

TABLE OF CONTENT

TABLE OF CONTENT	1
ABSTRACT	4
INTRODUCTION	6
1.0 THE SILENT DISAPPEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE	9
2.0 OUR VISION	12
2.1 THE BIG IDEA	12
2.1.1 PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE	12
2.1.2 KEY FEATURES OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE	13
2.1.3 USER ROLES, ATTRIBUTES AND LEVELS	14
2.2 A POLICY GUIDED SOLUTION	17
2.2.1 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK	17
2.2.2 WHAT DO THESE POLICIES LOOK LIKE?	17
2.2.3 KEY TENETS OF OUR POLICY INTEGRATES	17
2.2.4 PRIMARY STAKE HOLDERS AND THEIR STRATEGIC ROLES	18
2.2.5 THE MORAL COMPASS OF OUR POLICY FRAMEWORK	19
2.2.6 THE LOFTY IDEAL	20
3.0 THE ACTION PLAN	21
3.1 HOW WE’LL MAKE IT HAPPEN	21
4.0 IMPACT AND TRANSFORMATION	32
4.1 THE DIGITAL PLATFORM AS A CATALYST FOR TRANSFORMATION	32
4.1.1 INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ARCHIVING AND CONTINUITY	33
4.1.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RECONNECTION	33
4.1.3 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	34
4.2 CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION	34
4.2.1 IMPACT OF YOUTHS: REDEFINING ROLES AND FOSTERING GENERATIONAL CONTINUITY	34
4.2.2 IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES: STRENGTHENING CULTURAL BONDS AND ENSURING SOVEREIGNTY	35
4.3 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND VALUE TRANSFORMATION	35


4.3.1 MONETIZATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: THE ROE OF THE SKILL MARKET PLACE	36
4.3.2 CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY AUTONOMY: DIRECT REVENUE GENERATION AND SOCIAL-RETURN INVESTMENTS.....	36
4.4 POLICY FRAMEWORK: ANCHORING AND SUSTAINING TRANSFORMATION.....	37
4.4.1 LEGAL RECOGNITION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: TRANSFORMING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO PROTECTED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.....	37
4.4.2 DIGITAL PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY CONTROL: THE ROLE OF FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) AND BIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY PROTOCOLS.....	37
4.4.3 ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSIVENESS, AND CONTINUITY: ENSURING FAIR ACCESS AND INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER	38
4.5 STRATEGIC ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN DRIVING TRANSFORMATION	38
4.5.1 COLLABORATIVE ECOSYSTEM FOR ACHIEVING ENVISIONED IMPACTS	38
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	40
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	41

ABSTRACT

Our Keeping Wisdom in Every Youth's Ascent (KWEYA). Is a project to preserve and elevate Indigenous Knowledge through youth migration, KWEYA addresses the critical issue of indigenous knowledge erosion in Cameroon's Grass field communities, primarily caused by youth migration and the appeal of globalization, which leads to significant cultural alienation, the project proposes a "sustainable and transformative digital strategy driven by technology and guided by policy". The core solution is a web-based Digital Archiving Platform, termed "A Digital Village, A Living Memory," designed to "Record, Document, and share Indigenous Knowledge, foster economic empowerment". This platform aims to provide an "online haven" for migrant youths to 'reclaim their heritage', redefine their role as "passionate ambassadors" of their culture, strengthen community bonds, and facilitate the monetization of traditional skills to ensure community autonomy and self-determination. The initiative emphasizes a robust policy framework to ensure legal recognition, digital protection through Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), and community control over digitized heritage.

THE TEAM

Our team is a dynamic and vibrant trio pursuing their master's degree at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC). What sets us apart as a team is the diverse backgrounds. From integrating regional communities and engaging in humanitarian action to communicating on international public action, our interdisciplinary provides an outstanding lens for confronting the challenges of migration.

	Esopere Shodunke Chrispar, a native of Cameroon's South West Region, brings a robust academic foundation in Legal Studies and Regional Integration to their professional endeavors. With practical experience as a student lecturer in transport and logistics, Chrispar has developed a keen understanding of the intricacies of interconnected systems. Driven by a profound passion for Africa's integration efforts, Chrispar is particularly focused on advancing initiatives within the blue economy and infrastructure sectors across the continent.
	Born in Cameroon, Ndi Ngam Nayah holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and is currently pursuing a Master's in Humanitarian Action at the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC). Passionate about global issues and community empowerment, Ndi Ngam combines strong communication skills with a growing expertise in humanitarian affairs to drive positive change in her community and beyond.
	Hailing from the North West region of Cameroon, Kongnyuy Naomi Sandra is a dynamic communicator, a trained journalist with a bachelor of Arts in Journalism currently amplifying her expertise through a master's in international communication and public action. Passionate about advocacy, Naomi actively volunteers her voice and energy to support vulnerable populations, particularly adolescent girls and young women. Her interest in creative writing further fuels her ability to connect and inspire.

INTRODUCTION

It is a cold, dark evening in Njinikom, a village perched among the misty hills of the North West Region of Cameroon. Outside, the compound is settling into night. Fowls scuttle and cluck drowsily, finding their spots in the henhouse as the sun sets.

Inside Nawain's hut, the glow of the hearth is the only light, flickering against the walls which are stained a deep, smoky brown from decades of cooking fires. The air carries the sharp scent of wood smoke mixed with the smell of drying corn hanging from her bamboo ceiling.

This hut serves both as a kitchen and bedroom. A single, crowded space where bamboo beds are lined along the soot-dark walls, and bundles of clothes hang from nails knocked into rough planks.

At the heart of it all, the fire burns in a traditional three-stone fireplace. Three large stones, arranged in a triangle to cradle the pot above the flames, their placement steady and precise to balance the cooking vessel while the firewood burns on the hot coal below.

Tonight, no pot bubbles there. Instead, the fire serves only to warm the room and cast its flickering light over Nawain's lined face as she tends to the fire.

Children sit on the bamboo beds, their dirty feet dangling, and their eyes bright and expectant. Nawain's voice rises and falls as she tells them stories of their land. She tells them of Nandong, the fierce warrior who once united the people of Kom, under a single banner. Her voice grows low and grave as she recounts how his swelling pride fractured that unity, until even his closest allies turned away. When she whispers that he chose to end his own life, the children draw closer together, shivering, but learning a lesson that pride comes before a fall.

For a moment, Nawain pauses. Her gaze settles on one empty bed. The space is too quiet without her eldest grandson, who would always prob her with questions, interrupting, arguing, wanting every detail of the old ways and the ancestors' lives. He left last year for Germany, carrying nothing but hope and a single bag of clothes. Now the calls are rare, his voice rushed and strained. When he does speak his mother tongue, it sounds halting and unfamiliar even to her ears. He no longer knows the herbs she once used to heal his childhood fevers.

As the firelight crackles and the wind howls softly outside, Nawain sighs deeply, wondering if letting him go so far was a mistake.

This is not just one family's worry in the Grassfield Region of Cameroon, but a silent crisis echoing in many compounds: the living libraries of Indigenous Knowledge are gradually losing their audience.

Migration, continues to pull young people away from their elders, their culture, and their land. The result, is more than a demographic shift. It disrupts the connection between the old generation and the young one, a connection which enabled them to preserve knowledge on various aspects such as the farming of steep hills without degrading them, to weave and carve our history, settle conflicts without violence, and take care of the land our ancestors cherished.

Across the world, Indigenous Knowledge isn't just old wisdom stored away for show. It is the living heart of communities. It guides how people grow their food, care for the land, resolve conflicts, and pass on their identity from one generation to the next. These systems hold practices that have worked for centuries to keep soil fertile, protect biodiversity, and adapt to shifting climates. In Cameroon's Grassfields, this knowledge is tightly woven into everyday life. It lives in the language people speak, in rituals and ceremonies, in the way land is shared and cultivated. When this knowledge disappears, communities lose the very tools they need to fight hunger, prevent environmental damage, and stay connected as a society.

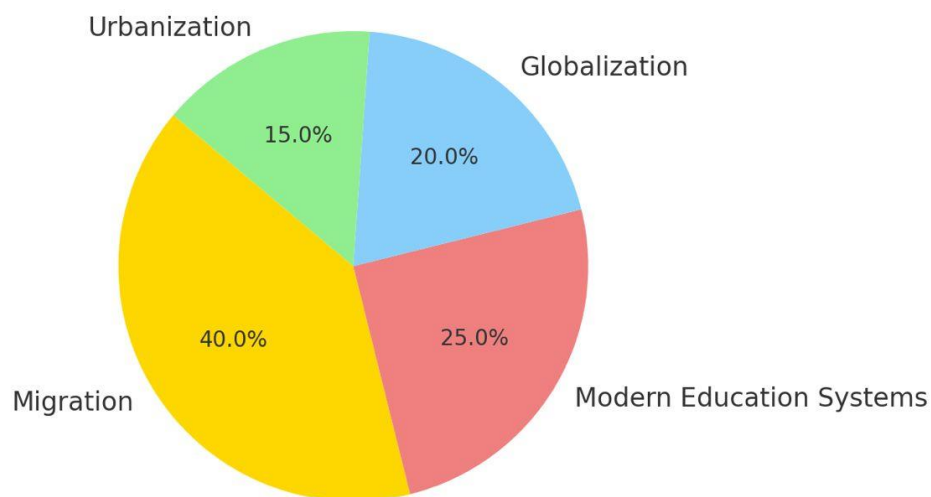
But these traditions are under serious strain. Globalization, economic hardship, and rapid social change are pushing people away from their roots. For many young people, leaving home feels like the only option. They leave with borrowed money, blessings whispered through tears, hopes crammed into small bags, and they cross borders or oceans, chasing work or school or simply safety. And what gets left behind isn't only empty beds in family compounds. It's conversations at dusk between grandmothers and grandchildren, the slow passing down of how to read the weather in the wind, how to know when to plant, which herbs to boil for a fever, and what words to say when asking the ancestors for help.

As a result, not only culture is affected, but the environment itself. The Grass field Regions of Cameroon are ecologically fragile. Their steep slopes need traditional terracing and agroforestry to stop erosion and maintain fertility. Without these local methods, the land degrades faster. Meanwhile, as people drift from their traditions, the social bonds that once held communities together weaken and systems for sharing resources and settling disputes equally start to break down.

Globally, the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge is increasingly seen as essential for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, from poverty reduction to climate action. But this preservation cannot be passive. It must address the root drivers of knowledge loss, one of which is migration.

This therefore means asking the hard question: how do we make sure young people have real choices? How do you give them opportunities to thrive without forcing them to abandon the very roots that hold them and their land steady? Because development that empties villages of their youth, and cuts the thread between generations, risks leaving nothing to stand on at all and all will crumble.

Estimated Contributors to Indigenous Knowledge Loss



Imagined by AI

1.0 THE SILENT DISAPPEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

UNESCO defines Indigenous knowledge as "The understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings."¹

Over the years this knowledge has been quietly disappearing like footprints in the sand. This disappearance, does not always happen in a loud or dramatic way. Most often than not, it unfolds quietly.

One of the major reasons behind this, as aforementioned, is Migration. As more young people leave home for school, work or city life, the bridge between generations tends to weaken more and more. In many Indigenous communities in Cameroon, indigenous knowledge isn't taught in a classroom or handed over in a manual. It's lived. It's learned by listening to stories around a fire, watching elders fish or farm, taking part in cultural ceremonies, or simply walking the land. But when young people are no longer around to witness these moments, the chain of learning starts to break.

While UNESCO's Weathering Uncertainty report doesn't directly focus on youth migration, it makes an important point: traditional knowledge is deeply rooted in place. It evolves through years of observation, trial, and adaptation. When those roots are disturbed whether by climate change, economic shifts, or migration knowledge transmission becomes more fragile. And when daily life no longer revolves around traditional practices, it's harder for the next generation to carry that knowledge forward.

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) has also raised concerns about education systems that fail to reflect Indigenous identities. Schools often prioritize Western frameworks while leaving out Indigenous languages, stories, and ways of understanding the world.²

¹ UNESCO. (2012). Weathering Uncertainty: Traditional Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation. Paris: UNESCO and UNU.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000216613>

² United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) (2020). Indigenous Peoples and Education. <https://www.un.org/.development/desa/indigenouspeoples/.mandated-areas1/education.html>

For some youths, success in school starts to feel like it comes at the cost of their culture. And slowly, often without meaning to, they drift away from it. The result, they have nothing to hold on to, when they leave the country.

On a community level, this disconnect is real and deeply felt. A study by McCarter and Gavin in the Solomon Islands found that elders see this shift clearly. They have noticed that fewer young people engage in traditional activities or seek their guidance. And they are worried by this. The everyday opportunities to pass down ecological knowledge, how to hunt, when to plant, how to read signs in nature are disappearing.³

This isn't just a cultural concern. Indigenous Knowledge is crucial to how many communities manage their environment, respond to climate change, and protect biodiversity. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development echoes this in multiple goals especially Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 13 (Climate Action), and Goal 15 (Life on Land). But in practice, the systems needed to keep this knowledge alive are still under-supported.

That said, there's hope. This glimmer is coming from some communities in the world. In Aotearoa (New Zealand), Māori-led schools are weaving traditional wisdom into everyday learning. In Canada, some Indigenous education programs bring students back onto the land, where they learn directly from elders. These aren't nostalgic throwbacks; they're powerful innovations, showing that Indigenous Knowledge can grow and thrive alongside modern life.

Still, real preservation goes beyond writing things down. It requires keeping relationships alive between young people and elders, between local culture and national policy, between land and language. It means giving youth reasons to stay, return or at least giving them a platform where they can learn about home away from home, and recognize that their communities are not just heritage sites, but living, dynamic centers of wisdom. Hence this project, Keeping Wisdom in Every Youths Ascent (KWEYA)

Indigenous Knowledge is not lost yet. But without active effort from governments, educators, and the communities themselves we risk letting it slip away. The good news? The knowledge is

³ McCarter, J., & Gavin, M. C. (2011). Perceptions of Change in Traditional Ecological Knowledge: A Case Study from Roviana, Solomon Islands. *Ecology and Society*, 16(3).

still there. The people who hold it are still speaking. We just need to make sure someone is listening and there is a platform for this knowledge to thrive even when youths leave their communities. This platform is KWEYA.

2.0 OUR VISION

“A Technological Solution, Rooted in Policy, that Places Youths at the Heart of Sustainable Indigenous Knowledge Continuity”

Envision a vibrant mosaic, alive with oral storytelling, ethnic dances, and timeless knowledge woven over generations. Now picture this mosaic, slowly weakening, its threads fading as our youths are lured by the surge of migration and the appeal of a globalized world. This proposal stems from our profound passion for the grass field communities of Cameroon and a pressing recognition of this cultural alienation. We are proposing a sustainable and transformative digital strategy driven by technology and guided by policy. Our dream is to build an online haven, a space where grass field migrants all over the globe can reclaim their heritage, discover the depth of their ancestral power. Our proposal seeks to redefine the role of migrant youths from passive participants into passionate ambassadors of their unique cultural inheritance, equipped to preserve and pass on indigenous knowledge. The preservation of indigenous knowledge is fundamentally linked to the involvement and empowerment of youths. As legacy holders and architects of the future, youths are uniquely placed to foster and champion generational continuity.

2.1 THE BIG IDEA

A Digital Village, A Living Memory

In a world that moves at blistering pace, staying rooted to the heart of our culture is of paramount importance. Watching the decline of traditional cultural transmissions is a haunting reminder of what we stand to lose. A reminder that has fueled us in creating a technology driven solution: A web based Digital Archiving Platform for indigenous knowledge, tailored to the specific needs of grass field youths and adaptable for the use of elders, a virtual community whose core aim is to Record, Document, and share Indigenous Knowledge, foster community engagement and leverage economic empowerment.

2.1.1 PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

- **Indigenous knowledge Archiving and Continuity**

“While acknowledging that the movement of indigenous knowledge cannot be stopped, we propose a platform that guarantees its continuity”. This is the heart of our vision, the platform

will serve as a depository documented by the community itself, actors involved will be community leaders in collaboration with youth representatives to record and upload content through multimedia channels (audio-visual and text), the uploaded content will capture historical narratives, oral traditions, traditional practices and other cultural riches.

This is essential for migrant youths who lack direct access to their traditional roots, thereby providing them with a link/connection to their identity.

- **Community Engagement and Reconnection**

Beyond a platform where migrants rediscover their roots, we propose a virtual community that fosters interaction among its members and strengthen cultural bonds. We seek to facilitate interaction among members of diverse grass field ethnic groups, promoting a global communion while respecting individual differences. Beyond archival functions, we aim to reconnect migrants with their once lost people.

- **Economic Empowerment**

The objective is to transform indigenous knowledge erosion to an opportunity of development for migrants of the grass field communities of Cameroon, by providing them with a platform that allows them to share their unique cultural resources and skills. The platform will feature specific spaces for the monetization of artisanal skills and traditional assets. This includes skills like traditional crafts, healing practices, beading, amongst other skills particular to the grass field people. This core function seeks to facilitate global cultural exposure, provide direct revenues for income generation and contribute to community autonomy.

2.1.2 KEY FEATURES OF THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Our digital village will comprise of five distinct and user friendly features.

- **Archive Store**

This feature is fundamental as it embodies the essence of our project. It offers unlimited and free access to cloud based library of multimedia content, content ranging from historical documentaries, ancient anecdotes, visual arts, storytelling and oral histories. This feature serves as the primary resource for learning and cultural exploration, the content available in this feature will be extensive to ensure all users are able to refer themselves and pass on to others.

- **Indigenous Hubs**

This property is created to foster more exchange and interaction among its users. It is open space which operates with voluntary donations, the hub will host weekly live streamed cultural events such as virtual festivals, educative workshops and seminars on ancestral power and uniqueness, this feature will also provide the hosting of specific culturally rooted podcasts to enhance the urgency of preserving indigenous knowledge.

- **Rekindle**

This feature is designed to help migrants to reconnect not only with their heritage but equally with their people. Rekindle is built to mend those lost social and cultural bonds stretched thin by distance, thereby strengthening their community links across every geographical boundary.

- **Skill Market Place**

This feature offers a reserved space designed for the showcasing and monetizing indigenous knowhow and cultural riches. It aims at enabling artisans, healers, storytellers and other practitioners to offer their services and products to a global audience against a monthly donation to the platform.

- **Indigeneous Clubs**

It is customary in some African traditions and particularly in the grass field communities of Cameroon to limit certain traditional practices to the entire community, some practices are private and exclusive to a group of individuals. This is why we created a property that offers exclusive access, it is a premium feature limited to members only, access is solely obtained through subscription and approval from the elder council. This space will host content of a more private and sacred nature intended for initiations and specialized cultural rites, this is to ensure the integrity and appropriate transmission of sensitive knowledge.

We aim to build a digital platform accessible and user friendly, this is essential for the smooth usage by community elders who are intrinsically connected to its implementation.

2.1.3 USER ROLES, ATTRIBUTES AND LEVELS

Our platform will operate with a clear structure, clarifying user roles to ensure effective management, content alignment and community engagement.

- **Standard Users**

These are general users curious about indigenous Knowledge, they have unlimited and free access to the Archive store. They are can explore all content, participate in indigenous hub events and Rekindle connections.

- **Advanced Users**

They experience all standard user benefits, plus the ability to upload and monetize indigenous skills. They are eligible for monthly donations based on their market activity.

- **Administrators**

Beyond users, they are technical developers made up of designated youth representatives. Their role is to ensure the management of the platform, offer technical assistance and assist the elder council.

- **Elder Council**

This is the highest level of governance, acting as moderators and censors. Their role is to approve uploaded content for cultural authenticity, verifying user submissions and ensuring adherence to cultural protocols and standards.



KWEYA

Digital Indigenous Village

Standard User

Preserve. Connect. Empower.

A digital sanctuary where indigenous knowledge lives forever,
communities reconnect, and ancestral wisdom empowers
future generations.



**Unlimited
Access**



**Global
Community**



**Economic
Empowerment**

Explore Your Digital Village



Archive Store

Unlimited access to multimedia
content preserving every
aspect of indigenous
culture.

Explore Archive



Indigenous Hubs

Interactive spaces for indigenous
artisans to showcase mastery,
and generate income.

Join Events



Skill Marketplace

Exclusive platform for indigenous
artisans to showcase mastery.

Browse Arts



Rekindle

Reconnect with lost family,
members, childhood friends.

Find Relations



Indigenous Clubs

Exclusive access to sacred content, traditional rites,
and initiations. Requires-subscription.

SACRED

Imagined by AI

2.2 A POLICY GUIDED SOLUTION

For Indigenous Knowledge to be preserved and passed on, it needs to be sustainable, protected, guided and enshrined in our laws. This is why we propose the enhancement of protective policies that acknowledge the urgency of indigenous knowledge erosion and fight to protect traditional heritages.

2.2.1 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Our aim is to ensure that indigenous knowledge is represented as a cultural right and a living legacy, by anchoring its preservation, accessibility and usage at the national, and community levels. We propose a framework that is not solely about rules, this is about more, it is about:

- Uplifting communities as guardians.
- Positioning Youths as Legacy Builders.
- Upholding governments as protectors.
- And framing technology as a pathway, not a substitute.

2.2.2 WHAT DO THESE POLICIES LOOK LIKE?

We are proposing policies that are protective, participatory in nature and make provisions for economic empowerment. This will guarantee that indigenous knowledge is legally recognized, digitally protected and community driven.

2.2.3 KEY TENETS OF OUR POLICY INTEGRATES

A) STATUTORY ACCEPTANCE AND INTELLECTUAL ASSETS(AMEND OR BUILD ON LAW NO 2021/014

- **Indigeneous Knowledge (IK) Protective Laws**

This provides recognition of IK as an intellectual property to prevent any form of exploitation, the aim is to explicitly state that immaterial heritage and digital renditions are the collective property of its ancestral community, with the State acting as Fiduciary. The aim is to give communities a free and clear title to what is documented on the platform and activates benefit-sharing mechanisms.

- **Digital Protection Frameworks**

This part of the policy delves into the role of community sanction in digital curation, we suggest Free, Prior and informed consent⁴ (FPIC) become compulsory measures before any upload, exploration or distribution agreement, for this to be effective, it is essential to adopt Biocultural community protocols already provided for in ABS⁵ (Access and Benefit-Sharing) guidelines as the primary instrument of obtaining consent. This will prevent/ misappropriation and ensure that decision making remains a local affair, thereby ensuring data sovereignty.

B) ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSIVENESS AND CONTINUITY

This section provides that every community member especially migrants and marginalized migrant groups will have fair and respectful access to their heritage, irrespective of geographical limitations, this will ensure no discrimination of persons, separation of class and isolation of vulnerable groups.

- **Continuity**

To Re-emphasize the crucial need of perpetuating Indigenous knowledge, and the vital role played by the youths. IK Preservation can only be achieved if it is intergenerational, youth involvement is not an alternative, and it is indispensable.

C) ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Beyond the incomparable cultural, social and spiritual value that indigenous knowledge offers, there's a significant economic worth attached to traditional heritage. Our framework seeks to unlock safe and community led monetization techniques. We envision a global market place where unique cultural skills generate income for communities, not middlemen, a space open for investors willing to fund preservation for social returns and not control.

2.2.4 PRIMARY STAKE HOLDERS AND THEIR STRATEGIC ROLES

They are key actors representing the driving force of this policy framework:

⁴ <https://www.ihrb.orb> visited on April 10th at 20:00pm

⁵ <https://www.ihrb.orb> visited on April 10th at 20:00pm

A. States

They are the legal protectors and enablers, responsible for incorporating indigenous knowledge into national identity both at the national and global stage. Provide funding and infrastructure to ensure policy based sustainability.

B. Community Elders

These are the gatekeepers and supreme custodians of authentic cultural values, they censor, and approve cultural worthy content, their role works in line with ensuring not just the continuity but the preservation of authentic traditional values.

C. Youths and Diaspora

They stand at the crossroads between community elders and future generations, they represent digital guardians, and they have the ultimate role of ensuring continuity while bridging the gap between tradition and technology.

D. Traditional Practitioners and Local Artisans

The monetary exploitation of indigenous skills heavily rest on them, they are living repositories of traditional knowhow, and the mastery of their skills must be preserved and honored.

E. Platform Developers

Clearly stipulate the role of these facilitators as creators of the system that will lead the vision, responsible for building tools that value indigenous governance and not supersede it.

F. International Bodies

We propose a legacy built on cooperation, the interplay of different actors with a common goal which is to stop the erosion of indigenous knowledge while ensuring its continuity. They will act as partners in protecting, financing and enablers of global recognition of indigenous knowledge.

2.2.5 THE MORAL COMPASS OF OUR POLICY FRAMEWORK

These are not regulations or laws there are the foundation that shapes the essence of our policy vision:

- Reverence for Ancestral Wisdom
- Legacy of Fairness Across Time
- Ownership of Our Narratives
- Upholding Cultural Wholeness
- Communities at the Helm, Technology in Service

- Sustainability Beyond Trend

2.2.6 THE LOFTY IDEAL

A society where;

- Youths do not grow up detached from their culture because the existence of our virtual community keeps them connected.
- Indigenous Knowledge is a cause for Pride, Power and Opulence.
- States and partners serve communities, not exploit them
- Beyond the grass field communities, we want to see the Amazon, the Maori, and the Miao, amongst other communities thrive in their traditional heritage, have sovereign digital territories and protect their indigenous knowledge.

“This transcends mere policy, it is a driving force, a profound cultural reawakening where indigenous knowledge is being propelled as essential to humanity’s very survival, not just a vestige”.

3.0 THE ACTION PLAN

3.1 HOW WE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN

A. The Blueprint for Executing our Digital Platform

We have carefully mapped out a strategic and comprehensive implementation plan to successfully bring our platform to fruition, each step clearly outlines our objectives, and the activities carried out to meet the set objectives. With the approval of community leaders, we will proceed with the execution of the following phases

PHASE 1: Community Mapping and Research

Objectives:

The aim of this phase is to craft a culturally sensitive and community grounded platform. This phase focuses on unveiling local realities, current needs, present circumstances and the ambitions of target communities. We cannot serve our communities unless we relate to them.

Activities:

1) Community Profiling and Consultations

- The grass field community of Cameroon extends across different regions with a significant amount of ethnic groups, this activity is centered around, identifying the different ethnic groups scattered across the Northwest regions, west regions of the country.
- Following their identification, we will proceed in documenting their cultural resources, historical riches, profile skill artisans, story tellers, transmission methods and community elders
- Facilitate accessible community gatherings and focus group discussions with our target groups, youths, elders, including, migrants and diaspora representatives.
- The exchange will set the stage for a better comprehension of their digital consumption habits, their preferred languages and their content interests.

2) Feasibility Analyses

- The evaluation of mobile and internet coverage in both rural communities and diaspora hotspots.
- Assess the financial accessibility of smartphones and internet plan for target users
- Investigate community members' digital literacy to tailor User friendly features
- Assess existing digital archiving mechanisms.

3) Legal Due Diligence

- The identification of domestic laws and international agreements that governs cultural heritage, like the 2003 UNESCO convention.
- A comprehensive study of Cameroon's ABS framework to comply with indigenous knowledge provisions.
- Implement Best Practices for consent, documentation and storage of sensitive content

4) Policy Development Framework:

- A clear definition of the governance system in charge of content approval and intellectual ownership.
- Creation of a community charter that covers user behavior, confidentiality, monetization and the protection of indigenous knowledge.

PHASE 2.1: Product Design and Prototype Building: From Blueprint to Beta

As a digital solution, this is a crucial stage in bringing our platform to life, this represents the transformation of our vision into tangible, albeit often none or partially functional models.

Objectives:

Our aim is to transform our vision into a tangible digital structure through a culturally relevant, inclusive and flexible prototype.

Key Tasks:

1) User Path Mapping

- The design of curated journeys for different user groups, the elders, youths, administrators and artisans

- The identification of pain points (challenges, frustrations or problems), motivation and aspirations for each user type.

2) User Interface(UI) Design

- This is the part of our platform that our community will interact with, here, we will create a frontend or an interface which our community sees and interact with multilingual options, with local languages as the domineering ones’
- Prioritization of enlarged text, readable font, symbols and speech navigation for elder users.
- The design of localized layouts using, symbols, motifs and familiar colors representing the communities.

3) Prototyping , Minimum Viable Product(MVP)

- Develop and interconnect key features, the archive store, indigenous hubs, Rekindle, skill marketplace and indigenous clubs
- Build core backend functionalities, from user management, media uploads, donation portals to content validation systems.

4) Pilot Testing

- In four selected grass field ethnic and diaspora groups, we shall conduct a soft launch of the developed prototype.
- Collecting of feedback through group discussions, surveys and pilot usage metrics (most visited features, time spent per session, drop off points).

PHASE 2.2: Full Scale Development

Objectives:

This is the comprehensive and refined version of our platform, ready for a full scale launch. Our aim is to develop a complete version of the digital village, ready for a larger audience with effective onboarding mechanisms.

Key Steps:

1) Backend and Data base Development

- Here we will deploy cloud infrastructure for secure and scalable storage
- Develop a Content Management System(CMS) for structured uploads and categorization

- Create advanced media compression and tagging tools

2) Security and Privacy Layer

- Create unbreachable layers of security, the aim is to protect the users, data and the system.
- The implementation of data encryption and secure login features
- The establishment of content access permissions through user roles
- Develop auto-flagging systems for culturally inappropriate and unrelated content.

3) Content Onboarding and Development

- Familiarization with indigenous content
- Training youths as “Digital Archivists”, to assist elders in documenting practices and stories
- Coordinate content upload campaigns, supported by clear guidelines
- Organize multimedia storytelling workshops in partnership with cultural associations and NGO'

PHASE 2.3 Complete Launch

Objectives:

To fully deploy the platform with all its features operational and ready for usage.

Steps:

1. Marketing/Communication and Onboarding
2. Vulgarization of the platform both domestically and internationally.
3. Careful selection of media channels, to easily reach our target communities
4. The adoption of both online (Social medias, diaspora newsletters, partnerships with community influencers) and traditional communication channels like community events, community radio channels and churches to launch.
5. Engagement Strategies, organize activities like Q&A sessions or live demos to attract users while simultaneously offering early access incentives and onboarding tutorials.
6. Develop and operational hotline for consumer care, to assist and address any inquiries or issues.

PHASE 3: Structured Governance and Community Involvement

Objectives:

To ensure the platform is seamlessly part of the community, steered by trusted leader who keep its purpose culturally authentic.

Activities:

1) Creating a Council of Elders

The establishment of criteria selection based on deep community knowledge, respect within the community, integrity and ethical conduct, lineage, commitment and passion.

- Assign roles for content verification, membership approval for access to indigenous clubs and managing traditional knowledge boundaries.

2) Select Youth Administrators

- Recruiting and mentoring youth representatives with technical and cultural sensitivity
- Define responsibilities for platform maintenance, user support, feedback collection and analytics.

3) Cultural Induction Seminars

- Educate users, primarily migrants and diaspora youths through podcasts, workshops and seminars hosted in the indigenous hub about ethics and decorum of traditional knowledge engagement.
- Provide resource packs and toolkits for responsible sharing and safe storytelling.

PHASE 4: Economic Sustainability and Growth

Objectives:

To generate development opportunities for communities while ensuring the platform is economically viable.

Vital Elements:

1) Donations and Subscriptions

- Voluntary contributions for indigenous hubs
- Marketplace donations from skilled local artisans
- Exclusive access for indigenous clubs

2) Securing Cultural Grants

- Foster partnerships with culturally inclined objectives like WIPO, UNESCO and other regional cultural funds for operational funding
- Collaboration with universities for evidence based funding proposals

3) Market Broadening

- Incorporate global E-commerce platforms to boost artisanal exposure
- Develop shipping and logistics partnerships for product delivery.

4) Diaspora Outreach Campaigns

- Organize and host webinars and podcasts featuring reconnection success stories.
- Launch ambassadors program across diaspora hubs.

PHASE 5: Monitoring, Evaluation and Performance Measurement

Objectives:

To monitor performance, enhance and record impact to ensure we are effectively achieving our goals.

1) Key Performance Indicators

We shall evaluate success based on three crucial domains

- Cultural Protection and Indigenous Knowledge Continuity

Quantitative Metrics

- Percentage of elders actively participating in content creation
- Volume of multimedia(videos, texts, audios, images) content uploaded monthly
- Youth engagement rate with archived content measured with number of views and downloads.
- Amount of indigenous club subscriptions, signals demand for sacred content

Qualitative Metrics

- Positive reviews from users on cultural reconnection.
- Feedback from elders on content reliability and cultural authenticity.
- Investigating the percentage of youths applying and traditional skills.
- Community Engagement and Connection

Quantitative

- Percentage of monthly active users(assessing growth rate)
- Percentage of Attendance at live events hosted in indigenous hubs
- Number of renewed bonds through Rekindle.

Qualitative

- Survey to measure sense of belonging among migrant youths
- Survey on percentage of successful intergenerational dialogue and youth experience
- Economic Empowerment

Quantitative

- Number of registered skill marketplace artisans
- Monthly revenue generated through artisans activities
- Funding secured(platform sustainability metrics)

Qualitative

- Interviews with marketplace artisans on improved living standards
- Positive feedback on traditional skills getting global recognition
- Testimonials of the benefits of traditional skills like healing

2) Data Collection Model

- Automated Analytics
- Platform dashboards tracking logins, marketplace sales and activity, content uploads,.
- Google Analytics to track user behavioral pattern(time spent, most visited features, content interests)
- Surveys and Feedback Forms

- Pulse surveys (short, and user friendly)
- Biannual focus group discussions with elders and youth representatives
- Community Journal
- Elders’ council shall submit a semi-annual cultural integrity reports
- Youth ambassadors will record and report on success stories

3) Iterative Management

- Feedback Loops
- Monthly meetings with tech teams to review KPIs and adopt strategies
- Authentication of cultural content with elders to ensure alignment with traditions
- Scaling Decisions
- Broaden features based on most frequented content
- Collaboration with schools, youth associations if engagement is stagnant among youths.

RISKS AND RISKS ANTICIPATION

- **Risks**

1) Cultural Misrepresentation

Mitigation

- Reinforce elder council review process to ensure appropriate content

2) Low economic viability

Mitigation

- Diversify funding by incorporating community contributions, crowdfunding among other sources

3) Limited internet coverage in rural communities

Mitigation

- Collaboration with community libraries and telecentres for offline access points
- Distribution of USB drives and SD cards with archived content
- Adopt the use of LoRaWAN for low-bandwidth text/audio sharing

- Prioritize text and audio content over videos
- Provide community Wi-Fi Hotspots by fostering collaboration with the ministry of Post and Telecommunications to sponsor free Wi-Fi zones in strategic community areas

4) High digital illiteracy among elders

Mitigation

- Voluntary recruitment of community youths to serve as tech ambassadors,
- Through visual guides, they will facilitate usage for elders,
- Analog Transmissions: Elders orally tell stories to youths who in turn upload them,
- The adoption of elder Friendly design like voice commands, and large icons to avoid overly complicated menus.

5) Breach of Privacy: Sensitive cultural content like rites and initiations could be hacked

Mitigation

- The adoption of local and regional servers like AFRINIC to align with African Union Data laws
- Adopt a data sovereignty policy in compliance with AU's Malabo Convention on cybersecurity

6) Diversity in traditions and customs may lead to internal conflict over content representation

- Adopt an annual rotating elder council with representatives from each measure ethnic groups
- .Create sub-community guidelines

7) Unclear monetization policies, disputes may explode over profit sharing from skill market place sales

Mitigation

- The establishment of clear income sharing mechanisms, with a quota of 70% (dependent on market activity) to artisans, 20% to the platform and 10% to the community fund.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

1) Human resources

- Project managers and coordinators
- Tech lead and developer
- UX/UI Designers
- Community liaisons
- M&E specialists and officers

2) Technological Resources

- Cloud hosting for platform storage
- Offline tools
- UX Tools for large text interfaces, voice command integration
- Security for data encryption, and access control for features like indigenous clubs

3) Material Resources

- Recording equipment, to capture elders stories through audios and videos
- Community centers, for offline access hubs and training centers
- Mobile devices for the acquisition of low costs tablets for elders council and youth representatives

4) Financial Resources

Estimated Budget Year 1

Category	Estimate Cost
Platform Development	\$20,000-\$30,000(MVP+ offline features)
Offline infrastructure	\$10,000(USSD, local servers, devices)
Training and Outreach	\$6,000(workshops, youth ambassadors)
Contingency (10%)	\$ 4,000
Total	\$42,000-\$50,000

5) Source of Funding

- Grants(UNESCO, Cultural heritage fund) 55%
- Crowdfunding and Diaspora contributions; 20%

- Pilot monetization(Skill market place commissions, premium subscriptions); 10%
- Government and Partners; 15%

6) Project Lifespan

Our project, (KWEYA) based on our action plan is estimated to run for a duration of:

- Minimum viable success 12-18 months (functional platform+ pilot impact)
- Unrestricted scalability: 3- 5 years (Sustainable, policy guided and continued indigenous knowledge)

4.0 IMPACT AND TRANSFORMATION

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

The KWEYA Vision emerges as a pioneering initiative, proposing a “sustainable and transformative digital strategy driven by technology and guided by policy”. Its fundamental purpose is to address a critical and pressing challenge: the “slow weakening and fading of the vibrant mosaic of oral storytelling, ethnic dances, and timeless indigenous knowledge”. This cultural erosion is primarily attributed to youths being drawn away by the “surge of migration and the appeal of a globalized world,” leading to a significant “cultural alienation” within the grass field communities of Cameroon. In response, the project seeks to establish an “online haven” where grass field migrants across the globe can “reclaim their heritage”.

This section provides a comprehensive, analytical examination of the multi-faceted impacts and transformation anticipated by the KWEYA project. It delves into the profound changes expected across cultural, social, economic, and policy dimensions, illustrating how this innovative initiative is poised to fundamentally redefine the relationship between indigenous communities, their ancestral heritage, and the dynamics of the modern globalized world. The project’s design explicitly defining itself as a “Technological Solution, Rooted in Policy”, underscores a sophisticated understanding that technology, while powerful, is insufficient on its own to achieve deep, sustainable cultural preservation and transformation. The policy framework acts as an essential legitimizing, protective, and guiding layer of the digital intervention. This ensures the ethical development of technology, safeguards cultural intellectual property, and enshrines community control, thereby preventing the very exploitation or further alienation that digital tools might otherwise facilitate. This interdependence implies that the project’s success hinges equally on its technological innovation and its robust governance structure, offering a critical blueprint for other global cultural preservation efforts.

4.1 THE DIGITAL PLATFORM AS A CATALYST FOR TRANSFORMATION

The core of our Vision is encapsulated in the “THE BIG IDEA’: A Digital Village, A Living Memory”. This concept materializes as a “web based Digital Archiving Platform for indigenous knowledge” specifically designed as a “technology driven solution” to counter alarming “decline of traditional cultural transmissions”. The platform’s inclusive design is evident in its tailoring “to the specific needs of grass field youths and adaptable for the use of elders,” ensuring broad

accessibility and utility across generations. This digital platform serves as the central operational component and the primary engine for initiating and facilitating the comprehensive transformations envisioned by the project.

The platform's transformative power is rooted in its three core aims: to "Record, Document, and share Indigenous knowledge, foster community engagement and leverage economic empowerment". These functions are meticulously designed to address the identified problems and drive fundamental shifts.

4.1.1 INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ARCHIVING AND CONTINUITY

The platform will function as a community-driven "depository documented by the community itself". This involves community leaders and youth representatives' collaboratively recording and uploading multimedia content, including audio-visual and text, which captures "historical narratives, oral traditions, traditional practices and other cultural riches". This archiving function is particularly vital for "migrant youths who lack direct access to their traditional roots, thereby providing them with a link/connection to their identity". The project strategically re-frames technology as the primary tool for cultural reconnection and continuity. It leverages the very digital connectivity that might pull youth away, to instead provide them with an accessible "online haven" to "reclaim their heritage". This represents a proactive and innovative approach to cultural preservation, demonstrating that rather than resisting technological advancement, indigenous communities can harness it to strengthen their cultural identity and transmission.

4.1.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RECONNECTION

Beyond its archival role, the platform is conceived as a "virtual community that fosters interaction among its members and strengthen cultural bonds". It aims to facilitate interaction among diverse grass field ethnic groups, promoting "a global communion while respecting individual differences," and crucially, reconnecting migrants with their "once lost people". The "Rekindle" feature is specifically designed to "mend those lost social and cultural bonds stretched thin by distance".

4.1.3 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

This function seeks to actively “transform indigenous knowledge erosion to an opportunity of development”. It provides a dedicated space for the “monetization of artisanal skills and traditional assets,” including traditional crafts, healing practices, and beading. This economic dimension is intended to “facilitate global cultural exposure, provide direct revenues for income generation and contribute to community autonomy”.

4.2 CULTURAL AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The ‘KWEYA Vision’ project anticipates profound cultural and social impacts, particularly through the redefinition of youth roles and the strengthening of community bonds.

4.2.1 IMPACT OF YOUTHS: REDEFINING ROLES AND FOSTERING GENERATIONAL CONTINUITY

A central transformation is the redefinition of youth roles, shifting them “from passive participants into passionate ambassadors to their unique cultural inheritance”. They are to be actively “equipped to preserve and pass on indigenous knowledge”. Youths are strategically positioned as “legacy holders and architects of the future,” uniquely capable of fostering and championing “generational continuity”. The policy framework further solidifies their role as “legacy builders” and “digital guardians,” bridging the crucial “gap between tradition and technology”. For migrant youths who “lack direct access to their traditional roots,” the platform provides a vital “link/connection to their identity”, serving as an “online haven” enabling them to “reclaim their heritage, [and] discover the depth of their ancestral power”. The project’s “lofty ideal” envisions a future where “youths do not grow up detached from their culture because the existence of our virtual community keeps them connected”, directly addressing the core problem of cultural alienation. The policy framework strongly asserts that “IK Preservation can only be achieved if it is intergenerational, youth involvement is not an alternative, it is indispensable”, highlighting the non-negotiable role youth in the long-term sustainability of IK. This strategic investment in youth transforms them from a demographic vulnerable to cultural loss into active, empowered stewards and innovators of their heritage.

4.2.2 IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES: STRENGTHENING CULTURAL BONDS AND ENSURING SOVEREIGNTY

The platform is designed as a “virtual community that fosters interaction among its members and strengthen cultural bonds”. It aims to facilitate “global communion” among divers grass field ethnic groups while respecting individual differences, and crucially, to reconnect migrants with their “once lost people”. The ‘rekindle’ feature is specifically created to “mend those lost social and cultural bonds stretched thin by distance”. A key policy objective is to “uplift communities as guardians” of indigenous knowledge. The “elder council,” established as the “highest level of governance,” plays a critical role as “moderators and censors,” ensuring “cultural authenticity” and strict adherence to “cultural protocols and standards” for all uploaded content.

The “Digital Protection Frameworks” within the policy are transformative, mandating “Free, Prior and Informed consent (FPIC)” as a compulsory measure for any content upload, exploration, or distribution. This framework advocates for the adoption of “Bio-cultural community protocols” as the primary instrument for obtaining consent, explicitly to prevent “misappropriation and ensure that decision making remains a local affair, thereby ensuring data sovereignty”. Foundational principles of the policy, such as “Upholding Cultural Wholeness” and “Communities at the Helm, Technology in Service,” ensure that the community maintains ultimate control and stewardship over their cultural assets in the digital realm. This demonstrates how the project empowers communities to assert control over their heritage in digital age, fostering internal cohesion and ensuring external respect and ethical engagement. The project strategically harnesses the tools of globalization, such as digital connectivity and global reach, to strengthen and re-affirm local cultural identity and sovereignty. By enabling interaction among divers grass field ethnic groups globally and reconnecting migrants with their roots, it fosters a global network that reinforces, rather than diminishes, local cultural uniqueness. This is a deliberate act of cultural re-assertion within a globalized context, demonstrating that globalization does not have to be a one-way street of cultural loss, but can be leveraged for the flourishing of diverse cultural expressions.

4.3 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND VALUE TRANSFORMATION

KWEYA envisions significant economic impacts and transformations, specifically through the monetization of indigenous knowledge and its contribution to community autonomy.

4.3.1 MONETIZATION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: THE ROE OF THE SKILL MARKET PLACE

The project strategically aims to “transform indigenous knowledge erosion to an opportunity of development” for the grass field communities of Cameroon. This is achieved by providing a dedicated platform for communities to “share their unique cultural resources and skills”. A cornerstone feature, the “Skill Market Place,” is explicitly designed as a “reserved space for the showcasing and monetizing indigenous knowhow and cultural riches”. This includes a diverse range of traditional skills such as “traditional crafts, healing practices, beading, amongst other skills particular to the grass field people”. Through this marketplace, artisans, healers, storytellers, and other practitioners will be enabled to “offer their service and products to a global audience against monthly donation to the platform’. This mechanism directly links the preservation and transmission of cultural knowledge with tangible economic viability. This represents a fundamental paradigm shift in how indigenous knowledge is valued. Instead of viewing it solely as cultural artifact that needs external support for its survival, the project actively re-positions it as valuable economic asset.

4.3.2 CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY AUTONOMY: DIRECT REVENUE GENERATION AND SOCIAL-RETURN INVESTMENTS

The economic empowerment function is designed to achieve multiple transformative outcomes: to “facilitate global cultural exposure, provide direct revenues for income generation and contribute to community autonomy”. This emphasis on direct revenue is crucial for empowering communities economically. The proposed policy framework explicitly seeks to unlock safe and community led monetization techniques, ensuring that economic activities are ethically guided and controlled by the communities themselves. The vision includes creating a “global market place where unique cultural skills generate income for communities, not middlemen”. This directly addresses historical issues of exploitation and ensures that the financial benefits accrue directly to the cultural producers, fostering self-sufficiency. Furthermore, the platform is envisioned as a “space open for investors willing to fund preservation for social returns and not control”. This highlights a sustainable financial model that prioritizes the long-term well-being and cultural preservation goals of the communities over purely profit-driven external interests. This transformation from a perceived “burden” (in terms of needing preservation efforts) to a “resource” (generating revenue and fostering development) provides a powerful, intrinsic

incentive for communities to actively maintain, transmit, and innovate upon their knowledge. It ensures sustainability not just through external funding but through self-generated economic viability, fostering true self-determination.

4.4 POLICY FRAMEWORK: ANCHORING AND SUSTAINING TRANSFORMATION

The proposed policy framework plays a pivotal role in ensuring the sustainability, protection, and legal recognition of indigenous knowledge, thereby fundamentally transforming its status.

4.4.1 LEGAL RECOGNITION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: TRANSFORMING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO PROTECTED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The policy framework is designed to ensure IK is “legally recognized, digitally protected and community driven”. This is a critical step in elevating its status. A key component is the proposal for “statutory acceptance and intellectual assets (amend or build on law No 2021/014 Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Protective Laws)”. This legal intervention aims to provide “recognition of IK as an intellectual property to prevent any form of exploitation”. Crucially, the policy explicitly states that “immaterial heritage and digital renditions are the collective property of its ancestral community, with the State acting as Fiduciary”. This provision is transformative as it grants communities “a free and clear title to what is documented on the platform and activates benefit-sharing mechanisms,” ensuring communal ownership and control over their digitized heritage. This fundamentally shifts IK from a vulnerable, often unacknowledged cultural asset to a legally protected intellectual property, empowering communities with ownership and control.

4.4.2 DIGITAL PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY CONTROL: THE ROLE OF FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) AND BIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY PROTOCOLS

The “Digital Protection Frameworks” within the policy are central to ensuring ethical digital curation, emphasizing “community sanction in digital curation”. A mandatory measure is that FPIC become compulsory measures before any upload, exploration or distribution agreement. This is a robust safeguard against misappropriation. To ensure the effectiveness of FPIC, the policy advocates for the adoption of “Bio-cultural community protocols already provided for in ABS (Access and Benefit-Sharing) guidelines as the primary instrument of obtaining consent”. This comprehensive framework is designed to “prevent/misappropriation and ensure that decision making remains a local affair, thereby ensuring data sovereignty”. This empowers communities to dictate how their knowledge is shared and utilized in the digital realm. These

policy tenets go far beyond mere regulatory compliance; they fundamentally transform the digital space into a secure and self-determined “digital territory” for indigenous communities. By legally recognizing IK as intellectual property and mandating FPIC, the policy ensures that the community, not external actors or even the platform itself, retains ultimate control and ownership over their digitized heritage. This proactive legal and ethical scaffolding prevents the very risks (misappropriation, exploitation) that often accompany digital cultural initiatives. This is not just about data protection; it is about establishing a framework for digital sovereignty, ensuring that technology serves indigenous governance and does not supersede it.

4.4.3 ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSIVENESS, AND CONTINUITY: ENSURING FAIR ACCESS AND INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER

This section of the policy mandates that “every community member especially migrants and marginalized migrant groups will have fair and respectful access to their heritage, irrespective of geographical limitations”. This is designed to ensure “no discrimination of persons, separation of class and isolation of vulnerable groups,” promoting equitable access for all community members, regardless of their location or status. The policy also strongly re-emphasizes the “crucial need of perpetuating IK, and the vital role played by the youths”. It explicitly states that “IK preservation can only be achieved if it is intergenerational, youth involvement is not an alternative, and it is indispensable”. This commitment ensures the long-term, continuous transmission of knowledge across generations.

4.5 STRATEGIC ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS IN DRIVING TRANSFORMATION

The KWEYA Vision is founded on a profound understanding that its transformative goals can only be realized through a “legacy built on cooperation,” involving a diverse array of actors united by the common objective of stopping the erosion of indigenous knowledge while ensuring its continuity. This multi-layered approach to governance is designed for resilience and accountability.

4.5.1 COLLABORATIVE ECOSYSTEM FOR ACHIEVING ENVISIONED IMPACTS

States are identified as the “legal protectors and enablers,” holding the strategic responsibility for “incorporating indigenous knowledge into national identity” at both national and global levels. Furthermore, they are tasked with providing essential “funding and infrastructure to ensure policy based sustainability”.

Community Elders serve as the “gatekeepers and supreme custodians of authentic cultural values”. Their strategic function involves censoring and approving culturally worthy content, thereby ensuring not only the continuity but also the “preservation of authentic traditional values”.

Youths and Diaspora are positioned at the “crossroads between community elders and future generations” designated as “digital guardians”. Their ultimate strategic role is to ensure continuity while effectively “bridging the gap between tradition and technology”.

Traditional Practitioners and Local Artisans are recognized as “living repositories of traditional knowhow” upon whom the “monetary exploitation of indigenous skills heavily rest”. Their strategic role underscores that the mastery of their skills must be preserved and honored, forming the backbone of the project’s economic empowerment.

Platform Developers have their role “clearly stipulate[d]” as facilitators and “creators of the system that will lead the vision.” They are strategically responsible for “building tools that value indigenous governance and not supersede it,” ensuring technological development aligns with community control.

International Bodies are envisioned as crucial partners, contributing to “protecting, financing and enablers of global recognition of indigenous knowledge,” fostering cooperation to halt erosion and ensure continuity on a global scale.

By assigning clear, interconnected roles to diverse stakeholders, the project mitigates risks associated with single points of failure or external control. The emphasis on developers respecting indigenous governance ensures that technological advancement serves, rather than dictates, cultural protocols. This multi-layered approach fosters shared ownership, promotes checks and balances, and ensures that the project remains rooted in community needs while leveraging broader support. This collaborative governance model offers a powerful framework for managing complex socio-cultural and technological initiatives, particularly those involving sensitive cultural heritage and diverse stakeholder interests.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS: Access and Benefit-Sharing

CMS: Content Management System

FPIC: Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

IK: Indigenous Knowledge

KPIs: Key Performance Indicators

KWEYA: Keeping Wisdom in Every Youths Ascent

M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation

MVP: Minimum Viable Product

UI: User Interface

UNPFII: United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Knowledge

WIPO: World Intellectual Property Organization

BIBLIOGRAPHY

McCarter, J., & Gavin, M. C. (2011). *Perceptions of Change in Traditional Ecological Knowledge: A Case Study from Roviana, Solomon Islands*. *Ecology and Society*, 16(3).

UNESCO. (2012). *Weathering Uncertainty: Traditional Knowledge for Climate Change Assessment and Adaptation*. Paris: UNESCO and UNU.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) (2020). *Indigenous Peoples and Education*. <https://www.un.org/.development/desa/indigenouspeoples/.mandated-areas1/education.html>

Websites

<https://www.ihrb.orb>

<https://www.ihrb.orb>