

**Global ICCA Database**  
**Chiuri Conserved Chepang Hill Tracts, Nepal**

**Basic data**

Site Name (in local language and in English)	Chiuri Conserved Chepang Hill Tracts
Country (include State and Province)	Nepal
Area encompassed by the CCA (specify unit of measurement).	Approx. 150 hectares
GIS Coordinates (if available)	
Whether it includes sea areas (Yes or no)	No
Whether it includes freshwater (Yes or no)	No
Marine (Y or N)	No, Terrestrial
Concerned community (name and approx. number of persons)	Chepangs of Ward number 7 and 1, 1162 (population)
Is the community considering itself an indigenous people? (Please note Yes or No; if yes note which people)	Yes (Chepang Indigenous People)
Is the community considering itself a minority? (Please note Yes or No, if yes on the basis of what, e.g. religion, ethnicity)	Yes, ethnic minority
Is the community permanently settled? (Please note Yes or No; if the community is mobile, does it have a customary transhumance territory?)	Earlier semi nomadic, now permanently settled
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)	The local income per capita is inferior to the national average
Is the CCA recognised as a protected area by governmental agencies? (Yes or no; if yes, how? If no, is it otherwise recognized?) If yes, legal document? Establishment date?	It is not recognised as a protected area but as a territory of Chepangs.
Conflicts with land tenure, natural resource use?	Yes, in the past with neighbouring Tamang ethnic groups on control over forest and forest resources.
What is the main management objective (e.g. livelihood, cultural, spiritual...)	Livelihood and culture
By definition, a CCA fulfils a management objective. To which IUCN management category do you consider it would best fit (this does not imply that the management objective is consciously pursued by the concerned community, but that it is actually achieved)	Category VI. Managed Resource Protected Areas (not consciously pursued but actually achieved due livelihood and cultural significance of the ecosystem)

***Additional qualitative information***

Main ecosystem type	Chiuri (Indian Butter Tree) habitat in mid-high hill forest tract.
Description of biodiversity & resources (ecosystems, species, functions) conserved by the CCA	The area has a high density of Chiuri (Indian Butter Tree) native to Nepal. Out of estimated two hundred thousand species, 140 thousand Chiuri trees are found in and around the area. The area is rich in 200000 such species is found in abundance. The trees attract wild bats seasonally during flowering and fruit ripening season. Chepangs have cultural and livelihood connection with Chiuri. The forest bio diversity includes wide varieties of wild fruits, vegetables and medicinal herbs with high food security value. The area is also rich in agro biodiversity.
Description of local ethnic groups and languages spoken	Chepang Indigenous People, one of the highly marginalized <i>Janajatis</i> (indigenous nationalities) of Nepal. Earlier they were labelled by the government as 'Praja'. The language is Chepang language but they also use Nepali language.
Broad historical context of the CCA	Private and forest land traditionally occupied, used and conserved by Chepangs for more than five generations.
Governance structure for the CCA (who takes management decisions, how?)	Informal governance based on traditional institutions and community consensus. Local community leaders and elderly play key role.
Length of time the governance model has been in place	Traditional system.
Land and resource ownership in the CCA	Private and government forest land but with de facto ownership to the community.
Type of land use in the CCA	Forest managed, used and distributed among households in their respective private territories zoned based on community consensus through informal rules. Also agro bio diversity.
Existence of written or oral management plans and specific rules for the use of natural resources in the CCA	Oral
Map and zoning of the CCA (please attach if available and relevant,)	Resource map sketched by the community (Photo 1 in the report)
Relevant pictures with captions (please attach if available)	Attached
Major threats to biodiversity and/or the CCA governance system	Declining number of wild bats that plays crucial role in pollination of Chiuri; over maturing of Chiuri trees and thus bearing less fruits; forest land occupied and conserved by Chepangs traditionally do not have legal entitlements.
Local CCA-relevant features, stories, names, rules and practices	Chepangs have a tradition of worshipping forest and trees to avoid natural disasters. Some Chepangs worship trees as an incarnation of lord Bhimsen with immense power and strength.

	Traditionally Chirui trees and saplings are offered as dowry to daughters as a possession of Chiuri tree in a family is a sign of prosperity and valuable asset.
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***Contact individuals and organizations:***

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