal of East African Studies, Routledge, Taylor & Francis
Since 2017: Member of the Africa Good Governance Network (AGGN), founded by the
DAAD with support from the Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche
Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung
Since 2010: i) Member of the Global South Studies Centre; <http://gssc.uni-koeln.de/>;
ii) Cologne African Studies Centre (CASC)
<http://casc.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/casc.html>;
iii) Ethnologie, University of Cologne;
<http://ethnologie.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/index0.html?&L=1>

Publications (Referred Journals, Books, Book Chapters, Policy Briefs, etc.)

Kioko, E., Nzau, J. and Wafula, C (2026). Mining sacred nature: Extractivism and constrained agency in Kenya's sacred forests. The Extractive Industries and Society, Volume 27,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2026.101948>

Kioko E., Müller-Mahn D, and Chuhila M (2026). Green Futures and National Planning: Rhetoric and Reality in Rural East Africa. In, African Futures in the Making, James Currey (Boydell & Brewer).
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/jj.33676924.8> (Open Access)

Müller-Mahn, D. and **Kioko E** (2026). Unforgettable! – Teaching and Research in Africa. journal
Geographical Review, Volume 2026, Issue 6, Pages 54-55.
https://elibrary.utb.de/doi/abs/10.5555/51260600_13

Müller-Mahn, D, **Kioko E** and Aalders T (2026). Ghost projects and the ambiguity of infrastructure
development. Third World Quarterly 47(1):1-7, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2025.2610335>

Kioko E. M & W. Changwony (2025) Infrastructure-driven land appropriation, institutional change and
conflict in a communal conservancy in Kenya. *Elsevier -World Development Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2025.107089>

Aalders, T & **E. Kioko** (2025). Infrastructure Sabotage as Future-Making: The Material and Immaterial
Power of Constructive Destruction. Antipode. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.70042>

Rieber, A., **E. Kioko** & T. Aalders (2025). “The non-economy of anticipation in the construction phase
of large dams”, Journal of Political Ecology 32(1): 6117. doi: <https://doi.org/10.2458/jpe.6117>

Mulwa, J., **E. Kioko** & M. Gravesen (2025). Aligning the management of nature-based solutions to locally
led adaptation principles: A case study of sand dams in Makueni County, Kenya. Elsevier, Nature-
Based Solutions, Volume 7, June 2025: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbsj.2025.100226>

Ekiru, J. & **Kioko, E. M** (2025). *The Power of Peace: Peace Stories from Northern Kenya*. Wasomi Africa, ISBN 978-9914-35-542-0

Kioko E. M. (2024). History of Pastoralist Strategies and Resilience in Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History, *Oxford University Press*.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.1265>

Omala M., **E. Kioko** & M. Gravesen (2024). Effective coordination of climate finance? Stakeholder perceptions, climate change policy implementation and the underlying political economy factors in Kenya. *Climate Policy*, Taylor & Francis. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2024.2335914>

Kuiper G., **Kioko E.**, & Bollig M. (2024). Agricultural Intensification, Environmental Conservation, Conflict and Co-existence at Lake Naivasha, Kenya. *Brill*. ISBN: 978-90-04-69542-9.

Kuiper, G., **E. Kioko** & M. Bollig (2024). Lake Naivasha, Kenya, in the Capitalocene: In: Kuiper, Kioko and Bollig (eds). Agricultural Intensification, Environmental Conservation, Conflict and Co-existence at Lake Naivasha, Kenya. *Brill*. DOI: 10.1163/9789004695429_01

Kioko E. & S. Wanjala (2024). Megaprojects and the Transformation of Lake Naivasha Basin: Aspirations, Uncertainties and Social-Ecological Implications. In: Kuiper, Kioko and Bollig (eds). Agricultural Intensification, Environmental Conservation, Conflict and Co-existence at Lake Naivasha, Kenya. *Brill*. DOI: 10.1163/9789004695429_016

Müller-Koné M. and **E. Kioko** (2024). Frontier Dynamics: Cross-Cutting Ties, Conflict and Contestation on Agricultural and Conservation Hinterlands of Lake Naivasha. Kuiper, Kioko and Bollig (eds). Agricultural Intensification, Environmental Conservation, Conflict and Coexistence at Lake Naivasha, Kenya. *Brill*. DOI: 10.1163/9789004695429_012

Kioko E. et al. (2024). COVID-19 and the Cut-Flower Industry in Naivasha: Risk, Uncertainty and Preparing for the Future. In: Kuiper, Kioko and Bollig (eds). Agricultural Intensification, Environmental Conservation, Conflict and Co-existence at Lake Naivasha, Kenya. *Brill*. DOI: 10.1163/9789004695429_015

Kioko E. M. and Aalders (2023). Die Entkolonialisierung Afrikanischer Zukünfte [The Decolonization of African Futures]. *Geographische Rundschau*.

Kioko E. M. & Kinyanjui, M (2023). Commodifying East Africa's Sandalwood: Organised crime and community participation in transnational smuggling of endangered species. In: Bollig et al (eds), *Conservation, Markets & the Environment in Southern and Eastern Africa: Commodifying the 'Wild'*. James Currey. [Full Text](#).

Bellwood-Howard, I., Taylor, P., Niang, A., Bukari, K., **Kioko, E.**, Wangai, P.W., Sountoura, L., Eran'Ogwa, B., Yamusah, M. (2023). Les arts dans le dialogue et la communication sur l'environnement en Afrique de l'Ouest et de l'Est. IDS Working Paper 593, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2023.037>

Bellwood-Howard, I., Bukari, K. N., Cheptarus, G., Cheptoo, N., Eran'Ogwa, B., Jerogony, L., Keroi, F., Kibowit, T., **Kioko, E.**, Wangai, P. W. (2023). Milk Markets in Agropastoralist Areas of Africa—A Photoset. <https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2023.016>

Eran'Ogwa, B., Olwanda, R., Cheptarus, G., Cheptoo, N., **Kioko, E.**, Wangai, P., Baaru. M., Bukari, K., Bellwood-Howard, I. (2023). Milk Markets in Agropastoral Areas of Africa.

<https://doi.org/10.19088/IDS.2023.018>

- Changwony, W., **Kioko E.**, and Wangai (2023). Mega Projects and De-commonization: Infrastructure, Land Tenure and Local Institutions Change in a Communal Conservancy in Isiolo, Kenya. *Journal of Science, Creativity and Innovation*. <https://doi.org/10.58721/jsic.v1i1.247>
- Kioko, E. (2022)**. Forest Crime in Africa: Actors, Markets, and Complexities, in Clemens Greiner, Stephen van Wollpute, and Michael Bollig (eds), *African Futures*, Brill, pp. 125-140. [DOI](#)
- Müller-Mahn, D. and **Kioko E. (2022)**. COVID 19, Disrupted Futures and Challenges for African Studies, in Clemens Greiner, Stephen van Wollpute, and Michael Bollig (eds), *African Futures*, Brill, pp. 28-35. [DOI](#)
- Ng'ang'a, **Kioko**, Wairuri & Ngare (2022). The 'Bald' Ecosystem: Indigenous Resource Governance and Restoration of Kivaa Forest, Kenya. *East African Journal of Environment and Natural Resources*, Volume 5, Issue2. [DOI](#)
- Nweke-Eze and **Kioko E. M. (2021)** 'But we cannot do it all': Investors' sustainability dilemmas and strategic selectivity in the development of Kenya's geothermal energy plants in Olkaria, *Sustainable Development in Africa*, [DOI](#).
- Müller-Mahn, D., Mkutu, K., **Kioko, E. (2021)** Mega-projects – mega-failures? Politics of aspiration and the transformation of rural Kenya. Springer, *The European Journal of Development Research*, [DOI](#).
- Muller-Mahn, D. and **Kioko, E. M. (2021)**. Rethinking African Futures after COVID-19. Sage: *Africa Spectrum*, [DOI](#).
- Okumu W. and **Kioko E. M. (2021)**. Ungoverned Spaces and Informalization of Violence. The Case of Kenya Police Reservists (KPRs) in Baragoi, In: Sabine Klocke-Daffa and Arne Steinforth (eds). *Challenging Authorities*, Springer, [DOI](#)
- Schmidt, M, **Kioko, E**, Atieno O., & Stephan, C (2020): “[There is a Lot of Pressure on Me. It's Like the Distance Between Heaven and Earth](#)” - [Landscapes of Debt, Poverty-in-People and Social Atomization in Covid-19 Nairobi](#). *Developing Economics. A Critical Perspective on Development Economics*.
- Schmidt, M, **Kioko, E**, Musa, K. J & Stephan, C (2020): ['Life On These Stones Is Very Hard' - House Helps in Covid-19 Nairobi](#). *Developing Economics. A Critical Perspective on Development Economics*. [Full Text](#).
- Kioko, E. M.** and Gravesen M. (2019). Cooperation in the midst of conflict: cattle raids and land deals in Laikipia and Narok, Kenya. Cambridge University Press/*Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute*, Vol 89, Issue 3, pp. 562-585. [DOI](#)
- Kioko, E. M. & Okumu W. (2018)**. Appeasing the land: local peace committees and comanagement of conflicts in rural Kenya. *AFSOL Journal*, Vol. 2, Issue 1. pp 80-112. [http://ipssaddis.org/y-file-store/vol.2\(i\) afsol journal \(1\).pdf](http://ipssaddis.org/y-file-store/vol.2(i) afsol journal (1).pdf)
- Kioko, E. M. (2017)**, Conflict Resolution and Crime Surveillance in Kenya: Local Peace Committees and Nyumba Kumi, in: *Africa Spectrum*, Vol 52, Issue 1, pp. 3–32. [DOI](#)
- Kioko, E. M. (2017)**. Culture and conservation: environmental stewardship in rapidly changing African environments, *Mazingira Yetu Magazine*, 13th Issue: [Full Text](#).

Kioko, E. M. (2016). Turning conflict into coexistence: cross-cutting ties and institutions in the agropastoral borderlands of Lake Naivasha basin, Kenya. PhD Thesis, Universität zu Köln. <http://kups.ub.uni-koeln.de/id/eprint/7064>

Kioko, E. M. (2016). Forgotten peace in resource use. In: People and Land, a publication by the Resilience in East Africa Landscapes Research Group. ISBN: 978-0-9573771-5-8 [Titel anhand dieser ISBN in Citavi-Projekt übernehmen] . www.real-project.eu

Kioko, E. M. & Bollig, M. (2015). Cross-cutting Ties and Coexistence: Intermarriage, Land Rentals, and Changing Land Use Patterns among Maasai and Kikuyu of Maiella and Enoosupukia, Lake Naivasha Basin, Kenya. *Rural Landscapes: Society, Environment, History*, Vol 2 (1), Issue 1, pp. 1-16, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.16993/rl.ad>

Kioko, E. M. (2015). Regional Varieties and “Ethnic” Registers of Sheng, In Nico Nassenstein and Andrea Hollington (eds.) Youth Languages Practices in Africa and Beyond. Mouton de Gruyter. Berlin, pp. 119-148. [Full Text](#).

Kioko, E. M. (2013). Poverty and Livelihood Strategies at Lake Naivasha, Kenya: A Case Study of Kasarani Village. Köln, Hundt Druck GmbH, [ISSN 2194-1556]. [Full Text](#).

Memorandum of Understanding Initiated

Initiator: MOU between Kenyatta University and The University of Cologne, Germany. MoU signed by Rector, University of Cologne and Vice Chancellor, Kenyatta University.

Supervision of Postgraduate Students and Fellows

Post-Doctoral Fellows

1. Dr. Theo Aalders – University of Bonn, Geography Department. Project: Future Rural Africa: Future-Making and Social-Ecological Transformation (2022-2025) – DFG funded
2. Dr. Yvonne Githiora – University of Bonn (ZEF) and Kenyatta University. Project: Local Dynamics and Integration of UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Out-standing Universal Value: Evidence from Cultural Landscapes in Ethiopia and Kenya (2022-2026) – VW funded
3. Dr. Muthio Nzau – University of Bonn (ZEF) and Kenyatta University. Project: Local Dynamics and Integration of UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Out-standing Universal Value: Evidence from Cultural Landscapes in Ethiopia and Kenya (2022-2026) – VW funded

Doctoral Supervision /Support

1. **Caleb Braham Wafula:** Kenyatta University: Project: Green Conflicts in Kenya’s Northern Drylands (FRONTLANDS) (2025-2030)
2. **Cecilia Muthoni Njagi:** Kenyatta University: Project: Green Conflicts in Kenya’s Northern Drylands (FRONTLANDS) (2025-2030)
3. **Manuel Standop:** University of Bonn/University of Cologne: Project. DFG-funded project “S(m)elling the Wild: The Political Ecology of Olfactory Resources” Funded by German Research Foundation (DFG) (2023-2026)
4. **Arne Rieber:** University of Bonn, Geography Department. Project: Future Rural Africa: Future-Making and Social-Ecological Transformation (2022-2025) – Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) (**Graduated July 2025**)
5. **Emma Minja:** Mwalimu Nyerere University, Tanzania, History Department.

Project: Future Rural Africa: Future-Making and Social-Ecological Transformation (2022-2025)
Funded by the German Research Foundation (**Graduated 2025**).

6. **Millicent Omala:** Kenyatta University
Project: Governing Adaptation Finance for Transformation (2022-2026)
Funded by the Danish Fellowship Centre
Thesis title: Examining the social-political factors influencing climate finance coordination in Turkana County (**Graduated July 2025**)
7. **Judith Mulwa:** Kenyatta University
Project: Governing Adaptation Finance for Transformation (2022-2025)
Funded by the Danish Fellowship Centre

Completed Masters Students

1. **Jane W. Ngángá** (Graduated 2023), Kenyatta University
Thesis Title: Eco-Cultural Beliefs and Practises in Forest Conservation in Kivaa Sacred Forest
2. **Winnie Changwony** (Graduated 2023), Kenyatta University
Thesis Title: Changes in Land Tenure and Local Institutions Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy
3. **Kiramba Lestan Kimiri** (Graduated 2024), Kenyatta University
Thesis Title: Establishment of Traditional Boundaries for Sustainable Forest Management in Loita Forest,

Conferences, courses and workshops – 2024/2025

May 15-16, 2025: Pastoralism in East Africa Workshop – Zurich University
June 25-28, 2025: European Conference of African Studies (ECAS 2025): Prague, Czech Republic
Sept 30- Oct 02, 2024: Bayreuth University, Germany - Conference: Association for African Studies in Germany (VAD): Panel proposal (Asebe Regasse & Eric Kioko): Africa's Emerging Frontiers of Resource Extraction
June 10-12, 2024: Political Ecology Network (POLLEN) Conference- Lund University
May 31- June 3, 2023: ECAS_University of Cologne, Germany: Panel (MüllerMahn & Kioko): Ghost projects - ruined futures and the promises of development

Professional Consultancies

Oct-Nov, 2024: **ILRI/CGIAR, Nairobi, Kenya:**

Project: Independent Qualitative Evaluation of Participatory Rangeland Management in Baringo County

May-July, 2024: **Centre for Research and Development in Drylands (CRDD)**

Project: Resilience narratives and outcomes in Horn of Africa drylands.

2023: **Mannheimer Zentrum für Evaluation und Entwicklungsforschung gGmbH**

[Centre for Evaluation and Development, Germany]. <https://c4ed.org/>

Project: Area Based Livelihoods Initiative–Garissa' (ABLI-G).

Task: Scientific evaluation of the effectiveness of the European Union Trust Fund project, ABLI-G at the Dadaab Refugee Camps, Garissa, Kenya, through Mixed Methods

2021-2023: **Conservation International (Through Northern Rangeland Trust);**

Project: Documentation of New Approaches to Peacebuilding in Northern Kenya

2019: **Legal Advice Centre (Kituo Cha Sheria);** <https://kituochasheria.or.ke/>

Project: Scientific Investigation into Environmental Rights, Abuses and Justice among Communities Living along the Malindi Salt Belt, Kenya's coast

2014: **Action Aid Kenya** - Coast Chapter; <https://actionaid-kenya.org/>

Project: Scientific Investigation into Environmental Hazards, Delayed Justice and Community Rights at Mwakirunge Dumpsite

2013: **The World Bank/Kenya through Kenya Coast Development Project (KCDP)/Kenya**

Main partner: Wildlife Service (KWS);

Summary of Key Qualifications

- 15-year experience in scientific research, analysis, documentation, communication, translation of research into policy and practice.
- 13-year lecturing and supervision of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students in Africa and Europe.
- 10-year experience in successful participation in internationally funded collaborative research projects.
- 10-year solid experience in scientific consulting for, among others, the Centre for Evaluation and Development, Germany; Conservation International (USA/Northern Rangelands Trust); the World Bank (KWS/KCDP); Action Aid (Coast Chapter); Legal Advice Centre (Kituo Cha Sheria) and Malindi Rights Forum.
- 10 years' experience in successful joint application of international grants, including German Research Foundation (DFG) (2018 – 2021; 2022-2025); Volkswagen Foundation, Germany (2022-2026); Argelander grant, Germany (2020); Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK (2021-2022); and Danish Fellowship Centre, Denmark (2021-2025).

Dr. Eric M. Kioko - kioko.eric@ku.ac.ke