



RAMAT WILDLIFE SOCIETY
COMMUNITIES FOR WILDLIFE

**MATAPATO RANGELANDS ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN IN
CENTRAL KAJIADO (MREMP)
2025-2034**

ACRONYMS

CPT	Core Planning Team
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MP	Management Plan
MRE	Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem
MREMP	Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PAPF	Protected Area Planning Framework
PWD	Persons living with disability
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SOK	Southern of Kenya Landscape
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity and, threats
ToR	Terms of reference
WG	Working Groups

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

The Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan (MREMP) 2025-2034 in Central Kajiado, Kenya, aims to ensure sustainable management of natural resources across a 125,964.84-hectare ecosystem spanning Matapato North and South wards. Developed to address biodiversity conservation, human-wildlife coexistence, community livelihoods, sustainable pastoralism, and climate change resilience, the plan targets a transformative approach to ecosystem management by 2034. It integrates leadership, governance, and resource mobilization while aligning with existing regional plans, responding to challenges like habitat fragmentation, land use changes, and socio-economic pressures.

Purpose and Scope

The MREMP 2025 - 2034 provides a strategic roadmap for balancing ecological integrity and community well-being within the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem, located in the Southern Kenya (SOK) Landscape near Amboseli, Tsavo, and the Kenya-Tanzania border. It addresses critical pillars including:

- **Human-Wildlife Coexistence:** Mitigating conflicts and promoting harmony.
- **Community Engagement:** Empowering local stakeholders, primarily the Maasai community.
- **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** Enhancing resilience to environmental shifts.
- **Conservation Technology and Innovation:** Leveraging tools like GIS and drones.
- **Emerging Issues:** Tackling charcoal burning, mining, fencing, infrastructure, and wildlife road kills.

The plan's scope covers 16 conservancies, established from former group ranches, and emphasizes participatory management across two wards in Kajiado Central.

Background

The Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem (MRE) supports Kenya's sustainable pastoralism, wildlife migration, and tourism while preserving biodiversity and Maasai cultural heritage. Historically, land subdivision in the 1990s reduced wildlife populations by disrupting migratory routes through fencing and settlements. The conservation movement began with the Kikesen River Conservancy, inspiring a network of 16 community-led conservancies under the RAMAT Wildlife Society. Challenges include habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflict, climate change, and resource competition, necessitating a cohesive management strategy.

Vision, Goals, and Objectives

- **Vision:** To create a resilient, sustainable ecosystem fostering biodiversity, community livelihoods, and collaborative management.
- **Goals:**
 - Develop inclusive governance frameworks.
 - Enhance biodiversity and habitat protection.
 - Support socio-economic development through sustainable practices.
 - Foster participatory management with stakeholders.
 - Build ecosystem resilience to climate change.
 - Optimize resource use for conservation impact.
- **Guiding Principles:** Sustainability, inclusivity, adaptive management, collaboration, transparency, cultural respect, and resource efficiency.

Theory of Change

The MREMP's Theory of Change outlines pathways from inputs (e.g., funding, technology) to long-term impacts (e.g., thriving biodiversity, resilient communities) through activities like habitat restoration, eco-tourism development, and climate-smart practices. It assumes stakeholder collaboration and sufficient resources, addressing risks like funding shortages and fencing impacts with mitigation strategies such as diversified financing and zoning.

Planning Process

The MREMP planning process, initiated in November 2024 at Tumaini Resort, involves:

- Baseline ecosystem assessments.
- Stakeholder engagement and data collection.
- Policy reviews, zoning, and strategy development.
- Monitoring, evaluation, and validation by October 2025.

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)

Running concurrently with MREMP development, the SESA ensures environmental and social considerations are integrated, involving stakeholder consultations, field assessments, and policy reviews. It aims to minimize conflicts and align with national regulations, culminating in a validated report by September 2025.

SWOT Analysis

- **Strengths:** Rich biodiversity, community involvement, strategic location.
- **Weaknesses:** Limited funding, human-wildlife conflict, data gaps.
- **Opportunities:** Eco-tourism, technology integration, partnerships.
- **Threats:** Climate change, land fragmentation, illegal activities.

Recommendations

- Engage consultancy firms for consistency and efficiency.
- Focus on four programs: natural resource management, tourism/wildlife, community livelihoods, and governance.
- Leverage conservation technology and scientific data.
- Transform RAMAT Wildlife Society into a TRUST to diversify funding via biodiversity credits, carbon credits, and sustainable tourism.
- Secure partnerships with governments, NGOs, and private sectors for resource mobilization.

Conclusion

The MREMP 2025-2034 offers a comprehensive, participatory framework to sustain the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem, balancing conservation and development. Implementation begins January 2026, contingent on timely funding and stakeholder commitment, with a 12-month preparation timeline.

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CHAPTER 1: Introduction

1.1 OVERVIEW, PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE MATAPATO RANGELANDS ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN (MREMP) IN CENTRAL KAJIADO 2025-2034

The Development of the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 would attain the goal of biodiversity protection, conservation of natural habitat, Conservation technology and innovation, Human-wildlife coexistence, community engagement, community livelihoods, sustainable pastoralism, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and natural resource management among others. This in itself represents significant growth however the challenges that come with it will combine to generate a level of positive change in natural resources within the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem. The challenges that such a scale will bring are heightened by the anticipation that this may need to be delivered within the current plan period—before 2026.

In this context, a very carefully coordinated development strategy is needed if we are to ensure sustainable natural resource management and a stable process of change. By this, we mean an approach that reconciles and balances three overarching objectives;

- Leadership and Governance of the ecosystem
- Resource mobilization
- Existing plans that complement the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034

The purpose of the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 overview is to provide a road map for the sustainable management of natural resources within the Central Kajiado - Matapato Ecosystem thus addressing the following pillars;

- Human-Wildlife coexistence
- Community engagement
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Conservation technology and innovation
- Emerging issues such as Charcoal Burning, Mining, Fencing, Infrastructure Development, Wildlife Road kills among others.

In terms of scope, this Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 Draft covers two wards, (Matapato North and South) Kajiado Central within the southern Kenya (SOK) Landscape and defines a route map for the development of the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034. From the previous stakeholders' awareness meeting held in Tumaini Resort, Kajiado between 24th to 27th November 2024, key steps towards preparation of Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 were outlined below;

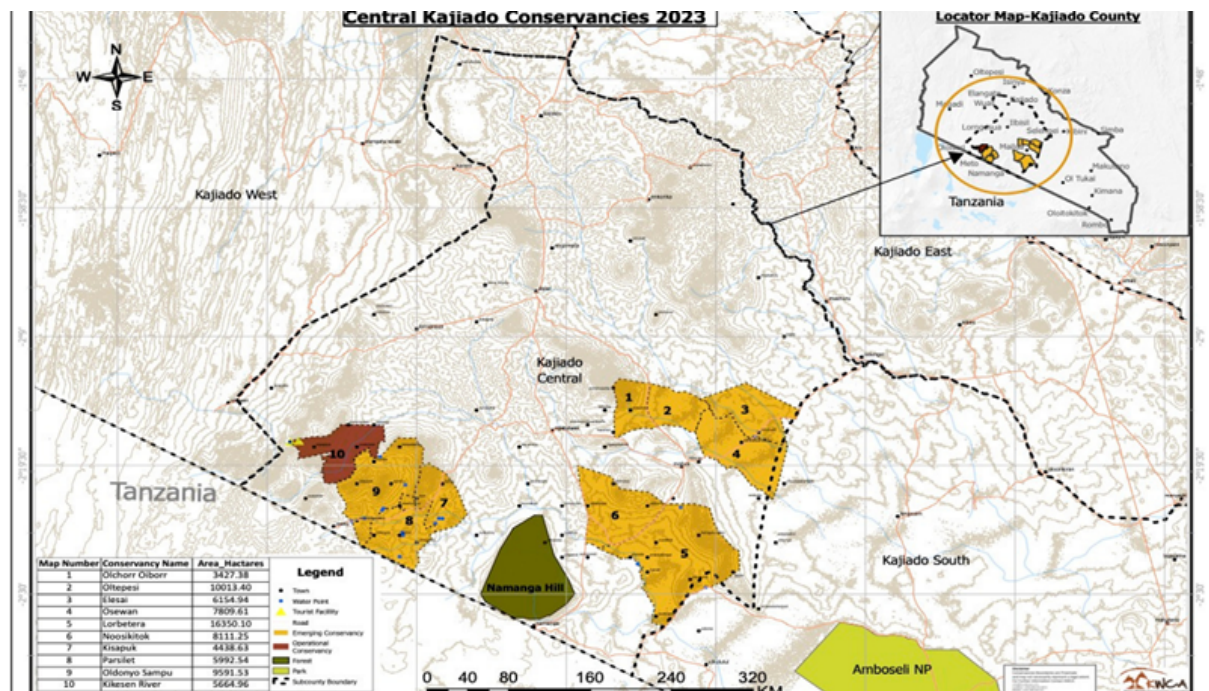
1. Baseline Ecosystem inventory and assessment
2. Stakeholder engagement and analysis
3. Data Collection, information gathering, and analysis.
4. Policy and regulatory documents review.
5. Zoning and land use planning
6. Development of management strategies
7. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
8. Implementation strategy, and timeline
9. Performance evaluation and reporting.
10. Validation, approval, and gazettment of the management plan

1.2 BACKGROUND

The Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem is a vast and important conservation area that supports Kenya's Sustainable Pastoralism, critical migratory connectivity, Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism, animal protection, and habitat preservation. This key ecosystem covers an area of 125,964.84 hectares. It covers two administrative wards (Matapato North and South), Kajiado Central within Kajiado County in the southern Kenya (SOK) Landscape that touches the northern periphery of the Amboseli Ecosystem, West of the Namanga-Nairobi Highway and borders the Kenya-Tanzania border to the south.

The Ecosystem is essential to the preservation of both indigenous biodiversity, cultural history and supports local populations' livelihoods while offering a safe refuge for a range of species. The area is mostly occupied by the Maasai, who subdivided community group ranches into individual holdings in the 1990s where they continued to coexist with wildlife. The transition from community land tenure led to a massive reduction of wildlife species due to the closure of traditional migratory routes (by settlements and fencing), harassment, and poaching.

The origins of the conservation vision in the Matapato rangeland marked the establishment of the first conservancy—Kikesen River Conservancy (depicted in a distinct color). This pioneering initiative sparked momentum, leading to the creation of the next conservancy, Oldonyio Sampu.



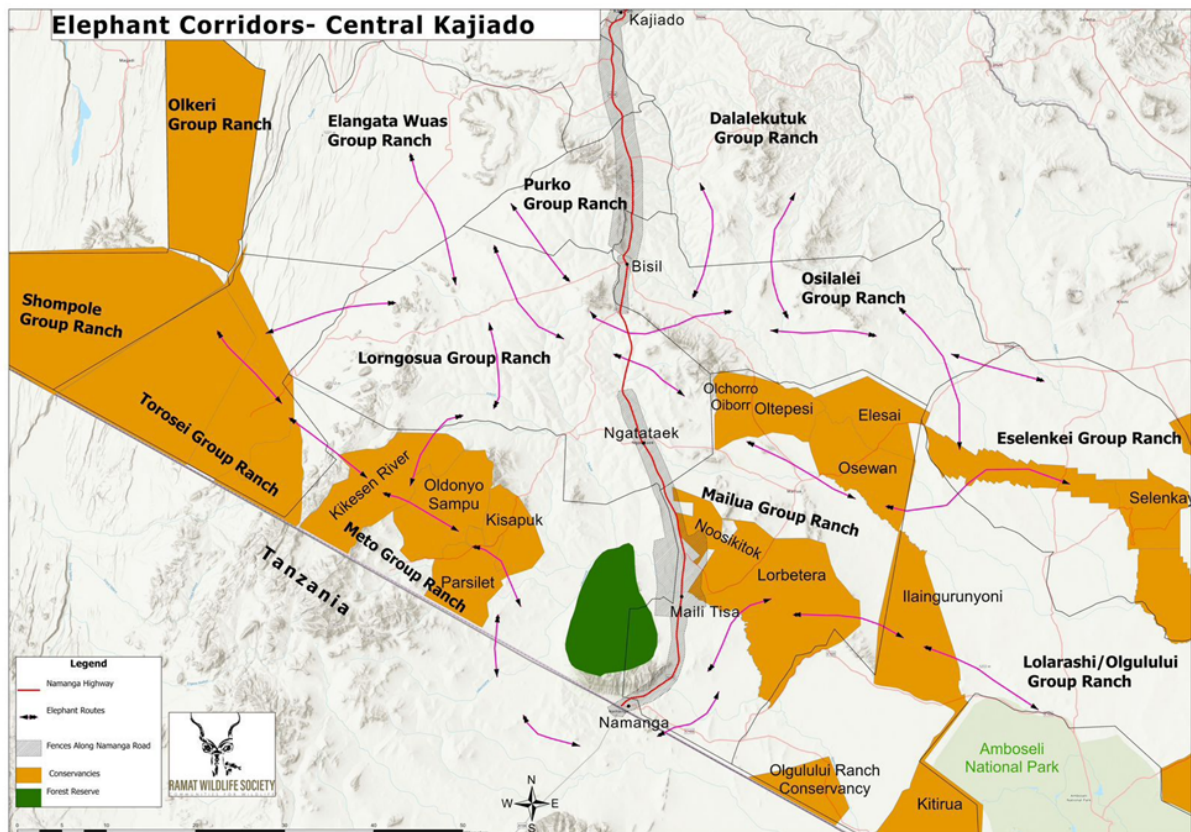
The conservation model in MRE stands out as one of the most unique approaches, as communities actively live within the conservancies, fostering a harmonious coexistence.

The idea of conservation emerged as a response to pressing challenges that threatened community livelihoods, including:

- Unutilized/limited resources.
- Human-wildlife conflict (HWC)
- Zoonotic diseases
- Limited Climate change
- Invasive species
- Limited livestock husbandry
- Competition of resources
- Limited Water health and sanitation
- Land sales, degradation and fragmentation

The local community embraced this shared vision as a pathway to improved living conditions and sustainable resource management.

As land use patterns shifted, sensitive migratory corridors across the landscape began to disappear. Fences and other unsustainable land uses have made it increasingly difficult for both livestock and wildlife to move freely between remaining land fragments. Wildlife are now forced to travel longer distances to reach nutritious grazing fields, placing additional strain on their survival.



Along the Great Athi River-Namanga Highway, extensive fence lines have fragmented the landscape, significantly disrupting migration routes. Wildlife moving between Amboseli National Park, Tsavo, and Maasai Mara now face significant obstacles in their natural migration patterns.

The ecosystem is increasingly unable to support the conservation of migratory species due to the proliferation of fences and habitat fragmentation.

The first ten conservancies (as shown in the figure below) established in the region served as a blueprint for conservation efforts, paving the way for the creation of five new conservancies. These new conservancies emerged from the defunct group ranches of Mailua and Oldonyio Orok and have since joined RAMAT Wildlife Society, a regional body coordinating conservancies across Central Kajiado.

- Water health and sanitation
- Community livelihoods
- Tourism and wildlife among others.

The Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 will be guided by the Planning area Protected Framework (PAPF) management planning process that covers the 12 steps as per (figure below) Throughout the entire process, stakeholder consultation and participation is key.



CHAPTER 2: Vision, Goals, Objectives, Principles and theory of change

It is important that the vision, goals, and objectives of the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 Draft (Endorsement Report) adhere to and are integrated with the relevant existing plans.

The vision of the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Endorsement Report reflects the essence of conservation planning values and sets a definite direction for the future management of Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem. The vision for this Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 Draft (Endorsement Report) is as follows;

To create a resilient and sustainable ecosystem that fosters biodiversity supports community livelihoods, and promotes collaborative management through strong leadership, resource optimization, and integrated conservation efforts

The primary focus of the vision is to manage the natural resources of the ecosystem while providing opportunities for ecosystem services (Support Services, Regulatory Services, Provision Services, and Cultural Services). It also highlights the importance of community involvement and partnerships which are vital to the success of Central Kajiado - Matapato Ecosystem.

The overall goals of the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034, based on the stated objectives (Leadership and Governance of the ecosystem, Resource mobilization, and, Existing plans that complement the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 can be articulated as follows;

- Develop and implement an all-inclusive (Men, Women, Youth, PWD) and effective governance framework that ensures coordinated management of the ecosystem.
- Safeguard and enhance the ecosystem's biodiversity by protecting habitats, restoring degraded areas, and ensuring the survival of key wildlife species.
- Support the socio-economic development of local communities by promoting sustainable resource use, eco-tourism, and equitable benefit-sharing.
- Establish a participatory management framework that integrates the roles of communities, government, NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- Enhance the ecosystem's capacity to adapt to environmental changes, including climate change, while maintaining its ecological integrity.
- Utilize financial, natural, and human resources efficiently to maximize conservation impact and long-term sustainability.

2.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Given the importance of recognizing the unique natural and cultural features of the Central Kajiado - Matapato Ecosystem, the following guiding principles will be adopted :

a) **Sustainability**

Prioritize practices and strategies that ensure the long-term health and resilience of the ecosystem, balancing ecological, social, and economic needs.

b) **Inclusivity and Equitable sharing of resources**

Engage all stakeholders, including local communities, National and county Government(s), Relevant government agencies, Relevant NGOs CBOs and CSOs, and private sectors, ensuring equitable access to resources and decision-making processes.

c) **Adaptive Management**

Embrace flexibility in planning and execution to respond effectively to emerging challenges, such as climate change and human-induced pressures.

d) **Tested and Proven Decision Making**

Use reliable scientific research, local knowledge, and robust data to guide all management and conservation actions.

e) **Collaboration and Partnership**

Foster strong partnerships among stakeholders to leverage resources, expertise, and shared goals for integrated ecosystem management.

f) **Accountability and Transparency**

Uphold integrity by ensuring clear governance structures, transparent decision-making, and regular monitoring and reporting.

g) **Respect for Cultural Heritage**

Protect and integrate local and indigenous knowledge systems and cultural values into ecosystem management strategies.

h) **Ecosystem Integrity**

Focus on maintaining the ecological balance by conserving biodiversity, restoring degraded areas, and protecting critical habitats.

i) **Resource Efficiency**

Optimize the use of financial, human, and natural resources, ensuring their prudent and effective deployment for maximum impact.

j) **Resilience Building**

Equip the ecosystem and dependent communities to withstand and adapt to environmental, social, and economic changes.

These guiding principles form the foundation for MREMP 2025-2034, aligning all actions with the vision, goals, and objectives to achieve sustainable and impactful outcomes.

2.3 THEORY OF CHANGE

The Theory of Change (ToC) for the Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 provides a comprehensive framework for achieving its vision of a resilient and a sustainable ecosystem. It outlines the logical pathways linking inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and long-term impacts, ensuring an integrated approach that balances conservation, sustainable development and governance.

2.3.1 Key Challenges

The Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem (MRE) faces critical challenges that threaten its ecological and social economic stability including;

- Habitat degradation from unsustainable land use, overgrazing, deforestation, among others.
- Competition for resources leading to Human Wildlife conflicts
- Unpredicted weather patterns due to climate change affecting water availability, grazing lands, and biodiversity
- Inadequate funding, infrastructure and capacity for conservation and sustainable livelihoods
- Socio-economic pressures from land tenure conflicts, and insufficient economic opportunities for local communities

2.3.2 Key Assumptions

The ToC is built on the following assumptions:

1. Stakeholders, including communities, government, and NGOs, will actively participate and collaborate.
2. Conservation and livelihood activities will be implemented simultaneously to balance ecological and socio-economic needs.
3. Adequate funding, technical support, and policy frameworks will be in place to sustain initiatives.
4. The SESA will be developed concurrently to ensure compliance with the provision of the Ecosystem Management Plan.
5. The plan will be aligned with other development plans within the county, and the National Government.

2.3.2 Impact Pathway

The ToC is structured into five interconnected stages: Inputs, Activities, Outputs, Short-Term Outcomes, and Long-Term Impact as per the table below

Stage	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Impact
Biodiversity Conservation	- Skilled conservation professionals , community members, and stakeholders. - GIS technology, drones, scientific research.	- Mapping and protecting critical habitats and corridors. - Anti-poaching patrols and habitat restoration. - Species-specific conservation programs.	- Protected and restored habitats across key conservancies. - Increased biodiversity protection.	- Reduction in habitat degradation and poaching incidents. - Enhanced species populations.	- Thriving biodiversity across the ecosystem. - Long-term conservation of endangered species and habitats.
Community Engagement and Livelihood Support	- Financial resources (grants, donations, eco-tourism revenue). - Training programs.	- Training communities in sustainable resource management . - Developing eco-tourism projects and small-scale businesses. - Implementing equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms.	- Increased community capacity to manage resources sustainably. - Established eco-tourism projects.	- Improved community livelihoods through conservation -linked income. - Empowered local communities managing resources.	- Increased community resilience and self-reliance. - Sustainable local economies that thrive on conservation.

Climate Adaptation and Ecosystem Resilience	- Technical resources (water harvesting tools, restoration materials). - Policy frameworks.	- Promoting water harvesting and sustainable grazing practices. - Restoring degraded lands through afforestation and soil conservation. - Developing drought-resilient agricultural systems.	- Implemented climate-resilient practices. - Restored degraded lands with better soil and vegetation health.	- Increased adaptation to climate change across communities and ecosystems. - Reduced vulnerability to extreme weather events.	- A resilient ecosystem able to cope with climate change impacts. - Improved ecosystem services such as water and soil fertility.
Governance and Collaboration	- Policy support (government and local agreements). - Stakeholder engagement platforms.	- Establishing a participatory governance framework. - Organizing regular stakeholder workshops and forums. - Strengthening policy advocacy and enforcement mechanisms.	- Functional governance frameworks with active stakeholder participation. - Enhanced collaboration and conflict resolution.	- Increased stakeholder collaboration and conflict resolution mechanisms. - Strengthened policy support for conservation initiatives.	- A robust and collaborative governance model that promotes ecosystem sustainability. - Long-term policy integration and alignment.
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)	- Technology for monitoring and data collection. - Monitoring and evaluation frameworks.	- Collecting data on biodiversity, resource use, and stakeholder engagement. - Regular reporting and transparency mechanisms.	- Regular monitoring reports to assess progress. - Data-driven management decisions.	- Improved adaptive management based on real-time data and feedback. - Increased stakeholder awareness of progress and challenges.	- Continuous improvement in ecosystem management. - Long-term accountability and transparency in conservation efforts.

2.3.3 Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Conflicts over resource use	- Establish conflict resolution committees. - Facilitate regular dialogue and mediation.
Insufficient funding for long-term projects	- Diversify funding sources (e.g., grants, donations, eco-tourism). - Create sustainable financing mechanisms (e.g., revenue-sharing models).
Fencing leading to habitat fragmentation, restricted wildlife movements and reduced grazing lands.	- Use Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) guidelines to regulate fencing ensuring ecological corridors remain open. -Implementing participatory zoning to balance conservation, pastoralism, tourism and Settlement - Encourage community conservancies with open rangelands for free movement of wildlife and livestock.
Unregulated Infrastructure development leading to Environmental degradation and loss of key ecological areas	-Ensure all infrastructure projects aligns with SESA Recommendations and undergo rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) -Align infrastructure projects with ecosystem management goals to minimize negative impacts.
Land subdivision and sales leading to habitat loss, over fragmentation and reduced communal resources access.	-Strengthen enforcement of land tenure policies guided by the SESA to prevent unsustainable subdivision -Empower local governance structures to manage land use sustainably -Provide alternative income sources to promote Sustainable livelihoods (eco tourism, conservation based enterprises) to reduce reliance on land sales.
Climate change impacts disrupting activities	- Develop flexible, adaptive management strategies. - Implement climate-smart practices for long-term resilience.

2.3.4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

MEL Component	Description
Baseline Studies	Establish benchmarks for biodiversity, community livelihoods, and governance effectiveness.
Key Indicators	Track habitat health, species populations, community income, and stakeholder engagement levels.
Feedback Loops	Use data to refine strategies and improve outcomes.

2.4 SWOT ANALYSIS

Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem (MRE) is a critical area that balances biodiversity protection, Sustainable natural resource use, and community livelihoods. The Ecosystem presents a unique opportunity to enhance environmental sustainability and socioeconomic development. A thorough SWOT analysis helps identify internal strengths and weaknesses while evaluating external opportunities and threats, creating a robust framework for collaboration among stakeholders including the local community, Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, community-based organizations, and private sector partners.

2.4.1 Strengths

1. Rich in Biodiversity/Biodiversity Hotspot: Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem is home to diverse wildlife species, including elephants, lions, and migratory birds, ensuring ecological value and potential for eco-tourism.
2. County Spatial Plan: The Kajiado County Spatial Plan 2020-2030 provides a structured framework for sustainable land use and conservation.
3. Community Involvement: A strong community engagement in conservation efforts through established conservancies, fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility in MRE
4. Strategic Location: The ecosystem connects critical wildlife corridors in the Southern of Kenya (SOK) Landscape, enhancing species movement and genetic diversity.
5. Economic Opportunities: MRE has strong potential for economic opportunities such as Eco-tourism and sustainable natural resource use to provide local communities and stakeholders with revenue streams.
6. Government and NGO Support: Partnerships with government agencies and conservation organizations bring technical, financial, and policy support.

2.4.2 Weaknesses

1. Limited Funding: Insufficient funding and infrastructure in the ecosystem and the conservancies hinder effective management and monitoring.
2. Lack of capacity for enforcement leading to weak implementation of conservation policies.
3. Human-Wildlife Conflict: Increased interactions, encroachment on wildlife habitats, and competition for resources lead to conflicts that threaten both human safety and conservation efforts.
4. Inconsistent Capacity: Variability in the technical and managerial skills of conservancy administration can reduce the overall effectiveness of conservation activities.
5. Limited Coordination: Lack of seamless collaboration between stakeholders may result in overlapping efforts or gaps in addressing key challenges.
6. Degradation Pressures: Overgrazing, deforestation, and unsustainable agricultural practices continue to threaten ecosystem integrity in certain areas.
7. Data Inadequacy: Limited availability of accurate and up-to-date ecological data impairs decision-making and adaptive management.

2.4.3 Opportunities

1. Funding and Partnerships: Expanding collaborations with international donors, NGOs, and private sector partners can unlock additional resources for conservation.
2. Cross-border relationship with Northern of Tanzania Rangelands: MRE has potential for transboundary conservation initiatives, migratory corridors and shared resource management.
3. Eco-Tourism Growth: Developing well-structured eco-tourism activities can provide sustainable income for local communities while raising awareness about conservation.
4. Technology Integration: Leveraging technologies such as GIS, drones, and remote sensing can enhance monitoring, planning, and response capabilities.
5. Climate Adaptation Programs: Implementing climate-smart conservation strategies can increase ecosystem resilience and reduce vulnerabilities to climate change (Implementing Carbon offsetting projects).
6. Education and Capacity Building: Training programs for local communities and conservancy managers can improve skills and empower stakeholders.
7. Policy Advocacy: Strengthening policy frameworks and advocating for increased government support can address systemic challenges and attract investment.
8. Youth Engagement: Engaging young people in conservation through education and employment opportunities fosters long-term commitment to ecosystem health.

2.4.4 Threats

1. **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and prolonged droughts threaten wildlife, water resources, and agricultural productivity.
2. **Encroachment and Land Use Changes:** Expanding human settlements, infrastructure development, and agricultural activities lead to habitat fragmentation and degradation.
3. **Illegal Activities:** Poaching, logging, charcoal burning, and illegal & unsustainable grazing continue to pose significant threats to biodiversity and ecosystem stability.
4. **Political Instability:** Changes in political leadership or priorities may disrupt funding, policies, and conservation programs.
5. **Disease Outbreaks:** Wildlife and livestock diseases, such as anthrax and foot-and-mouth disease, can spread rapidly and undermine conservation efforts.
6. **Economic Pressures:** Fluctuations in local and global economies may reduce funding availability and force communities to prioritize short-term gains over long-term sustainability.
7. **Stakeholder Conflicts:** Differing priorities among stakeholders can lead to tensions and slow down the implementation of management plans.
8. **Bad governance,** including corruption, mismanagement of conservation funds, and un-accountability in decision making

2.4.5 Action Plan for Stakeholder Engagement

To address these SWOT factors comprehensively, Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 prioritizes an inclusive approach:

1. **Collaborative Frameworks:** Create formal platforms for dialogue, where stakeholders can align on priorities, share resources, and address conflicts.
2. **Resource Mobilization:** Engage international conservation agencies, private investors, and government programs to increase funding for critical initiatives.
3. **Capacity Building:** Implement training programs tailored to various stakeholder groups, including community members, conservancy managers, and government officials.
4. **Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct public education initiatives on the importance of conservation and sustainable practices to reduce pressures on the ecosystem.
5. **Monitoring Systems:** Establish integrated monitoring systems using technology and community reporting to track biodiversity health and identify threats.
6. **Policy Integration:** Advocate for policies that harmonize conservation goals with regional development plans and ensure long-term protection of critical habitats.

7. **Youth and Women Empowerment:** Include women and youth in decision-making processes, providing them with tools and opportunities to contribute meaningfully to conservation.

Addressing the SWOT Findings requires a united effort. Local communities play a pivotal role in daily management and monitoring, while NGO's CBO's, CSO's, and Government agencies can provide funding, training, and policy support. Private sector partners, including tourism operators and investors, can help unlock the eco-tourism potential and develop infrastructure. Academic institutions can contribute research and innovation, while international Organizations can connect the ecosystem to a global conservation network.

By fostering collaboration, The Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 ensures that all stakeholders share in the responsibility and benefits of conservation, creating a resilient thriving, and sustainable future for the region

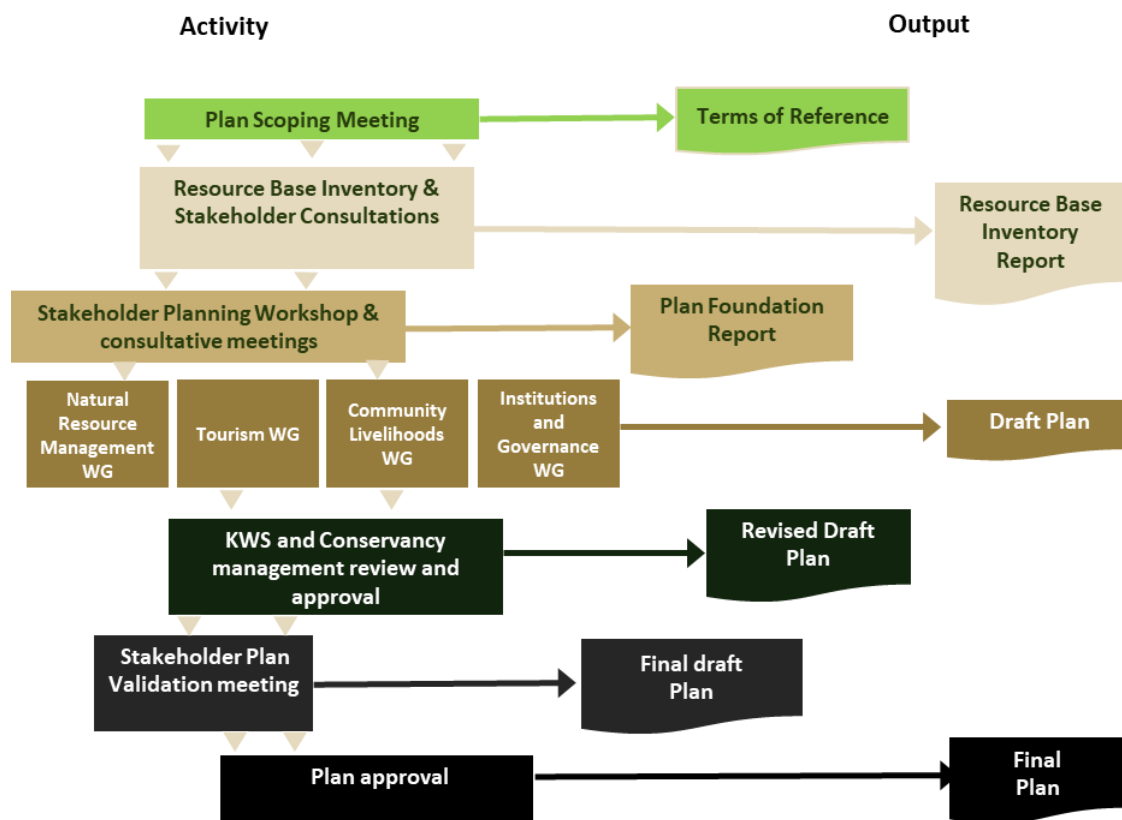
CHAPTER 3: MATAPATO RANGELANDS ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN IN KAJIADO CENTRAL (MREMP 2025-2034)

Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem is a vast and important conservation region that supports Kenya's sustainable land use, animal protection, and habitat preservation. Because it supports local populations and offers a safe refuge for a range of species, the region is essential to the preservation of both indigenous biodiversity and cultural history. The Ecosystem hosts 16 conservancies covering an area of 125,964.84 hectares namely: Kikesen River Conservancy, Osewan Conservancy, Olchoro-Oibor Conservancy, Noosikitok Conservancy, Murtuna Conservancy, Olgira Conservancy, Ilumbwa Conservancy, Kaparasi Conservancy, Oldonyo-Orok Conservancy, Oltepesi Conservancy, Ilesai Conservancy, Lorbetera Conservancy, Oldoinyio Sampu Conservancy, and Kisapuk Conservancy.

Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 aims to conserve biodiversity and enhance the free movement of livestock, wildlife, and encourage sustainable conservation practices within community conservancies.

3.1 MREMP 2025-2034 PLANNING PROCESS

The Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 planning process will be highly participatory and involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders in Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem. The mechanisms to be used to ensure meaningful stakeholder participation in the planning process will include, stakeholder planning workshops, thematic working group meetings, and stakeholder plan validation and approval meetings. (Figure below) shows the planning activities and their corresponding outputs.



Based on the figure above (Steps) the budget for the preparation of MREMP 2025-2035 will be guided by the following four broad stages;

1. Constitution of the Core Planning Team (CPT), Recruitment of the consultant, and launch of the planning process
2. Baseline data collection, field visits, and community engagements.
3. Report Drafting, stakeholders meetings, and reviews
4. Validation, approvals, and gazettelement.

The proposed budget will be guided by the activities to be undertaken by the four steps above and detailed below.

3.2 PROPOSED STAGES IN DEVELOPING MREMP 2025-2034 AND SESA FOR MREMP 2025-2034

Stage	Activity Description	Timeline	Est. Budget	Comments	Output
	Core Planning Team (CPT) – Constitution of the CPT to spearhead and coordinate the processes	Dec 2024	KES 300,000	CPT formed - To meet frequently to assess the progress	- Draft Roadmap - ToR for Management Plan and SESA
	Drafting of the road map to guide processes of developing Ecosystem Management Plan	Jan 2025		Draft road map developed	
	Potential stakeholders' meeting to review road map and budgets	Feb 2025	KES 2,000,000	Partnership and collaboration on meeting the budgets	- Final Roadmap, Budget - Final ToR for Management Plan and SESA
	Endorsements of the Roadmap, and ToR for the management Plan and SESA	Feb 2025	KES 0	-	- Endorsed Roadmap, Budget - Final ToR for Management Plan and SESA
	The proponent to initiate the Process of engaging a consultant to develop the MP and SESA for MP	March 2025	KES 0	(Procurement Process)	Consultant Sourced
	Contractual Agreement for the Consultancy	April-August 2025	KES 8,000,000	-	- Development of MP - Development of SESA for the MP
	Do a brief Letter to NEMA on SESA for the MP	March 2025	KES 0	Filing Process	Approval letter by NEMA
	Stakeholders (Leaders and Conservancies) engagement and sensitization meetings – Proponent to Facilitate	April 2025	4,000,000	Sensitization meeting for conservancy leadership	Political Leaders, Stakeholders, and Conservancies Sensitized

				CDF and Partners to support this process	
	MP and SESA Scoping Workshops & Communities Consultative Meetings (Fieldwork)	April - July 2025	KES 6,000,000	WG: to develop detailed Programmes	• Scoping Report • Formation of WG
	Stakeholder review workshops of the MP and the SESA for the MP	August 2025	KES 1,000,000	2 days meeting to review draft to fill any gaps	• Reviewed draft
	Filing the Draft Reports for review by the CGK and NEMA		KES 1,000,000	Payment for the Filing and review of the SESA for MP	• Feedback and agreement on validation Date
	Adverts for the SESA		KES 1,000,000	NEMA Prepares adverts, advises the Kenya Gazettement Process and the Advertisements on Radio and popular Newspapers	• Advertisement for SESA review
	Validation Workshop and approval of the MP and SESA for the MP	Sept 2025	KES 1,200,000	-	• Approved and validated MP and SESA
	Endorsement and Acknowledgement of the MP by the Conservancies Chairpersons.		KES 50,000	-	• Fully Signed and Endorsed MPs
	Endorsement and Acknowledgement of SESA for MP by the Proponent		KES 50,000	-	• SESA For the MP
	Gazettement of the Management Plan		KES 100,000	Done by the Government Press	• Gazettement of the Management plan
	Launching and adoption of the MP by the Proponent and the stakeholders	Oct 2025	KES 2,000,000	1 day event at ground level	• Final Management plan for implementation
	Implementation, MEL	Jan 2026		-	-
	Estimate Total	-	26,700,000	-	-

CHAPTER 4: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (SESA) FOR MATAPATO RANGELANDS ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN IN CENTRAL KAJIADO (2025 - 2034)

The preparation of Strategic Environmental and Social assessment (SESA) for Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 can run concurrently for purposes of minimizing any potential conflicts

The Objectives of the SESA for MREMP 2025-2034 are as follows:

The process for the Strategic Environmental and Social and Social Assessment for Matapato Rangelands Ecosystem Management Plan in Central Kajiado (MREMP) 2025-2034 are as follows:

Steps	Details	Output
Do a Brief to NEMA (National Environmental committee)	Inform NEMA about the SESA Process and its objectives. Seek approval and guidance.	Approval from NEMA to proceed with the SESA
Screening and Establishing the Concept	Identify key environmental and social concerns. Define the scope of the assessment	Clear definition of issues to be addressed
Scoping	Engage stakeholders to determine key concerns, methodologies, and study areas.	Scoping report outlining study areas and key focus areas.
Detailed SESA Study and Draft SESA for MREMP 2025-2034 Report	Conduct Environmental and social assessments, collect data, and draft the report.	Draft Zero SESA Report with findings and recommendations
Consultation Meeting	Engage Stakeholders to validate the study approach, collect inputs, and refine methodology.	Stakeholder feedback and refined methodology
Site Visits	Conduct on ground assessment to gather field data and validate findings	Field data collected and integrated into SESA Draft
Review of policy, Legislative, and Institutional Frameworks	Analyze relevant policies, laws, and governance structures affecting ecosystem management.	Policy alignment recommendation included in SESA
Review of SESA Studies and Related Information.	Assess previous studies and reports to integrate existing knowledge and avoid duplication	Comprehensive background analysis and incorporation of past findings
Key Informant Interview (KII)	Conduct interviews with experts, policy makers and conservationists	Expert opinions and insights incorporated
Key Stakeholder Consultation	Engage local leaders, government officials, conservation organizations, and community representatives	Stakeholder perspectives included in the SESA report

Public and land owner consultation	Gather input from affected communities and private land owners regarding land use and conservation concerns	Community concerns and recommendations documented
Household interview	Conduct surveys with individual households to understand socio-economic and environmental challenges	Household level data Incorporated into the SESA
Study team brainstorming session	Internal team workshop to analyze data, identify gaps, and finalize draft recommendations	Consolidated study insights and structured SESA Report
SESA team corrects the draft based on the comments	Incorporate feedback from stakeholders, experts, and policymakers in the draft	Revised and improved SESA Draft
Stakeholder Validation Workshop	Present the updated draft for final input and approval from key stakeholders	Validated SESA Report ready for finalization
SESA Final Report	Prepare and submit the final SESA Report incorporating all feedback	Official SESA for MREMP 2025-2034
Decision Making	NEMA, relevant authorities, and stakeholders review, and approve the SESA for implementation	Approved SESA guiding ecosystem management policies and actions.

CHAPTER 5: Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 CONCLUSION

This masterplan has assumed that the preparation for the MREMP 2025-2034 will take a period of 12 months and individual conservancies management plans can run concurrently if funds are available.

5.2 RECOMMENDATION

1. There is a need to engage competent consultancy firms for MREMP 2025-2034 and individual Conservancy management plans for consistency, ease of data collection, acceptability, time and money saving.
2. The MREMP 2025-2034 should be geared towards guiding the sustainable implementation of the envisaged four management plan programmes;
 - 1) Natural resource management programme.
 - 2) Tourism and wildlife programme.
 - 3) Community livelihoods and socioeconomic programmes.
 - 4) Institution and Governance Programme.
3. The implementation of the programmes must embrace the use of Conservation Technology and innovation based on accurate, and scientific information.
4. The proposed budgets are meant to guide resource Mobilization in partnership with County and National Governments, Relevant Non Governmental Organizations, and Conservancies.
5. The management plan consultant(s) will be sourced by the proponent and requested to prepare their budgetary requirements as per the terms of reference (ToR) to be issued.
6. It is recommended that Ramat Wildlife Society be transformed into a TRUST for financing and sustainability of the ecosystem.
7. The Ramat Wildlife TRUST should explore possibilities of diversifying support for the Ecosystem by making use of the suggested model in the table below

TABLE: Conservancy Sustainability Chart

Sustainability Component	Description	Key Actions	Potential Impact
Biodiversity Credits	Financial incentives for conserving and enhancing biodiversity.	Develop biodiversity monitoring programs, and partner with organizations to certify biodiversity credits.	Revenue generation while promoting ecosystem health.

Government Subsidy	Financial support from the government for conservancy operations.	Advocate for policies supporting conservation, engage with national programs.	Stable funding source for conservation activities.
Compensation and Incentives	Payments to local communities for conservation efforts, including avoiding harmful practices.	Design fair compensation schemes, and implement community-based monitoring.	Increased community engagement and commitment to conservation.
Grants	Funding from NGOs, international organizations, and donors.	Identify grant opportunities, write compelling proposals, and maintain transparent financial reporting.	Access to critical funds for infrastructure, training, and conservation projects.
Nature-Based Enterprises	Economic activities like eco-tourism, beekeeping, and sustainable agriculture.	Train communities, market sustainable products, and ensure low environmental impact.	Promotes local economic development and reduces reliance on unsustainable practices.
Project Financing for Permanence (PFP)	Long-term financial commitments for lasting conservation efforts.	Develop multi-stakeholder agreements, and focus on long-term sustainability goals.	Ensures financial stability and enduring conservation impact.
Venture Capital/Impact Investing	Investments in businesses that align with conservation goals.	Create business plans for eco-friendly initiatives, and attract investors.	Drives innovation and scalability in conservation-linked enterprises.
Livestock Income	Revenue from sustainable livestock grazing practices.	Implement rotational grazing, and promote organic and eco-friendly livestock products.	Balances livelihood support with environmental conservation.
Sustainable Tourism	Income from tourism activities that are eco-friendly and culturally sensitive.	Develop low-impact tourism infrastructure, and market unique experiences.	Generates income while educating visitors about conservation.
Carbon Credits	Financial returns from preserving Grass, and forests or reforestation efforts.	Partner with carbon credit certification bodies, and maintain verifiable carbon storage projects.	Helps mitigate climate change while generating revenue.