

Global ICCA Database Loita Forest, Kenya

CCA Basic data

Site Name (in local language and in English)	Loita Forest
Country (include State and Province)	Kenya, Narok District, Rift Valley Province
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	33,000 hectares
GIS Coordinates (if available)	Not available
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no)	Yes (small streams and rivers)
Marine (Y or N)	No
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Loita and Purko Maasai
Is the community considering itself an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	Yes – Maasai, although this is a somewhat misleading term
Is the community considering itself a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	No
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	No. The community is a mixture of transhumant and agro-pastoral. It undertakes transhumant grazing within a defined group ranch area
Is the community local per capita income inferior, basically the same or superior to national value? (please note how confident you are about the information)	It is a Maasai agro-pastoralist community and as such has lower per capita indicators than many others
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies?	No
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	Highly conflicted and weak local tenure rights
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	Livelihood & spiritual
To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit	VI

Additional qualitative information

Main ecosystem type	Highland forest
Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	High-quality evergreen forest; wildlife including elephant and buffalo and other forest birds and mammals; important watershed values including catchment for Lake Natron and Maasai Mara
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	Maasai- Maa
Broad historical context of the CCA	Traditionally managed forest under local rules for the past several centuries since immigration of Maasai to southern Kenya (est. 19th century)
Governance structure for the CCA (who takes management decisions, how?)	Local councils of elders
Length of time the governance model has been in place	Several hundred years
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	Trust land- owned by Narok County Council
Type of land use in the CCA	Seasonal grazing, traditional ceremonies, non-timber forest product harvesting
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	No formal management plan but numerous local traditional rules (e.g. restrictions on cutting live trees, rules on seasonal grazing access)
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	Not available
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	Not available
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Lack of local tenure security over forests; efforts by county council to appropriate forest and use for tourism development at district level.
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	
Contact details for individuals and organisations	Ed Barrow, IUCN-EARO Michael Gachanja, Kenya Forests Working Group (mgachanja@kenyaforests.org)
References relevant to specific CCA	Karanga, F., Tessema, Y. and Barrow, E. 2002. Equity in the Loita/Purko Naimina Enkiyio Forest in Kenya: Securing Maasai Rights to and Responsibilities for the Forest. Forest and Social Perspectives in Conservation No. 11. IUCN-EARO, Nairobi, Kenya.