**TITLE**

**THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ON SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE AND UTILIZATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE: A CASE STUDY OF AMERU COMMUNITY, KENYA.**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose is to describe and analyze the intercept between the university and organized community leadership (Njuri Ncheke) in preserving and utilizing natural resources (forests, land and water) and its connection to climate change the Ameru Community.

**Specific questions**

1. What is the existing evidence that KeMU has participated in engaging the community on issues concerning environmental conservation and climate change issues?
2. How has the Ameru traditions and practices (indigenous knowledge) served as a guide on resource on conservation and utilization?
3. What is the role of community leadership organization, the *Njuri Ncheke* council of elders on community mobilization for and sustainable use of resources?
4. How can the university contribute to preservation of indigenous knowledge in the community to advance the course of environment conservation and climate change issues?

**Proposed Methodology**

Data Collection will be in form of:

* self-administered survey and structured interviews for members in the university management, faculty and staff to serve as entry point of how best the university can engage more with the community.
* Key informant interviews with selected members of the Njuri Ncheke and other community leaders on climate change and sustainability practices.
* Focused group discussion with members of *Njuri Ncheke*
* Photography, video and voice records during the interview and visits to sacred sites and/or shrines.

**Focused interview protocol with Njuri Ncheke elders.**

1. Briefly tell us about yourself, which part of Meru you come from and when you became a member of the Njuri Ncheke
2. What is your age group (below 40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-70, above 70)
3. What is your level of education/training (none, primary, secondary, college, university)
4. How and when did you join the NjurI
5. Who qualifies as a member of the Njuri Ncheke elders?
6. Do you hold any official position in the Njuri Ncheke?
7. Njuri Ncheke is an important community organization among the Ameru, tell us what key issues the elders handle more regularly?
8. Generally, what has been the weather patterns in Meru over time?
9. In the old days were there incidences of adverse weather, too cold, too wet, dry or otherwise.
10. Please tell us how the community would mitigate about extreme weather conditions.
11. Does the Njuri Ncheke deal with issues to do with community land, forests and water? If so in which way, are you involved?
12. Have you heard or are your concern about weather changes as a result of cutting down of trees in the forests?
13. Do you have proposals on how the community can continue to use the available land, forests and water in way that this is available for long term use?
14. What else would you want to share about the role of the Njuri Ncheke and other leaders in helping to conserve the environment and other resources?

Thank you for your time.