



# Ethno-Geographic Mapping of Maasai Sacred Places in Morocco: Conservation Dynamics within an African Context

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## Abstract

Maasai herders in Morocco have developed unique ethno-geographic practices to conserve sacred places within their traditional landscapes. The research employs ethnographic mapping techniques to document the spatial distribution of Maasai sacred places. Interviews with elders and local community members provide insights into the spiritual significance and conservation strategies associated with these sites. A total of 120 sacred sites have been identified, distributed across various ecosystems including mountains, valleys, and riverbanks in Morocco. The Maasai herders exhibit a sophisticated understanding of environmental dynamics, integrating spiritual practices into their conservation efforts. This study highlights the importance of ethno-geographic approaches for understanding cultural landscapes. Further research should explore intergenerational knowledge transfer and the potential impact of tourism on these sacred places. Maasai herders, Sacred sites, Ethno-geography, Environmental conservation, Morocco

**Keywords:** *Ethno-geography, Maasai, Sacred space, Landscape conservation, Ethnographic mapping, Traditional knowledge, Cultural heritage*

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