



MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR
FIRST YEAR SEMESTER ONE**

**SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND
ANIMAL SCIENCES
CERTIFICATE IN TOURISM AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT**

COURSE CODE: CTW 008

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO ECOLOGY

DATE: 13TH DECEMBER, 2019

TIME: 0830 - 1130 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Answer all questions in section A and any other three in section B

SECTION A: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS (25 MARKS)

1. Using examples, briefly describe the following terms: (5 mks)
 - i. Ecosystem
 - ii. Biodiversity
 - iii. Ecological niche
 - iv. Community
 - v. Population

2. Distinguish between the following terms (6 mks)
 - a. Mutualism and Parasitism
 - b. Commensalism and amensalism
 - c. Climate change and global warming

3. Name four methods of estimating population abundance of plants and animals (4mks)

4. Briefly differentiate a food web and food chain, using diagrams to support your answers (5mks)

5. State five agents of ecological disturbance (5mks)

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS (45 MARKS)

Question 1

Describe in details the Ecosystem structure and all its basic components (15mks)

Question 2

Using diagrams, illustrate the difference between primary and secondary succession (15mks)

Question 3

Discuss exhaustively using examples where necessary the different types of competition (15 mks)

Question 4

The savanna ecosystem has the ability to host a vast diversity of animals without outcompeting each other. Briefly describe these ecosystem characteristics that enable this ability (15mks)

//END