



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

2022–2026

FRIENDSOFLAKETURKANA.ORG

CONTENTS OF THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2022–2026



1. STATEMENT FROM STAFF AND BOARD
2. OUR APPROACH
3. GOALS TO AMPLIFY COMMUNITY VOICES
4. GOALS TO ENHANCE FOLTS CAPABILITIES



01

INTRODUCTION TO THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Statement from the Board and Staff

In mid-2021, FoLT staff and board embarked on a journey to collectively dream, envision, and build a new strategic framework to build on the last strategic framework and guide our work over the next five years. Because we uphold and honor the power of community and collective organizing, we strive to build the organization through a people-centered strategic planning process.

We began the process by reviewing our programmatic priorities, articulating our values and principles, and reimagining self-determined territorial organizing; through storytelling, we each brought our values to the table and created the anthology of the story of FoLT.



Through the process, we deepened our understanding of each of the programs and their intersectionality with the other programs while conducting a SWOT analysis to bring out our collective vision.



We collectively learned through internal and external inquiry, group discussions, deep listening, adaptation and analysis, building on a close-knit team that is highly agile and adaptable, each colleague bringing on unique strengths to FoLT.

Our belief in the role and importance of indigenous knowledge and traditional information networks while centering the community as rights holders in every advocacy is one of our key success factors. We are engaging the geography from a territorial lens while investing in community organizing across the various thematic areas.

This 2022-2026 strategy framework serves as a guide to our work. However, in working with and for communities, our strategy is to ensure we can support communities' needs and struggles. Therefore, the approach cannot be static. This framework is a live document that responds to the changes and realities of communities within the Turkana basin and across the territories



Friends of Lake Turkana (FoLT) is an indigenous, women-led organization that works with and for communities within the greater Turkana basin to demand collective social, economic, cultural, environmental, and territorial justice

Our work covers Turkana and Upper Marsabit counties in Kenya. We work in partnership with communities across the region to safeguard and defend the rights and resources of pastoralists, indigenous people and local communities.

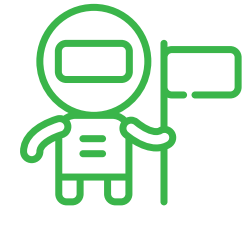
ABOUT FOLT

Our Mission



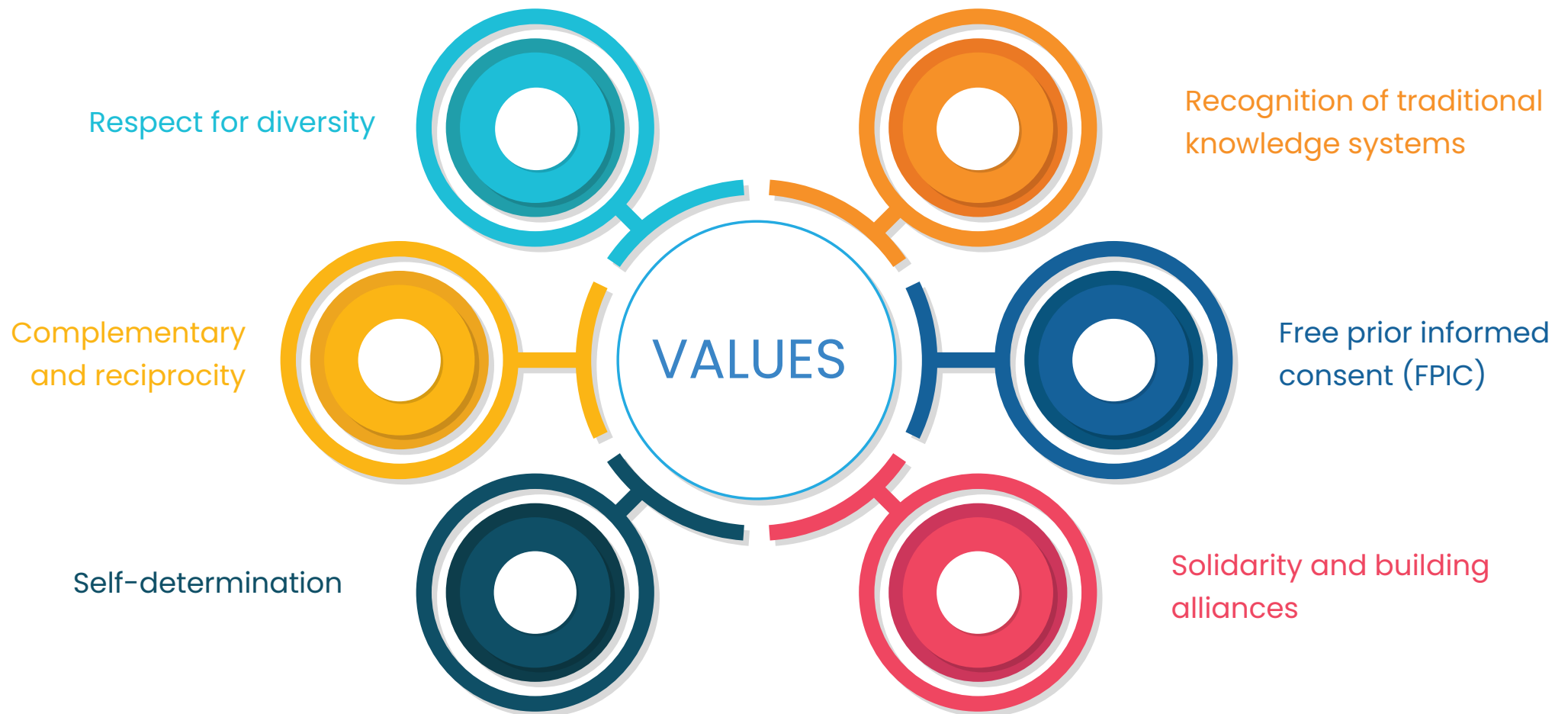
To foster participation of indigenous communities to achieve social-economic, cultural, political and environmental justice

Our Vision



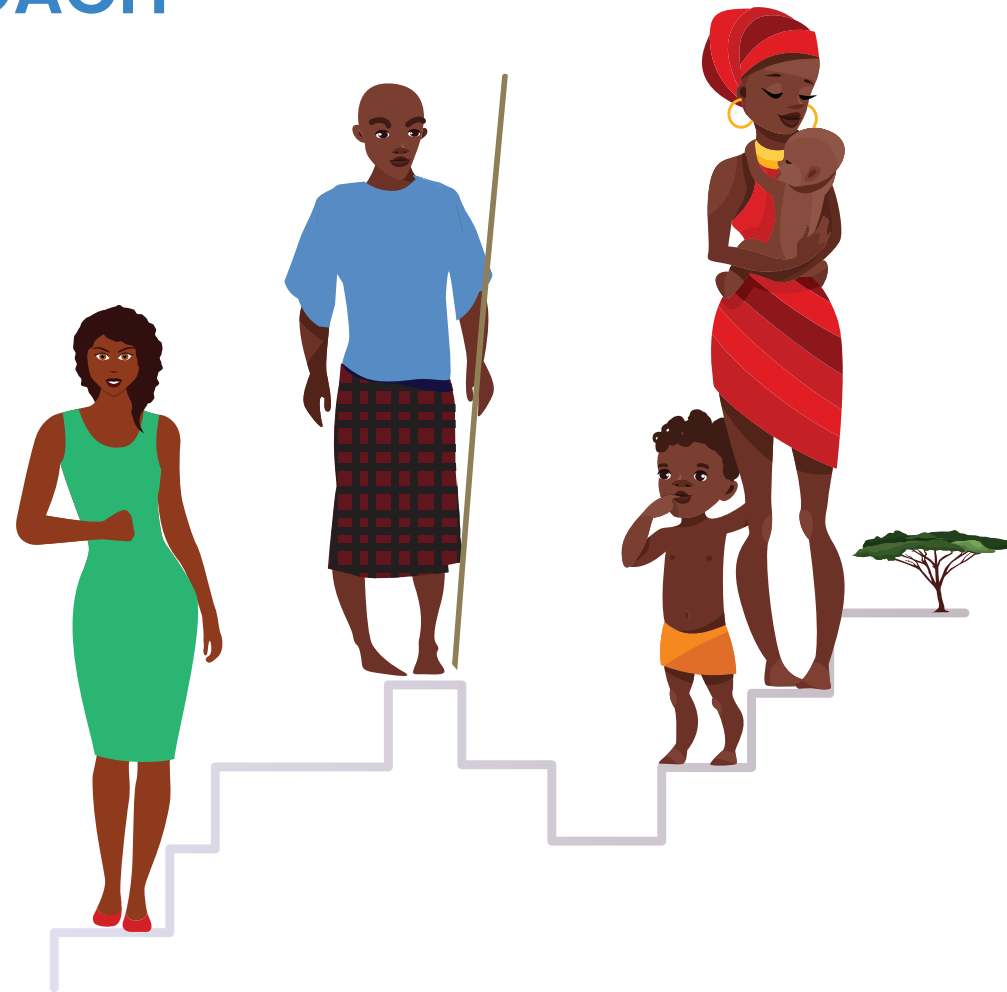
We envision a future where collective rights of communities are recognized and their territories secured, and communities in the Turkana basin are empowered to manage and govern their resources sustainably

Our values



OUR APPROACH

- ▶ Participatory Research
- ▶ Public interest litigation and legal aid
- ▶ Amplify indigenous led solutions
- ▶ Support grassroots movement building
- ▶ Increase and strengthen internal capacity to support well-being and the implementation of the strategic framework.



03

GOALS TO AMPLIFY COMMUNITY VOICES



- Goal 1: Protecting Women and Girls Rights
- Goals 2: Enhance the Protection of Lake Turkana and its eco system
- Goal 3: Defending Land, Environment and Territorial Rights
- Goal 4: Advancing climate and energy justice
- Goal 5: Advancing social, cultural and economic rights
- Goal 6: Strengthen cross-border co-operation



Goal 1: Protecting Women & Girls Rights

In promoting equity and recognizing the central role of women as agents of positive change across political and socio-economic spaces, we work to amplify women and girls' voices in critical social-economic decisions at the sub-national (county), national levels, and cross-border (regional).

We support the engagement of women in critical processes that impact them socio-economically, culturally, and their autonomy through;

- Amplifying women's voice and leadership
- Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls
- Supporting women access to economic resources
- Strengthen women and girls access to SRHR
- Educate the next generation of women leaders





Goal 2:

Enhance protection of Lake Turkana & its ecosystem

Lake Turkana is a miraculous anomaly of life giving water in a parched and unforgiving land. Lake Turkana is the largest permanent desert lake in the world and is home to a large population of Nile crocodiles, hippos and hundreds of bird and fish species. Today, several indigenous peoples depend on the lake and its ecosystem for their survival



Invasive species and climate change are also impacting Lake Turkana and its ecosystem. The basin faces highly variable climate and climate change impacts are predicted to increase variability.

In a bid to protect and conserve Lake Turkana and its ecosystem, we channel our efforts to;

- Restore the Lake basin biodiversity
- Strengthening community governance where we support a rights-based approach with community agency (e.g. BMU's), agency and decision making autonomy.
- Stop destructive projects on the Lake Turkana basin —We do this by challenging the proponents and bringing media attention to government, corporate, and financial actors complicit in damming, rights abuses, and destructive irrigation on the Omo River—illegal fishing and disastrous projects driving ecological destruction on the Lake and Omo basin.



Goal 3:

Defending Land, Environment and Territorial Rights

We work to defend and promote environmental and territorial rights linked to land access. Indigenous people and local communities seek to have their territorial and other rights respected, protected, and guaranteed.

Our defense of territorial rights includes our ancestral lands where communities have lived and the natural resources found on those lands; where our culture and way of life are intimately linked to our territory.

- Mapping & Legislating for protection of grazing lands and migratory routes
- Advocating for implementation of environmental laws and policies
- Advocate for respect and upholding of collective rights of our lands and territories
- Support EHRDs
- Strengthening community awareness on their land, environment & territorial rights
- Map and train ASM groups to better engage with mining protocols regionally and locally.





Goal 4:

Advancing Climate and Energy Justice

The effects of climate change have already begun to manifest in the Turkana basin, reducing food and water security through droughts, floods, and changes in seasonal timing and increasing the vulnerability of thousands of especially mobile pastoralists.

Climate-induced changes have exposed and exacerbated social and economic inequalities, especially in indigenous and marginalized communities.

Community's experiences are nuanced, and Indigenous peoples are witnessing such catastrophic climate variabilities while contributing next to nothing to the phenomenon that is causing the destruction.

The climate crisis is a political, social, and ethical issue rather than a purely environmental one caused by an unsustainable extraction and economic model driven by unequally distributed wealth and power in the world.

Energy is a social and material construct negotiated and disputed through political, economic, and cultural processes.

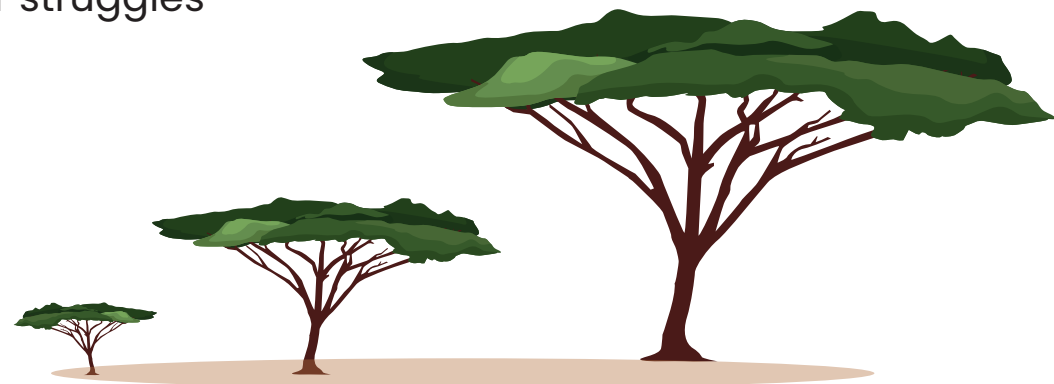
Our demand for energy justice focuses on the need for equity in the social and economic participation in the energy systems while remediating the social, economic, ecological, and health burdens of those disproportionately impacted by the energy systems.

Our efforts are aimed at demanding safe, affordable, clean, and democratically managed energy for all communities, centering the concerns of historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities.



Through our climate and energy justice advocacy , we focus on;

- Challenging false solutions that exploit nature and accumulate wealth at the expense of marginalized and vulnerable communities
- Demanding for Free Prior and Informed Consent
- Advocate for community right to energy access
- Map national laws and policies on IP & LC rights including land ,territory and resource rights and the relationship to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Collecting insights and experiences relevant to strengthening mitigation and adaptation of communities
- Monitor regional and global climate related processes
- Develop and strengthen grassroots collective voices for meaningful participation in climate processes,
- Strengthen IP and LC grassroots activists meaningful engagement with national, regional and global processes and raise visibility of their struggles
- Advocating for equitable, just and democratic energy transition





Goal 5:

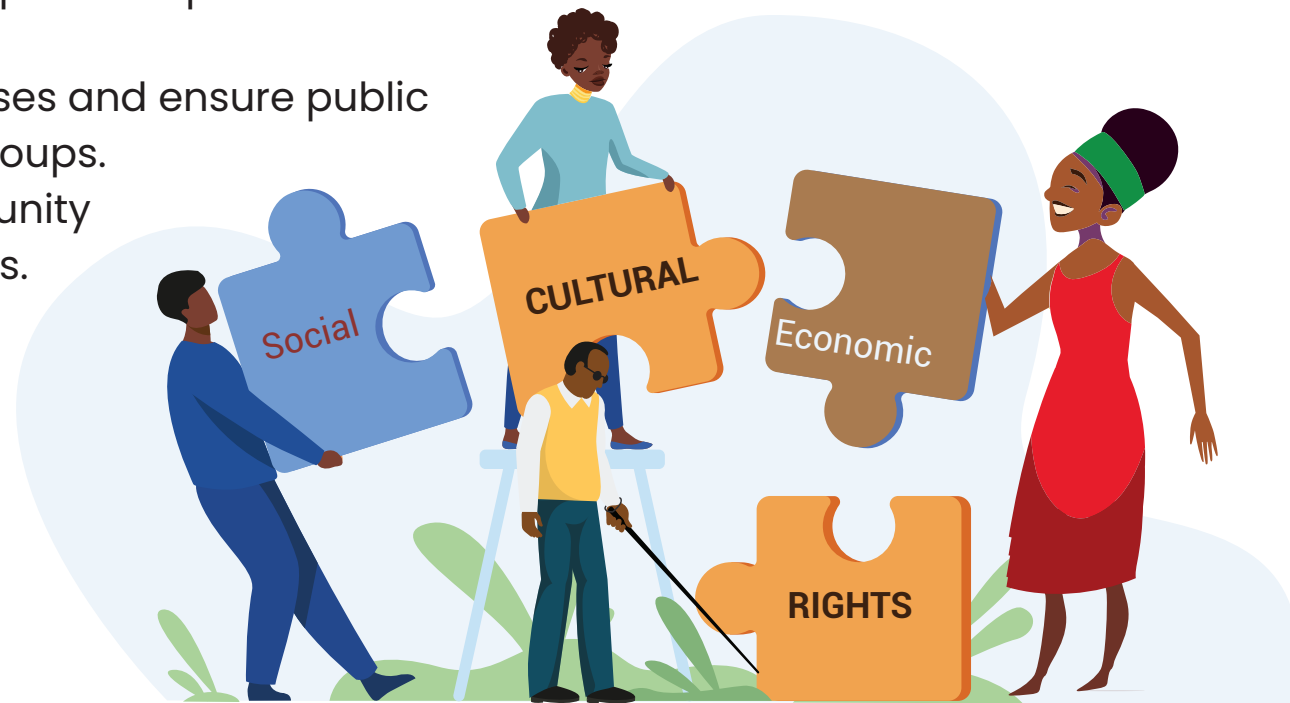
Advancing Social, Cultural and Economic Rights

Socio-economic and cultural rights are human rights focussed on the economic and social well-being of citizens globally.

These rights aim to ensure a dignified life and are protected by our constitution, international agreements such as the international conventional on economic social and cultural rights.

In efforts to advance social cultural and economic rights, we;

- Strengthen community organizing
- Strengthen community participation in public budgeting processes.
- Monitoring policy and processes and ensure public participation of community groups.
- Facilitate platforms for community engagement with duty bearers.
- Civic education





Goal 6:

Cross-border Peace & Security

In an effort to contribute to the region's peace and security, we work to ensure;

- Secure cross-border mobility as a resilience practice of pastoralist communities
- Enhance community engagement for meaningful participation in peace processes
- Strengthened role of excluded populations (women, youth, PWDs) in peace and security processes.
- Strengthen cross border Advocacy
- Enhance cross border communities peer to peer engagement
- Advocate for a human rights lens in peace and security policy processes.
- Conduct research to inform the different processes
- Continuous Collaboration and Cooperation with partners, government agencies and security personnel.
- Frequent Contextual Analysis, Situational Analysis and Communication with
- Community structures in the borderland to inform Early actions on processes.



YOUTH

We believe that youth have the capabilities of shifting power. Because of this, we strive to support youth leaders to make that change possible albeit their everyday struggles of discrimination, marginalization, and lack of access to opportunities, networks, and resources.

We believe that youth participation is crucial in strengthening governance, protecting land rights, fighting climate change, containing the loss of biodiversity, restoring ecosystems, and stewarding our cultural heritage.



04

GOALS TO ENHANCE FOLTS CAPABILITIES



Organizational Goal 1: Enhance Communication Strategy

We aim to uplift and amplify community voices, hence our efforts to building respectful communication with genuine commitment to appreciating and preserving traditional knowledge. Our communication strategy is grounded in cultural sensitivity to ensure respect for indigenous knowledge and centering community experiences and perspectives to provide a more inclusive narrative



Increase communication and digital capacity of the ecosystem

- Improve and expand tools and communications platforms for more digital organizing, participation, and collaboration with community partners.
- Increase documentation and reporting of on the ground realities with expanded field capacity.
- Increase video production and publications
- Identify and expand communication platforms that increase our connection to our communities and partners.

We strive to expand our media platforms by

- Develop quarterly magazines providing a platform for indigenous people and local communities' voices.
- Expand access to radio through partnerships and radio listening training and facilitation.
- Strengthen our social media platforms
- Pilot our podcast to expand discussions that bring local realities to national and global discourse





Organizational Goal 2:

Grow and Diversify organizational funding Base

- Expand reserve fund and establish a rapid response for grassroots activists
- Plugging on the existing resource center, establish a social enterprise that supports organizational programs but provides a resource for community enterprises to network, learn and access information within the ecosystem.
- Deepen engagement and broaden base of funding partners to support the organizational mission
- Strengthen organizational financial stability and resilience





Organizational Goal 2: Strengthen internal capacity and systems

- Review and update policies
- Improve organization internal culture, systems and structure.
- Strengthen internal relations and governance
- Develop indigenous youth fellowship
- Increase indigenous youth and local community presence in organization's decision making spaces.





Organizational Goal 3:

Enhance our programs through improved Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning

- Dedicate organizational resources to monitoring impact and evaluating performance.
- Elaborate a concise methodology to constantly monitor projects and processes. – that is participatory, collaborative and indigenous led.
- Articulate milestones and develop indicators for tracking programmatic performance and Organization's achievements.
- Establish adaptive logical frameworks and results pathways for FoLT's thematic areas
- Develop innovative mechanisms for capturing successes in organic and culturally relevant ways to enable communities not only co-create change, but measure it too.
- Institutionalize continuous knowledge-generating and collective learning processes, internally and with communities and promoting shared decision making within, and with FoLT's ecosystem.



Rooted in community and collective organizing, FoLT's strategic framework is a testament to our commitment to collective rights. It guides our journey towards justice, where communities thrive as guardians of their territories and agents of change.