

Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya Training Manual

3.5 MODULE 5

3.5.2 SUB-MODULE 2: BEADWORK

Beadwork is the art or craft of attaching beads to one another by stringing them onto a thread or thin wire with a sewing or beading needle or sewing them to a piece of cloth. Beads are produced in a diverse range of materials, shapes, and sizes, and vary by the kind of art produced. Most often, beadwork is a form of personal adornment (e.g. jewellery), but it also commonly makes up other artworks. This collection includes handmade seed bead baskets in various shapes and beautiful colours and it is mostly done by ladies in Kenya. They use traditional crafting methods that have been passed down for generations to make decorative and durable designs. When these beadworks are purchased, they create opportunities for empowering marginalized artisans in Kenya. This will help them to have dignified and sustainable work that eventually helps support families to afford better living conditions, pay for medical expenses, and educate their children.



Beading work in Samburu



Beadwork in the Masai community

Further reading

Carson E., Evans R. and Kate F. (2015). Beaded Jewellery: Stringing Techniques: Skills, Tools, and Materials for Making Handcrafted Jewellery. A Storey BASICS® Title Paperback; P88; Publisher Storey Publishing; ISMN: 9781612124827.