

# LEARNINGS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON TRADITIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT AND REDD+ A Case of the Maasai in Kenya, East Africa

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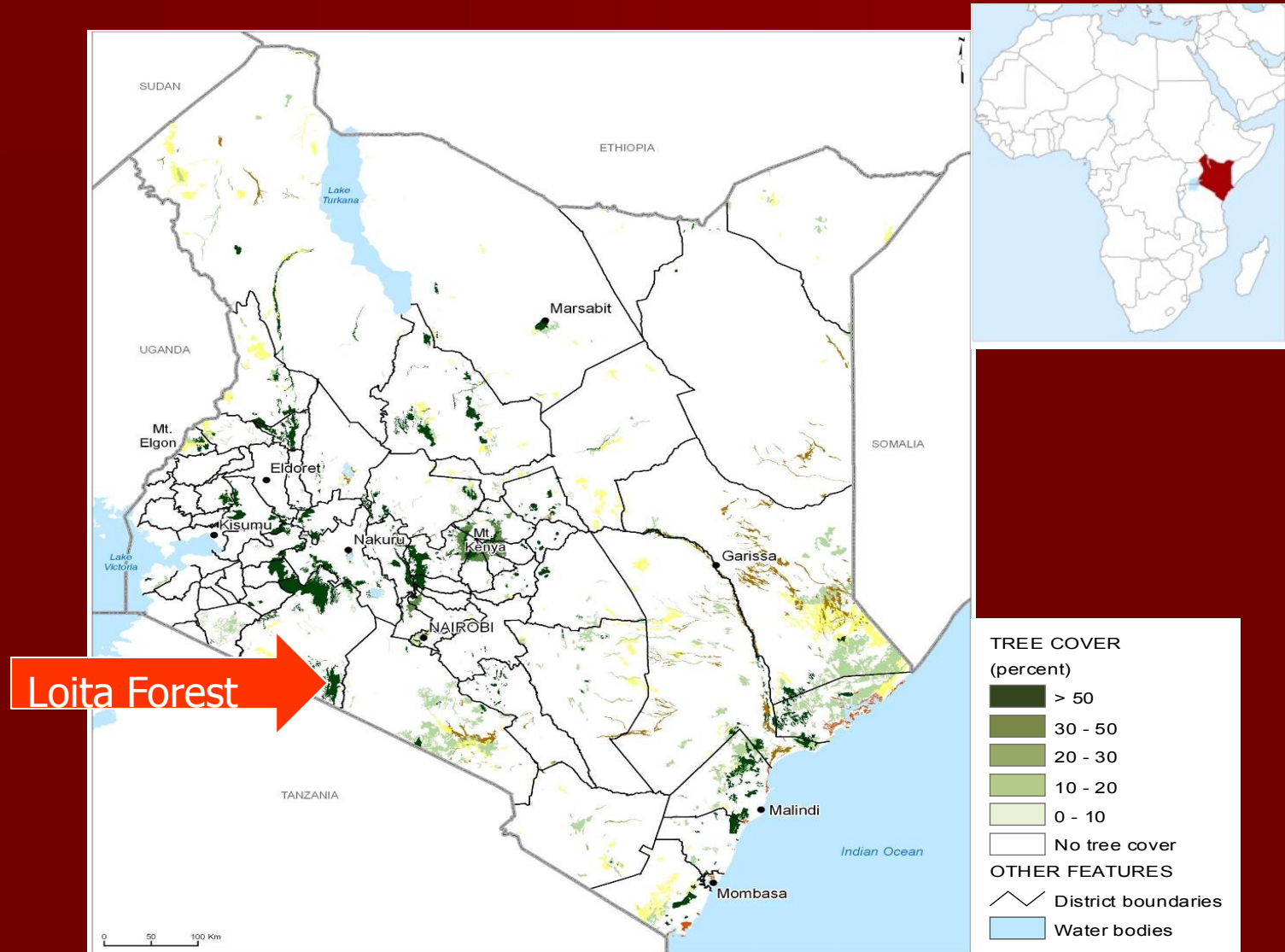
MPIDO



# Introduction

- Overview of Project site - Loita the Forest
- Maasai Indigenous People views on the forest
- Roles and Uses of forest
- Forest Governance
- Threats and Responses
- The forest and REDD+

# Overview of project Site: Kenya's Forests



# Overview cont...

- Narok South district, Rift Valley Province, Southern Kenya
- Population 30,000 (GoK 1999 census),
- Ethnic diversity - mostly indigenous Maasai Pastoral community, very high illiteracy levels
- One of the remotest areas in the country



# Naimina Enkiyio Forest profile

- largely undisturbed indigenous forests in Kenya
- Rich diversity of Flora and Fauna e.g. Big five, home to several endangered birds species - Red-throated Tit, the Jackson's Widowbird
- Water catchment protection – Ewaso Ngiro & Sand river, Lakes Magadi Natron & Victoria
- High nature based tourism potential - of US\$ 40,000 per annum
- Numerous sacred sites and high social-cultural value

# IPs' terms on Forests

- Mmenangi Atua (One in which you cannot die when in it – provisioning services)
- Saru-e-enkiteng/Saru tungani (Saviour of Cattle/Mankind) – Sustenance, insurance
- Pus Enkare (That of Blue waters) – Purity, unpolluted Healthy
- Osupuko le Mokompo (Highland forest of Mokompo) The spiritual leader
- Nakenyu Aigil (where the sun rises twice)
- Entim Narok atua – “dark forest” – rich and dense

# Roles and uses of forest

- Grazing, Source firewood, water, Food and medicine
- Construction - simple, less & selective
- Rituals; ceremonies, rites of Passage, spiritual cathedral
- Source and store of indigenous knowledge
- Others – disinfectant preservation, meat, milk –
- Source of peace – especially during dry season e.g Purko Loita, Soncho



# Indigenous livelihoods and Forests: Interconnectivity





# Forest Governance: Indigenous institutions & Values

- Worldview and Value system
  - Taboos on game meat; Use of medicinal plants; honey harvesting; sacred sites, firewood
- Enkidong/Enaibon (Oloiboni – the seer)
- Council of elders, Age-set system, Women council
- CBOs – IKLIDP, LDF,
- State – NCC, KWS, KFS



# Threats & Responses

## ■ Ownership

- Influence of the state/NCC
- Conservationist, Tourism

## ■ Changing lifestyles,

- Agriculture
- Construction needs
- Population pressure
- Christianity
- Role of markets/money economy

## ■ Climate change: Droughts, Fires



# Homesteads:



# Threats cont ... forces of change

- Privatization of land tenure
- Responses –
  - emergence of new institutions
  - Strengthening of customary law
  - IPs peoples and Environmental conservation discourse – UNDRIP, CBD, ILO no. 169



# Forest issues and REDD+

- Land tenure - disconnect and contradicting policy and legal environment
- Role of Indigenous Knowledge, Systems and practices
- Fate of non-economic uses of forests - rites of passage, fertility ceremonies, indigenous medicine
- Full and effective participation, including FPIC
- Decoupling forest carbon rights from forest management or ownership rights
- Ecological interdependency - What is a 'forest' & who defines it ...  
Bush land/woodlands, rangelands ... ?
- Low level of awareness of current discourse on REDD+

# Recommendations

- Ensuring security of Land tenure to guarantee ownership, use and control
- Resource mapping including Carbon stocks and Reference emissions levels, dry season grazing and cultural/sacred sites (non-economic uses)
- Recognition of and strengthen of indigenous institutions for negotiations and MRV e.g. Council of elders, Oloiboni & codification of Customary laws and regulation
- Tap into current institutional and legal change e.g. Kenya's draft
- Benefit sharing - Focus on a rights based approach (UNDRIP framework) guard against exploitative carbon contracts & possible elite capture,



LCC, Training of local researchers at Loita



National IPs Steering Committee on CC & REDD: Visit to Mau forest

**ASHE NALENG  
(THANK YOU VERY  
MUCH!)**

**TINKY PALI!!!**