PV NATURE

PROJECT IDEA NOTE

Living landscapes: Restoring biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and coexistence in the Maasai Mara. Kenya

Version 1.3
20 June 2025

Developed by:

Project Coordinator	**Project Partner**
Centre for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya. Find the link here for more details: https://CER-Kenya.org/	Enarau Conservancy. Find the link here for more details: https://www.enarautrust.org/

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Overview

Project Title:	Living landscapes: Restoring biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and coexistence in the Maasai Mara, Kenya
Location:	Kenya, Narok County, Maasai Mara
Project description:	The Enarau Conservancy (EC), established in 2022 in the Maasai Mara, Kenya, aims to expand wildlife conservation areas by protecting existing vegetation and restoring degraded land. The project seeks to enhance understanding of ecosystem restoration, utilize technology for biodiversity monitoring, and empower communities to coexist with wildlife. EC boasts diverse habitat types and intermediate biodiversity value, supporting a range of fauna, avifauna, and unique flora. However, EC faces threats such as wildlife corridor disruption, invasive species, human-wildlife conflict, poaching, soil erosion, and unregulated deforestation. The project's objectives are (i) restoration of native ecosystems, (ii) increased biodiversity, and (iii) promoting co-existence between local communities and wildlife. Expected outcomes include improved habitat connectivity, high biodiversity through recovery of native species, and improved community well-being and conflict reduction. Key outputs involve invasive species removal, assisted regeneration of native flora, and strengthened community engagement through economic empowerment. To achieve this, input will include technical/automated tools, financial and human resources, and local community engagement. Our theory of change assumes that restoration and conflict mitigation will result in long-term biodiversity gains. Project partners include local communities, conservation organizations, NGOs, government agencies, and technical experts.
Project Area:	The EC spans 1,270 ha (3,140 acres) with the potential to expand to 4,050 ha (10,000 acres) subject to the availability of funds for leasing of more land. The entire EC (1,270 ha) will be under the project, with active monitoring using the PV Nature methodology and data collection protocols.
Project Coordinator:	The Centre for Ecosystem Restoration-Kenya (CER-K) jjenkins@cerkenya.org, agichira@CER-Kenya.org, hleshao@CER-Kenya.org

Project Participants:	Proposed project participants include: Enarau Conservancy - The EC operations and monitoring team (20 staff) will be directly engaged in community liaison, carrying out conservation and restoration actions in collaboration with the Project Coordinator (CER-K). Landowners - The project area within the conservancy land belongs to 15 landowners (this number will increase with new lease agreements) who will be involved in the project throughout its life. Local community members - The Conservancy is adjoined by the Maasai community-who are the most prominent, the Kipsigis community, and other subgroups of the Kalenjin community. These communities engage in different land-uses, including agriculture and livestock keeping, and have interacted with the landscape for decades and whose traditional Indigenous knowledge will be critical in both the impact and the sustainability of the project. Their roles include knowledge providers (Key Informants) and human resource for the project as employees involved in carrying out various project actions.
Project Intervention(s):	The project will focus on three key interventions including:(i) **Protection**, which will involve anti-poaching initiatives and conflict mitigation strategies such as employing and training rangers from the local communities, ensuring wildlife safety and reducing human-wildlife tensions; (ii) **Restoration**, which will include the removal of invasive species and assisted regeneration of native flora to recover the degraded habitats and increase biodiversity; (iii) **Improved management**, which will employ drones and GIS for landscape-scale monitoring and execute improved grazing management schemes including the use of mobile biomass and rotational grazing which will promote the removal of grazing-related fencing to enhance wildlife mobility. Additionally, community engagement through economic empowerment will improve coexistence and long-term sustainability of restoration and conservation efforts. Combined, these interventions will contribute to habitat connectivity, biodiversity conservation, and human well-being.
Expected Benefits:	**Biodiversity:** - Increased native plant species richness from grassland restoration through invasive species removal, erosion management and grass re-seeding. - Increased ground cover, structural complexity and habitat connectivity through erosion management and re-seeding.

	- Increased ungulate diversity and abundance from de-fencing access zones, reduced competition with cattle due to rotational grazing and carrying capacity establishment. - Increased terrestrial and avian predator and scavenger populations, including threatened raptor species following increased herbivore abundance. - Potential re-establishment of lost wildebeest migration towards the Loita Plains. - Increased insect and invertebrate populations due to soil remediation. - Invasive species removal and restoration of degraded habitats - Support protection and restoration of riverine vegetation. - Promoting water quality and quantity entering a major tributary of the Mara River, with benefits for aquatic, wetland and terrestrial life downstream. **Socioeconomics:** - Increased employment of local community members as rangers, herders, research associates, interns, seed collection and nursery staff, and managerial staff. - 60% of credit revenue generated is invested in community development, and sustainable community livelihood projects - Increased availability of medical care and education through conservancy investment in surrounding communities. - Improve livestock health and quality as a result of controlled and rotational grazing. - Decreased human wildlife conflict and water-related competition between wildlife and communities through spring mapping and management. **No negative impacts:** - The project reduces leakage as no active commercial land is being taken out of production (we focus on improved management and restoration of abandoned farmland). - Restoration activities align with natural ecosystem processes. All planting regimes use native mixes to improve species and functional diversity and increase structural complexity through creation of new age classes, promoting native biodiversity uplift. - The model is created to prevent the conservancy on community relocations during its formation and emphasises the preference for communities to continue living within the conservancy. This is contingent upon their commitment to preventing and

	restricting overgrazing while discontinuing other forms of land use. Consequently, Enarau has successfully averted any necessity for displacing communities. This means that communities residing within the conservancy will continue to live there. Unlike other conservancy models that have relocated communities to prioritize conservation, Enarau will adopt a mixed model approach.
Methodology Design:	The project will focus on both conservation and restoration credits. The project region, Maasai Mara, is a renowned key biodiversity area, with the highest concentration and diversity of large mammals in Kenya including rare and threatened wild animals and plants. The project site, Enarau Conservancy, aims to improve the habitat for wildlife.
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1 General Information

1.1 Project Rationale

Enarau Conservancy (EC) is located in the Northern Mara region, running along the border between Narok and Bomet counties. Native vegetation in the region occurs in scattered fragments, with much land-use changing to small- and large-scale agriculture in recent years, creating a fragmented woodland-agricultural matrix with pockets of grassland. The region represents the northern tip of the Maasai Mara conservancy network, and therefore the Greater Maasai Mara ecosystem that remains semi-intact.

Connectivity: Located to the South of EC are the Mbokishi & Enonkishu conservancies, increasing the potential range and access for resident and migratory fauna throughout the Greater Mara-Serengeti ecosystem. Increased access to Loita Plains to the Northeast is particularly important as a major historic wildebeest migration route, as well as for zebra and gazelle, benefitting both wildlife populations and grassland and soil health. Within-conservancy connectivity will be improved through linking hills to plains to wetlands to restored farmlands.

Communities: EC allows for increased lease payments, permitting local communities to diversify incomes and participate in up-skilling and in sustainable livelihood training and commerce. It further offers communities access to benefits through Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) network, including affiliated livelihood initiatives. There is anticipated investment in increased access to medical and educational resources, which is critical as the northern Mara has historically received far fewer conservation-related benefits than the southern Mara and therefore has generally lower standards of developmental infrastructure.

Conservation value: This project extends the conservancy network further North and towards the crucial Loita Plains, restoring degraded farmland to threatened and declining savanna woodland, and contains large and ecologically significant wetland (potentially the largest in the region - and a tributary to the Mara River which recently experienced its first-ever seasonal flow pause). It will re-establish food web cycling and trophic cascades, improving both landscape health and wildlife populations, including for threatened and declining raptor species, and mammalian predators such as cheetah.

In summary, this project is required because it will offer a wide variety of developmental benefits to a historically under-served community, provide a path to financial viability for this conservancy that protects critical biodiversity and ecology, and extend the range of viable habitat for threatened wildlife, including facilitating the restoration of a critical migration corridor.

1.1.1 Conservation Projects Justification

The project area is within the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem, which is threatened by severe land degradation and habitat loss. The project seeks to enhance habitat connectivity, halt and reverse habitat fragmentation and conserving the unique habitat types present in the conservancy. This will promote the movement of wildlife, some of which is threatened. Therefore, the project area meets Criterion A (Threatened biodiversity) of the KBA as the site contains more than one globally threatened species including species listed in Table 1. among other species (Appendix 1; IUCN,

2016 & 2024). The region is also mapped as a KBA (Gacheru et al., 2022). The site also meets Criterion Ci (Threatened habitats) of the IPA as the site is part of the Great Maasai Mara Ecosystem, a regionally threatened habitat (Darbyshire et al., 2017).

Table 1. Threatened species found within the proposed project area.

Species	Common name	IUCN Red List status	IUCN Threat Category
Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi	Masai Giraffe	Endangered	A1b
Panthera leo	Lion	Vulnerable	A2ab
Panthera pardus	Leopard	Vulnerable	A2cd
Necrosyrtes monachus	Hooded Vulture	Critically Endangered	A1e
Gyps africanus	White-backed Vulture	Critically Endangered	A2a
Loxodonta africana	African Elephant	Endangered	A2b
Acinonyx jubatus	Cheetah	Vulnerable	A4b
Diceros bicornis	Black Rhinoceros	Critically endangered	A2a

1. IUCN (2016). A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, Version 1.0. First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

2. IUCN. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2024-1. https://www.iucnredlist.org. Accessed on [21/10/2024)

1.2 Project Interventions

Table 2 – Project Interventions

Intervention Type	Project Intervention	Expected Benefits
Protection	Increased wildlife patrolling	Decrease of illegal mammal hunting, decreased illegal charcoal harvesting, community employment opportunities
Improved management	Change of land-use, conservancy expansion	Increased area placed under protection, increased social services through partner organisations (e.g. MMWCA, Maa Trust), increased support and compensation for HWC incidents

Protection	Change of land-use, conservancy expansion	Increased area placed under conservation,
Restoration	Rehabilitation of degraded farmland and overgrazed areas through assisted natural regeneration and by controlling invasive species, including *Xanthium strumarium*, *Solanum incanum*, and *Senna didymobotrya.* These will be removed manually.	Increased native species diversity and abundance, and improved ecosystem functioning and services provision
Protection	Wetland management	Improved quality and quantity of water flowing into the Mara River, a key tributary for wildlife and irrigation downstream
Restoration	Halting erosion by controlling gully erosion	Improved soil health, soil fauna diversity and nutrient cycling. Water retention and better hydrology patterns
Restoration	Planting of native trees across previously forested areas which have been cut for charcoal and to create land for agriculture.	Increase structural diversity across the landscape to support and increase alternative habitat types for birds and increase pollination access for insects.
Restoration	Reseeding with native grass seeds to increase the diversity of grass.	Increase structural diversity across the landscape to support and increase alternative habitat types for birds and increase pollination access for insects. And improved soil health and other ecosystem services including faster carbon sequestration and improved fodder for sustainable grazing for the local communities.
Improved management	Establishment of a grazing plan e.g., rotational grazing regimen	Reduced overgrazing pressure on vegetation will improve the quality and diversity of grass, improved livestock health and ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration.
Improved management	Implementation of check dams. This is to reduce the surface runoff and the negative impacts of flash floods, which are common in the project area	Reduced gully formation and soil erosion; increased grass and aquatic vegetation cover

Improved management	Removal of fencing	Increased wildlife immigration, more complete food webs, and nutrient cycling

1.3 Project Boundaries

The required maps can be found in Annex 1- Maps

Table 3 Project Boundaries

Location:	Northern Maasai Mara, Narok County, Kenya
Geographic Coordinates:	Site centre: -1.017475°, 35.345376° Boundary coordinates; (-1.017323°, 35.346575°) (-1.016798°, 35.346025°) (-1.017774°, 35.343731°) (-1.017774°, 35.343731°) (-1.018432°, 35.343774°) (-1.018483°, 35.345716°).
Project Region(s):	Mara region (Greater Mara ecosystem) size 151,000 ha (1510 Km^2)
Project Area(s):	It is currently 1270 ha but has the potential to expand to 4046 ha as the project runs.
Protected Areas:	The project region is located in the Maasai Mara, with the specific project areas situated within the Enarau Conservancy. Enarau Conservancy itself is a protected area under the conservancy model. Additionally, the project areas are adjacent to the Mbokishi and Enonkishu Conservancies. These adjacent areas now enjoy a level of protection comparable to game parks and reserves, as the Kenya Wildlife Service units are stationed in these regions. Thus, while Enarau Conservancy is a legally designated protected area, the adjacent Mbokishi and Enonkishu Conservancies also benefit from significant protection measures as a result of introducing these rangers' outposts

1.4 Land and Management Rights

The project area is a wildlife conservancy, which is formed by the community members who form a conservancy trust to manage the communal land. The land is then used to generate income through community-based initiatives such as tourism or the creation of other market-based mechanisms that generate income. The money is then used to pay the landowners a lease fee. The Trust is governed primarily by the trustee majority, who are landowners with community representatives. The Trustees carry out annual general meetings meant to consult and generate feedback on conservation priorities.

Ownership:

The individual lands, grouped and leased to form the Enarau Conservancy are owned by local community members who gained ownership when the land was subdivided and adjudicated in the 1990s. The Enarau Conservancy Trust is overseen by eight trustees representing both the landowners and the community.

Tenure:

Individual landowners lease their parcels of land to the Trust, after which the land will be considered as group land and will be managed by the Trust. The standard lease term ranges from 15 to 25 years, depending on the conservancy's leasing model. In return, landowners receive monthly income as compensation for dedicating their land to conservation rather than agricultural activities. The land is leased to the Enarau Conservancy Trust, which manages these lands for conservation purposes.

User rights or management rights:

The conservancy management will have full control over the leased lands to ensure that all activities align with conservation objectives. Improved management activities, such as implementing suitable grazing plans and curbing illegal activities, e.g., charcoal burning, fencing, overgrazing, logging, and poaching, will be strictly enforced. The conservancy will also be responsible for raising awareness and providing mechanisms to minimize human-wildlife conflict and enhance coexistence. Importantly, the Enarau conservation model will not displace people for wildlife; instead, it adopts a mixed model approach where communities continue to live in their homes while allowing free movement of wildlife and promoting coexistence.

2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.1 Stakeholder Identification

Local Stakeholders

Local Community: Residents within and around Enarau Conservancy, comprising two tribal groups - the Maasai, traditionally pastoralists co-existing with wildlife, and the Kalenjin, engaged in farming. These communities will be directly involved in all phases of the project including the planning and designing, and implementing the activities. A survey has already been conducted and views and perceptions captured.

Landowners: Individuals who have leased their lands for conservation, opting against alternative land uses like cultivation or farming for a competitive advantage. These landowners live within Enarau and local community members, and as the conservation approach follows a mixed model,

they are considered local stakeholders. Landowners will determine the long- term success of the project and therefore will directly be involved in all stages of the project.

Enarau Conservancy: This organisation is a service provider and, together with CER-K, it is involved in the development of the Project Idea Note. Enarau conservancy will liaise with the local leaders to mobilise community engagement in the project, coordinate benefit sharing and facilitate grievance sharing and resolution mechanisms.

Community Leaders: Influential figures within the community, such as elders, chiefs, or elected representatives. Community leaders will be key in mobilizing the community to identify priorities and promote representative participation. Transparency and community involvement throughout the project will be used as tools to gain community goodwill which is critical to ensuring project success.

Local Businesses:

Businesses such as hardware stores, food shops, groceries, livestock markets, beadwork and Maasai regalia shops, and veterinary services operate in small centres around Enarau and are likely to benefit from the project. The initiative will also promote eco-tourism, generating revenue for the local economy. By boosting cash flow in these small centres and creating diverse livelihood opportunities, the project gives local business owners—who are key secondary stakeholders—a strong incentive to support its successful implementation. This economic benefit motivates them to provide a supportive environment for the project, fostering a sense of ownership.

Primary Stakeholders:

Landowners: Individuals who have leased their lands for conservation, opting against alternative land uses like cultivation or farming for a competitive advantage. While most of the landowners reside within the area, some of the members of such households do not reside in the area, and therefore 'Landowners' qualify under both local and primary stakeholders. The project will benefit directly from their goodwill.

Enarau Board of Trustees: Representatives from the community tasked with advocating for landowners' interests and ensuring equitable benefit sharing for the community. Some members of the board also represent the interests of other stakeholders who are not residents of the area.

Secondary Stakeholders:

Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancy Association (MMWCA): Providing assistance to Enarau in community education, wildlife conservation sensitization, governance development, internal capacity building, and infrastructure improvement. MMWCA will support the project through capacity building and infrastructure development by educating communities living within and around the conservancies on the importance and benefits of wildlife, developing healthcare and water facilities, and ensuring effective governance within conservancy leadership and promoting gender inclusion in employment and leadership roles.

Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT): Implements a Predator Guardian program at Enarau, collecting data on predator attacks on livestock. KWT will support the project through capacity building and infrastructure development.

Mara Elephant Project (MEP): Utilizes data analytic tools like EarthRanger and EcoScope to coordinate and manage monitoring efforts at Enarau. MEP will support the project through capacity building and infrastructure development.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS): A governmental body responsible for issuing permits and licenses for the gazettement of protected areas as wildlife zones. KWS will support the project through capacity building and infrastructure development.

Neighbouring Conservancies: Mbokishi Conservation Area and Enoonkishu Conservancy. These conservancies will be engaged by the project to create awareness and promote overall conservation given that they share a similar goal with the Project Coordinator and Enarau Conservancy.

Academic Partners: Nottingham Trent University, Earthwatch, Smithsonian Institute are undertaking research on Enarau biodiversity uplift. Academic partners will support the project through capacity building and infrastructure development.

Other partner organizations include Basecamp Explorer Foundation Kenya, The Maa Trust, implementing community development projects. They will support the project through capacity building and infrastructure development.

Narok County Government (NCG) are keen to implement their Integrated Community Development Programmes (ICDP). Besides providing political goodwill, NCG will support the conservancy with community mobilization.

2.2 Project Coordination and Management

Overall Coordination

The organization responsible for the project coordination is CER-K. Their main role is to create and implement effective restoration methods along with optimal management practices. CER-K will work in partnership with local communities to conduct on-site monitoring to collect relevant data, adhering to the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard. CER-K will oversee financial aspects, including income distribution to project participants based on the outlined benefit-sharing mechanism. They will also communicate both ecological and social impacts to all project partners.

Enarau Conservancy and CER-K will work together to implement suitable restoration techniques and management practices. Enarau will work with communities to lease more land for conservation, train and deploy ranger patrols to ensure the continued protection of the restored sites and land under management. Additionally, Enarau will take responsibility for stakeholder awareness and collaborate with CER-K during the stakeholder participation process and FPIC roll-out.

Relevant Experience

CER-K leads the testing and implementation of The Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) methodology in Africa, with Plan Vivo as a technical partner. This methodology is used to assess and certify restoration projects that meet established biodiversity criteria. Over the past two years,

CER-K has been mandated to conduct TGBS assessments, gaining substantial experience and co-developing a practical manual for implementation.

CER-K is also conducting research across three key ecosystems in Kenya: Afromontane forests, savannas, and coastal zones. In the Mara savanna, long-term restoration plots have been established and monitored since 2022, with two additional 1-hectare permanent plots recently established within the project area

Through funding from the Franklina Foundation, CER-K provides training to local communities on the collection of high-quality indigenous seeds. In parallel, CER-K is undertaking a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) program, which includes social-ecological surveys aimed at identifying biocultural core species prioritized by the Maasai community in the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem. The surveys also seek to understand community perspectives on landscape degradation, the use of fire in savanna management, and the current state of TEK, while identifying opportunities for collaborative biocultural restoration initiatives.

Enarau Conservancy maintains strong community ties and implements several initiatives to promote conservation awareness. These include land leasing for conservation purposes, prioritizing local employment, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, promoting sustainable land use practices, and distributing native seedlings.

CER-K's comprehensive expertise makes it well-positioned to coordinate the rollout of PV Nature at Enarau Conservancy, and the following capacities demonstrate this:

a) **Forest management and restoration:** CER-K has extensive experience managing 68 acres of sub-Afromontane Forest at Brackenhurst, applying a combination of ecological restoration techniques and long-term forest stewardship to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem function.

b) **Development of best practices through permanent sampling plots:** In the Maasai Mara, CER-K has established four 50×50 m permanent sampling plots to inform best practices in savanna restoration. These plots serve as reference points for ecological monitoring and adaptive management.

c) **Research collaboration and ecosystem health assessment:** CER-K has implemented 12 research projects in collaboration with local and international universities, integrating scientific research with restoration practice and enabling the co-generation of knowledge across disciplines and regions. Community members will be involved in the project monitoring activities. This will be achieved by employing local youth as data collectors, rangers, and data analysts. We will also train women and men in field-based monitoring using technology such as camera traps or GPS devises. They will also be engaged in other activities such as seed collection, planting, etc

d). **Advanced GIS and mapping capabilities:** Enarau conservancy have expertise to create and utilize GIS maps and proficiency in spatial analysis, a critical tool for planning, monitoring, and managing restoration projects.

c). **TGBS assessments and advisory:** Between 2022 and 2024, CER-K conducted 21 TGBS assessments, offering evidence-based restoration guidance and contributing to the development of biodiversity credit projects grounded in ecological integrity.

d). **Community engagement:** CER-K and Enarau Conservancy have previously conducted several community engagement activities, including a biocultural restoration survey within the project area. A key outcome of these engagements was the identification of biocultural core species that local communities reported as having declined or disappeared from the landscape in recent years, despite their significant cultural and ecological value. Enarau Conservancy's Community Liaison Officer has played a central role in mobilizing and engaging community members and continues to work in close collaboration with the CER-K team to support these efforts.

Table 4 Responsibility for Project Coordination and Management Functions

Project Coordination and Management Function	**Responsible Party/Parties**
Stakeholder engagement during project development and implementation	CER-K
Ensuring conformance with the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard (PV Nature) and compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations	CER-K
Developing technical specifications, land management plans and project agreements with project participants	Enarau Conservancy
Ensuring that the PDD is updated with any changes to the project	CER-K
Registration and recording of land management plans, project agreements, and sales agreements	Enarau Conservancy
Managing project finances and dispersal of income to project participants as described by the benefit sharing mechanism	CER-K/Enarau Conservancy
Managing Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates in the Plan Vivo Registry	CER-K
Preparing annual reports and coordinating validation and verification events	CER-K/Enarau Conservancy
Securing certificate sales and other means of funding the project	CER-K

Assisting Project Participants to secure any legal or regulatory permissions required to carry out the project	CERK-K/Enarau Conservancy
Providing technical assistance and capacity building required for project participants to implement project interventions	CER-K
Monitoring progress indicators, socioeconomic indicators and climate indicators and providing ongoing support to project participants	CER-K
Measurement, reporting and verification of biodiversity benefits	CER-K

2.3 Project Participants

The local community within and around the Enarau conservation area. They will play a vital role by contributing traditional ecological knowledge and offering human resource during the project's implementation. They will be directly engaged in project implementation and will be the immediate beneficiaries of the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs). The Conservancy is adjoined by the Maasai community-who are the most prominent, the Kipsigis community, and other subgroups of the Kalenjin community. These communities engage in different land-uses, including agriculture and livestock keeping, and have interacted with the landscape for decades and whose traditional Indigenous knowledge will be critical in both the impact and the sustainability of the project. Their roles include knowledge providers (Key Informants) and human resource for the project as employees involved in carrying out various project actions.

Landowners are crucial participants as they allocate land for conservation, are the primary recipients of lease fee payments, and play a significant role in pivotal decision-making processes, such as signing long-term lease agreements. Residing within the conservation area, they are integral members of the local community. They, also, will be the immediate beneficiaries of the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs). Landowners - The project area within the conservancy belongs to 15 landowners (this number will increase with new lease agreements) who will be involved in the project throughout its life.

Enarau Conservancy and its management. EC will work in collaboration with the coordinator (CER-K) to ensure a smooth rollout and progress of the project. Enarau Conservancy will serve as a crucial link between the local community and CER-K. EC will sign a Project Agreement with the Project Coordinator to implement Project Interventions and will benefit from the sale of Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs).

2.4 Participatory Design

Developing project interventions:

The participatory process will begin with a stakeholder mapping process through which key actors will be identified followed by the use of diverse data collection and engagement tools, such as focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs), and participatory rural appraisals (PRAs).

Community barazas (public meetings) and FGDs will be organized to gather input on local needs, challenges, and priorities. During these public meetings, representatives from diverse groups will be selected rough a consultative process to ensure broad representation. Women, youth and the marginalised members of the community will be integrated into the project through targeted-capacity building sessions
PS. Landowners and other community members have already been made aware of the project scope, and interviews with key informants and focus group discussions are ongoing within the project's region. The main objective of this is to gather Traditional Ecological Knowledge from both pastoralists and farmers who are the dominating members of the neighbouring communities. The project will follow the general approach highlighted below (Some activities have already been implemented).

Project Biodiversity Monitoring

The monitoring strategy will be co-developed with stakeholders to ensure that both scientific and traditional knowledge systems are incorporated. We will establish a team of Community Biodiversity Monitors (CBMs) to actively participate in biodiversity monitoring efforts. The monitors will be selected jointly by the community members and conservation experts to ensure inclusivity and legitimacy. Women and youth will be specifically targeted equitable participation. Training workshops will be conducted to equip the local participants with monitoring skills, including species identification, data collection techniques and use of mobile technology for reporting. This approach will ensure that the team remains adaptive and effective in contributing to the project's long-term biodiversity monitoring goals.

Benefit Sharing Criteria

In accordance with PV Nature, 60% of the benefits generated will be allocated directly to the community. For transparency, the distribution of these benefits will be managed by a community oversight committee composed primarily of community members. The allocation will prioritize needs identified during the project's design and implementation, as well as any emerging needs when the project begins generating credits. Consensus-building techniques will be used to identify needs and guide allocation of the funds.

A portion of the benefits will be directed to landowners as compensation, which will be used to secure long-term land leases for conservation purposes. The remaining funds will be distributed to other priority areas, as determined by the committee, including education and scholarships, water access, health, and sustainable livelihoods. This approach ensures that the benefits are distributed equitably and in alignment with the community's most pressing needs.

Stakeholder identification and mapping
The process of identifying and mapping key stakeholders, including community members, local authorities, NGOs, and institutions is ongoing. This is a measure to ensure that diverse groups, including the marginalised, based on gender, age, ethnicity, religion, and social status have been identified. This inclusivity measure, briefly outlined under developing project interventions, will ensure active participation of marginalised groups through targeted stakeholder engagement, culturally appropriate communication and well balanced decision making structures.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation
The project will establish regular feedback mechanisms to keep stakeholders informed about project developments. The project will adopt an adaptive management approach by creating a monitoring and evaluation system that will regularly assess the effectiveness of measures for including various groups against co-developed indicators. The project will commit to a quarterly meeting with local and primary stakeholders, in addition to the annual general meeting, where relevant concerns will be addressed. Community-led teams, such as the community-seed collection network, will be formed and the members will be trained to use simple monitoring tools and collect data regularly on the selected indicators of the project. This approach is currently in use with the seed collectors, a majority of whom are women who have been trained in phenology monitoring, seed collection, storage, and processing. The project will adopt a citizen-science approach in a way that will replicate the already commissioned Earthwatch Participants project.

2.5 FPIC Process

Local leaders will be the focal point of engaging with the local communities. In Maasai Mara (the project area), there is a functional hierarchical structure and strong cultural beliefs that govern daily activities at the local level. The project documents, including an FPIC form and its terms and conditions, will first be presented to the local leaders for their review. We will then engage community officials at the Narok County government, the department of education and culture who are in-charge of protecting and safeguarding the community's culture and TEK. The process will be facilitated in an unbiased manner by the Project Coordinator and Enarau Conservancy (through the community engagement and empowerment groups, see governance and structure) in the presence of local government officials. The review at the local level will be followed by a discussion session and document revision where necessary.

To date, two surveys have been conducted to solicit community perspectives on key issues to guide project implementation and to inform community members of ongoing restoration and conservation activities. Through its partners, CERK and Enarau Conservancy have engaged with the community's decision-making authorities, who have signed FPIC forms, for a long-term biodiversity monitoring initiative which is linked to the proposed biocredits project. The Narok County Government's Department of Education and Culture has been similarly engaged and is aware of the research, restoration, and conservation activities underway at Enarau Conservancy. Going forward, all relevant project documents will be shared through the same channels.

Local meetings (Barazas), small focus group discussions tailored to the diverse groups, and key informant interviews with the community leaders, including Indigenous Peoples will be held, while guaranteeing maximum inclusion possibly with no discrimination. The locals will be taken through the project and agreement documents to ensure they fully understand the project, particularly their role in the project and project's socioeconomic impacts and benefit sharing plan before they sign. The community members will be made aware that they have a right to give or withhold their consent. Any concern raised during these meetings will be addressed immediately, after which, each community representative will be requested to sign the FPIC forms.

3 Project Design

3.1 Biodiversity Baseline

Currently, Enarau conservancy -which is protected- sits on ~3000 acres and the plan is to expand to 10,000 acres by engaging the community landowners (the unleased land is not yet protected and opportunities for unsustainable land-use practices still exist). The project will also employ additional community members who will then be trained as rangers and empowered to be scouting and patrolling the conservancy.

Without intervention, the Conservancy will continue experiencing unsustainable resource exploitation, primarily conversion to agriculture, illegal logging, water table depletion and overgrazing. These activities could accelerate the rate of habitat fragmentation, soil erosion, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. There is also the opportunity cost of thousands of acres of potential high quality wildlife habitat failing to be actualized.

Currently, Enarau Conservancy contains a diverse range of habitat types in varying degrees of degradation. These include closed canopy forest- and semi-closed canopy woodland, open grassland, wetlands, and recently abandoned agricultural land (See Habitat map). The woodland is largely intact where it remains across the conservancy (especially following the cessation of illegal charcoal harvesting by the ranger team) retaining the *Vachellia xanthapholoe*a canopy and diverse herbaceous understory characteristic of the ecosystem type. While grasslands in the core area are generally healthy, they will eventually begin to degrade due to under-grazing and a lack of native herbivory if wildlife corridors are not eventually established. Outside the core area, grasslands are generally degraded and overgrazed, with low species diversity and existing within a matrix of bare ground, though diversity and cover seems to be slowly recovering in southern reaches of the conservancy. The abandoned farmland remains dominated by invasive, expansive and annual species, although ground cover has increased following the recent (Nov - Dec 2023) rainy season. Soil testing, however, has shown continued low nutrient and soil carbon levels despite the increase in ground cover. The wetland has not been systematically surveyed in terms of composition and water quality, however, it continues to provide consistent water flow into a tributary of the Mara river, though a large number of invasive species, examples include the Jimson weed, (*Datura stramonium*), *Senna didymobotrya* (expansive), *Solanum campylacanthium* (expansive) and Ricinus communis (expansive) continue to encroach onto its banks.

With the proposed interventions, the expected changes under the baseline scenario described above will be mitigated and reversed, resulting in positive outcomes for ecosystem health and biodiversity. Habitat restoration, connectivity, and protection will change through interventions such as invasive species control, grassland restoration, reforestation where appropriate, designating the area as protected, and enforcing conservation regulations, such as regular monitoring and patrols, community engagement and awareness, reporting mechanisms and embracing legal frameworks to safeguard critical habitats.

The Enarau Conservancy currently possesses at least one nesting pair of crowned eagles (IUCN Near Threatened). It is also anticipated to possess suitable habitat for various Near Threatened (NT), Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), and Critically Endangered (CR) species assessed on the IUCN Red List, to re-occupy it once wildlife corridors are established to allow them access from southern

areas of the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem (GMME). These include the Eastern Patas Monkey (nationally threatened), Maasai Giraffe (EN), African Bush Elephant (VU), Leopard (VU) and members of the Gyps genus of vultures (which range from VU - CR).

3.2 Socioeconomic Baseline

Before the project, the socioeconomic status of local stakeholder groups in the project region varies significantly. The neighbouring local community primarily engages in subsistence farming (mainly the Kalenjin community), livestock rearing (mainly the Maasai), and informal labour, with limited access to land and natural resources. They rely on the now significantly subdivided land, which leads to resource overexploitation and degradation. Household assets are minimal, income levels are low, and livelihoods are vulnerable to environmental shocks, including droughts and erratic rainfall patterns that have now become more frequent. Landowners, some are also resident of the project area, have considerably large sizes of land, often used for commercial agriculture and livestock rearing. They often lease the land to outsiders who has more substantial assets, including agricultural machinery and vehicles. The landowners may, therefore, have higher income levels from farming and land leases. Community leaders enjoy better access to resources and influence over communal land, with diverse income sources and higher-quality assets. Local businesses, engaged in trade, services, and agriculture, have specific access to land and resources for their operations, better assets, and higher income levels than subsistence farmers.

Under the baseline scenario without intervention, socioeconomic conditions for these groups are expected to deteriorate or remain stagnant. The local community will likely face further degradation and loss of key ecosystem services and natural resources, leading to increased vulnerability and continued low-income levels. Landowners might experience reduced agricultural productivity and declining land values, impacting their economic stability. Community leaders will face heightened pressures to manage resource scarcity and address community grievances, potentially affecting their quality of life. Local businesses will struggle with resource scarcity and environmental impacts, which may lead to reduced profitability, asset depreciation, and potential business closures, affecting local employment and economic stability. Overall, without project intervention, the region's socioeconomic status will likely decline, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and resource challenges.

3.3 Environmental Baseline

Under the baseline scenario, nutrient cycling is expected to be highly impaired due to soil compaction and over-grazing. Restoration is expected to lead to increased soil organic carbon (SOC) and nutrient cycling.

The Enarau Conservancy currently experiences extremely high soil erosion and gully formation across multiple sites, primarily due to overgrazing. This increases habitat fragmentation, reduces native vegetation cover, and drives topsoil loss contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions through loss of organic carbon and decomposition of organic matter. Decreased soil erosion through targeted damming informed by modelling erosion using UAV’s and GrassGIS in conjunction with improved management will significantly mitigate these factors.

A general uplift in native species richness and abundance is anticipated as invasive species are controlled and native flora is re-established. The farmland is currently dominated by pan-tropical invasives with low native grass, herb and shrub abundance. This will allow succession to proceed where it has been arrested, allowing grasslands and woodlands to achieve greater structural and functional diversity as they proceed towards 'old growth' stages. It will allow for increased trophic interactions through improved pollinator diversity, provision of wildlife browse, creation of wildlife habitat, and carbon sinks.

Increased water quantity and quality from the wetland should emerge from its restoration, through decreased sediment deposition and improved flows into the tributaries that feed the Mara River will be key for allowing for sustainable water extraction and wildlife use downstream.

3.4 Project Logic

Table 5 Initial Project Logic

	Description	**Assumptions/Risks**
Outcomes – Intended overall project aim		
Biodiversity Benefit	Increased native species diversity and abundance resulting in resilient wild populations of plants with improved gene flows, habitat connectivity and landscape flows, wildlife corridors, creation of microhabitats and refuge for specialised species, enhance services such as pollination, seed dispersal, and nutrient cycling.	This return of native biodiversity will heavily hinge on the acquisition of leases and the successful restoration of the wildlife corridor, as well as the continued success of restoration within the conservancy. There is a threat of increased human-wildlife conflict (HWC) resulting from restoration, which will require careful planning of corridor location and the establishment of a functional livestock compensation scheme to mitigate.
Socioeconomic Benefit	Increased employment opportunities, through seed collection, tree planting, as well as monitoring and maintenance;	Seasonal employment may not provide long-term livelihoods, also external market-constraint for seed/seedlings may limit sustainability.
	Access to funds for community development projects such as apiary and other non-timber products.	community engagement and governance structures may fail to ensure transparent allocation for long-term projects.

	eco-tourism for nature-based activities such as birdwatching:	consistent tourism demand which may fluctuate due economic and environmental factors.
	Scientific capacity building: healthcare and education on cultural heritage and preservation.	community interest and participation may decline, if integration of traditional ecological knowledge with scientific approaches may result in cultural insensitivity.
Environmental Benefit	The project will reverse environmental degradation and ensure the sustainability of ecosystems by increasing biodiversity. This will be achieved through habitat connectivity (wildlife corridors) to support a wider range of species. The project will also restore and enhance ecosystem services such as pollination and carbon sequestration. These will also mitigate the negative impacts of climate change as restored sites will act as carbon sinks. Improved soil health and halting soil erosion reducing sedimentation in water bodies.	Restoration is intrinsically stochastic and can be unpredictable, but the probability of success can be maximised through thorough planning and consultation during the planning stage for each restoration intervention. A further assumption is that the ranger team can continue their successful pre-emptive mitigation of HWC and illegal activities, primarily charcoal harvest, and livestock incursions into the core area.
Outputs		
Output 1	Increase in flora and fauna, both species richness and abundance, in the project area.	Risks: Adverse weather conditions; poor soil quality; invasive species; grazing and lack of community support all prevent the increase in native flora and fauna. Mitigation: Plan planting activities during favourable period (before short and long rainy seasons). Use native plant species-known to be drought/flood resistant to act as pioneer species; conduct soil testing before planting and amend soil as needed; conduct regular monitoring and removal of invasive

		species; engage local communities in the project to promote a sense of ownership, stewardship, and sustainability.
Output 2	Area restored/conserved; combining both the total size (hectares) of land and the number of habitat types (wetland, grasslands and forested areas).	Risks: Insufficient funding; limited knowledge and skills. Mitigation: Diversify funding sources by seeking grants and donations and improving partnerships, provide training and capacity-building for staff and community members and volunteers.
Output 3	Increased community and social benefits; the number of community members or local stakeholders involved in the project; and increased tourism revenue.	Risks: Includes all listed above, with the major one being limited funding and lack of community goodwill. The same mitigation measures will be employed.

3.5 Proposed Biodiversity Monitoring

Table 6 Prospective Biodiversity Monitoring

Selected Biodiversity Monitoring Tool	**Target Groups(s) the Biodiversity Monitoring Tool will target**	**Reason why this tool has been selected**	**Monitoring activities. Detail project specific considerations for monitoring this target group.**
Required Target Groups			
Acoustic Monitoring	Birds and bats	Fits data collecting requirements for tropics	e.g. Several groups of migratory birds occur here therefore monitoring will need to occur in the dry season.
High Resolution	Plants (herbaceous and woody plants	Fits data collecting requirements for	e.g. Grasslands are regularly burned in

Imagery	<2m in height)	tropics	the dry season therefore monitoring will need to be done in the short rainy season.
Additional Recommended Target Groups			
Tool 3 – Camera Trapping	Mammals	Fits data collecting requirements for the tropics	The Greater Maasai Mara retains one of the most diverse and likely the most intact mammal assemblages globally, with their presence/absence being a key component of ecosystem function and stability
Tool 4 – High Resolution Imagery	Trees	Fits existing data collection regimen	The project area is renowned for its high coverage with large, native trees, many of which are threatened, due to its relatively high rainfall, perched water table and varied topography

3.6 Additionality[1]

Table 7 Initial Barrier Analysis

Project Intervention	**Main Barriers**	**Activities to Overcome Barriers**
Community engagement &	Resistance to change and lack of awareness about the benefit of	The project will support continuous community

[1] See Baseline Scenario and Additionality Assessment Tool

education (social/cultural. financial/economic barriers)	restoration/conservation efforts; lack of enough incentives to prevent overstocking of livestock and unsustainable farming practices.	outreach and education campaigns. Involve diverse groups of the community members, including women, youth and influencers to champion restoration efforts. Increase commercial financing derived from the sale of PVBCs to provide a sustainable stream of alternative income to the community members.
Conservation/restoration efforts (Financial/Technical /Institutional barriers)	Insufficient funds for ongoing conservation management and monitoring; Lack of technical skills for effective conservation practices; Inadequate enforcement of conservation regulations and policies; and Conflicts with local land use practices, such as grazing and logging.	The project will help establish long-term and sustainable funding streams through the sale of PVBCs; -facilitate regular training and capacity building to support staff; advocate for stronger legal frameworks and enforcement of conservation laws; -develop alternative programs to reduce pressure on conserved areas.
Protection: deploying and increasing ranger patrols around the Conservancy borders to curb illegal logging and uncontrolled grazing	Increased resistance from a section of the neighbouring community. Limited funding to maintain frequent and efficient patrols	The project will support the ongoing efforts to create awareness and engage the community directly in restorative activities; the agreements on equitable benefit sharing after the sale of PVBCs will provide a realistic incentive to earn the community goodwill.
Vegetation (Trees, Shrubs, Grass) planting. (Financial/ Economic,	Land pressures such as intensive grazing from both wildlife and livestock; project only dependent on	The project will raise awareness on the benefits of ecological stability and sustainable grazing

ecological/resources, social/cultural barriers)	donor or grant funding; resistance within society to proposed activities	practices; support the creation of site-based live fences to protect the young trees from wildlife; -increase the funding streams by introducing market-based financing

Table 8 Threat Analysis

Major threat to biodiversity	**Main Barriers**	**Activities to mitigate the threat**
Habitat loss and fragmentation due to degradation Conversion of natural habitats to agriculture, overstocking of livestock-overgrazing, and infrastructure development along wildlife corridors, leading to fragmented ecosystems.	The main barriers here are political or institutional barriers (poorly-enforced legislation), ecological or resource (land pressures and intensive grazing), social or cultural (conflict due to changing demographic pressure), financial/economic (limited and conditional funding)	-Advocate for stronger legal frameworks and enforcement of conservation and restoration laws by engaging policy makers at the county government level, building public awareness, and providing evidence-based recommendations . -Proper briefing about the project and the problems it aims to solve (increased awareness creation and promotion of community-led conservation) -Create collaborative partnerships to widen the chances of getting unconditional funds for the project.
Climate change: Changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events affecting species and ecosystems.	The barriers are categorized as in the above threat.	-Advocate for the formulation of collaborative partnerships to mobilise resources to support effective implementation of mitigation measures such as restoration of diverse and native vegetation.

		Enhancing native biodiversity, by planting ecozone appropriate trees, most of which are drought-tolerant, and to create ecological resilience and benefit other natural systems, making it a key in climate adaptation strategies.
Invasive species: Non-native species outcompeting native flora and fauna, altering natural ecosystem dynamics.	Technical barriers; lack of appropriate research equipment to study the biology of invasive species; limited knowledge and skills among the project staff and community members to manage the species. Financial/economic; limited funds to support research and trialling of new management approaches.	Build capacity for the project staff and community members to conduct regular monitoring and control the invasive species; diversify the income streams to support the research aspects of understanding invasive species which are ever changing with the changes in climate. Conduct comprehensive literature review and database search to expand knowledge on handling invasive species. Trial mechanical, chemical and biological methods to manage the populations.
Overexploitation. Unsustainable harvesting of wildlife and other natural resources for commercial, subsistence, and recreational purposes.	Political/institutional barriers; mainly including poorly enforced legislation and social/cultural barriers; deeply entrenched cultural practices that are not pro-nature	Advocate for the enforcement of stricter regulations and sustainable harvesting practices by collaborating with local authorities and community stakeholders to jointly develop and implement monitoring systems and community-led enforcement approaches. Promote alternative livelihoods to reduce dependence on over-

		exploited resources. Educate local communities about the importance of sustainable resource use.

3.7 Exclusion List

The project will not engage in any exclusion activities (See Annex 3).

3.8 Environmental and Social Screening

See Annex 4

3.9 Stacking and Double Counting

The project does not anticipate any Stacking or double counting because, there's no other Carbon or Biocredits project in the proposed project site.

3.10 Relevant Legislation and Policies

Table 9 National Level Legislation, Policies and Instruments

	Yes/No/Unsure	**Details**
Does the country receive or plan to receive results-based biodiversity or climate finance through bilateral or multilateral programs?	Yes	Kenya receives climate financing from various bi- and multi-lateral programs such as the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (for REDD+), German Development Cooperation (for several projects), Green Climate Fund (for agriculture), United Nations REDD+ Program (for REDD+) etc
Are there any other relevant regulations, policies or instruments?	Yes	Kenya has a comprehensive framework of regulations, policies and instruments; a. The Constitution of Kenya (2010)-article 69 mandates biodiversity conservation and climate action. (b.) Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA, 1999, amended 2015) -framework for environmental protection, including Environmental Impact Assessment

		(EIA), (c.) Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013) -Governs the protection and management of wildlife and their habitats and encourages community participation; (d) Climate Change Act (2016) Establishes the Climate Change Council and provides a framework for mainstreaming climate action into development planning etc

4 Governance and Administration

4.1 Governance Structure

The project will be led by the coordinator (CER-K) but the highest decision-making body will be a project steering committee comprised of representatives from CER-K, the Enarau conservancy and local community. The committees will meet quarterly, and as there is need, to review project progress and provide guidance on project priorities and resource allocation. Under the steering committee there will be a research and monitoring advisory team that will provide technical oversight and support on ecosystem restoration (activities), biodiversity monitoring, and GIS-based landscape management- this will include representatives from partner organisations including MMWCA, KWS, universities such as Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nottingham Trent University, and local experts in ecology, GIS, social scientists. There will also be a project coordination team to oversee daily operations of the project. This will include local conservation staff (Enarau-CERK monitoring team), rangers (employed from the local community), financial officers, among others. Additionally, a community engagement and empowerment group, will be established to promote a strong project ownership among the local communities by ensuring that their voices are incorporated in the decision-making. This will include the community liaison person (Enarau, an expert in socio-economic assessment), elected local community leaders and elders, representatives from women's and youth groups, the project may also include a tourism partner.

Decision-making will therefore aim to include input from all stakeholders and ensure accountability. This will be achieved through consultation and feedback with all stakeholders focusing on ensuring that the project aligns with local needs and priorities. The committee and the coordination team will deliberate on the best steps forward and make the final decision based on a consensus-building process where all the input from the community and other stakeholders are considered.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

The Kenya National Lands Commission has the overall authority of landownership in Kenya, and within the project region, Narok County government is fully aware of the Conservancy's activities including the proposed plan. Once the landowners lease their land to the Conservancy Trust, the authority for land changes to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) which is responsible for protected parks and conservation areas in the country. The conservancy then develops a Management Plan that is shared with KWS whenever it is revised. Land-use decisions made by CER-K and Enarau will have to

align with the management plan and as such this project aligns with the Management Plan. KWS, who have an outpost office within the conservancy, has been fully informed of all Conservancy's activities including the project. The project will seek a written confirmation from KWS as a confirmation beyond the letter of registration that the Conservancy received from them. The project will fully comply with all National and International policies, laws and regulations and will obtain any relevant permits and licences if required.

4.2 Financial Plan

The initial phases of the project have been 100% funded by donations and grants from individuals and philanthropic organisations, and we are working to diversify the funding streams by growing the number of donors. In the long-term, the project aims to add the sale of biodiversity credits to the sources of income to support the operations and to incentivise sustainable land management. Therefore, 60% of the funds generated from the sale of the credits will be used to support community-led initiatives and, in the initial phases, to pay leases for the project land, this will be in line with the outcomes of the decision-making approaches highlighted in the Participatory Design tab. The 40% will be used to fund restoration and conservation activities, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project.

5 Annexes

5.1 Annex 1 – Maps of Project Boundaries and Habitat Types

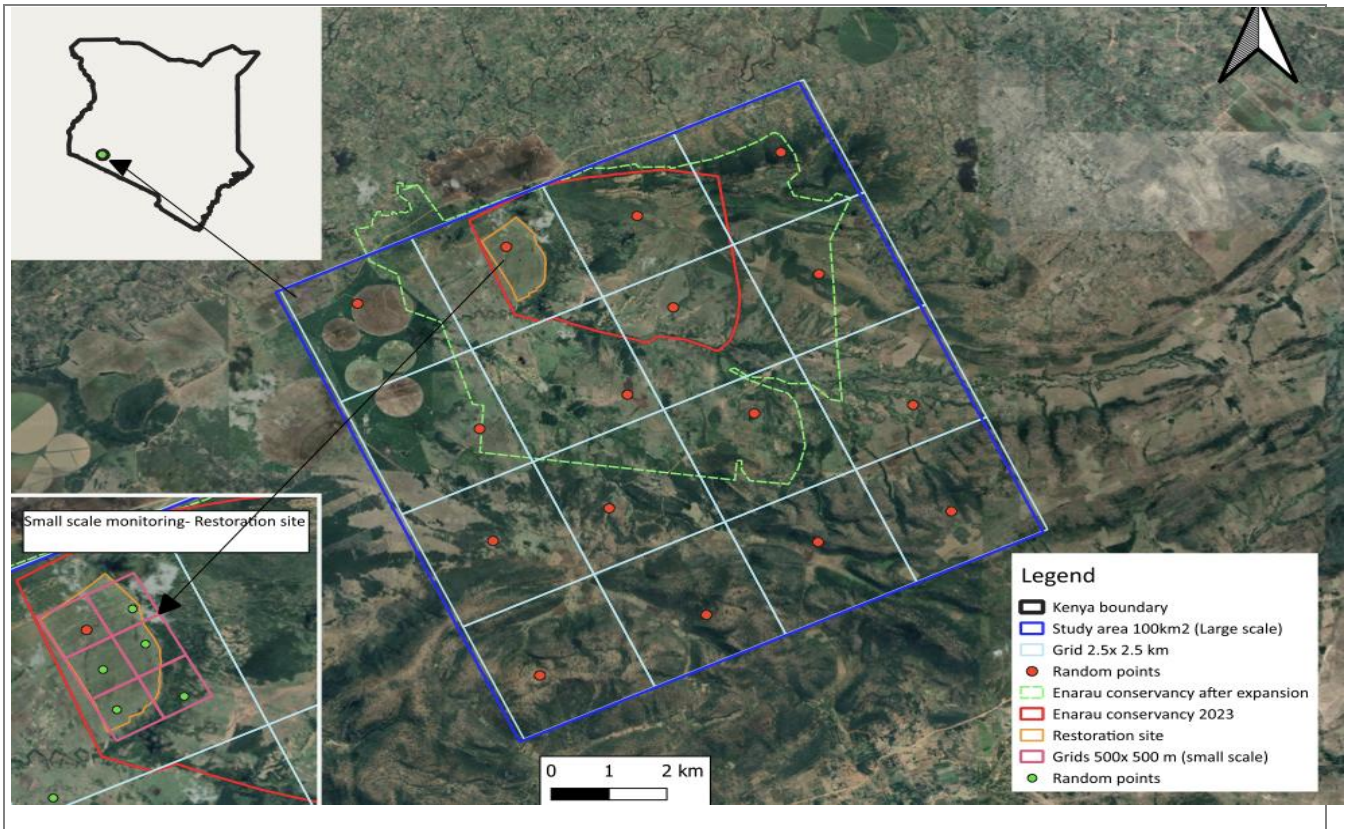

Figure 1. A map of the project region. The current conservancy boundary is shown in red and the proposed expansion plan is shown in green. In blue is a 100km2 grid where landscape biodiversity monitoring is being implemented using the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework.

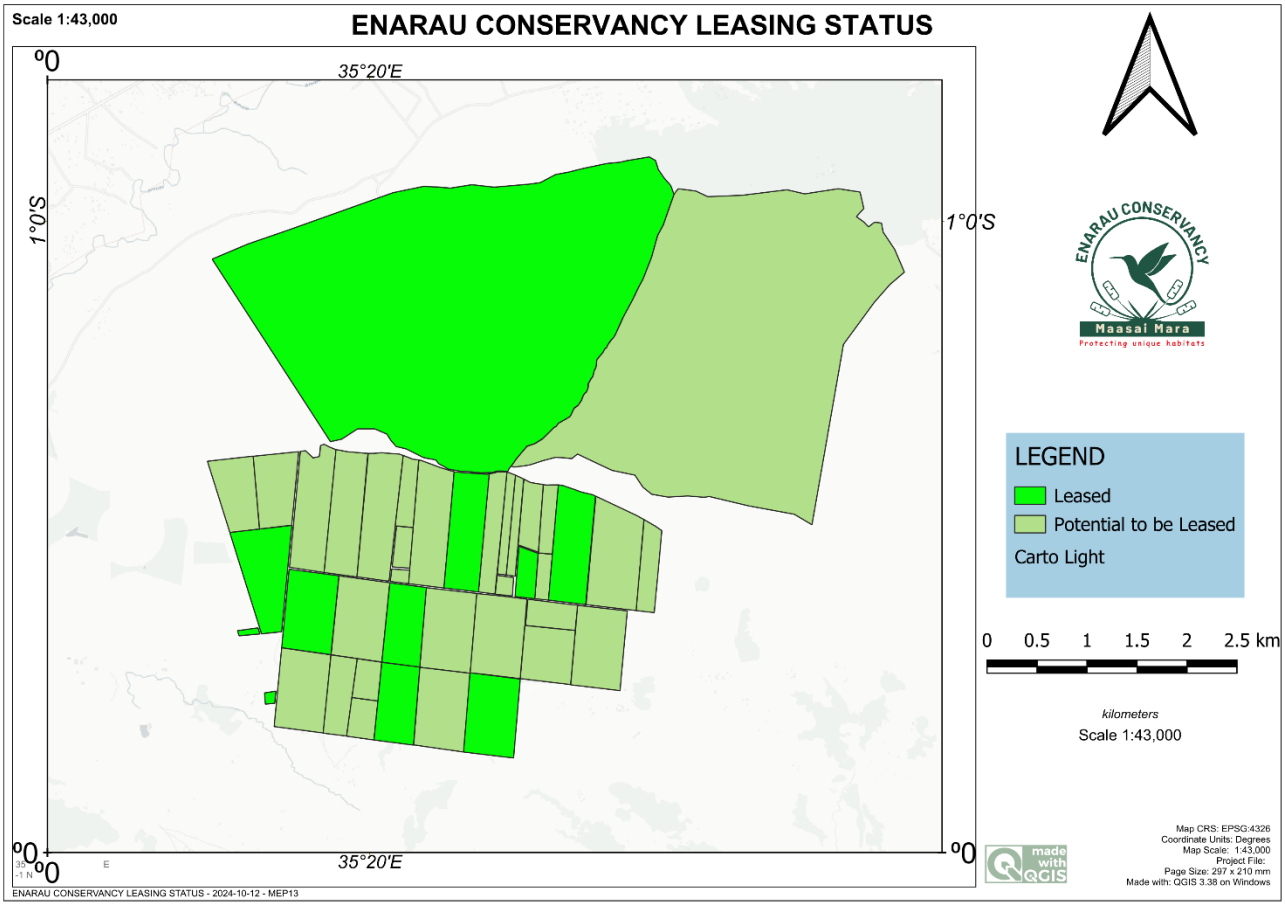

Figure 2. This is the current (neon green) and proposed (light green) boundaries of Enarau Conservancy. (This map shows the exact project area including the potential expansion).

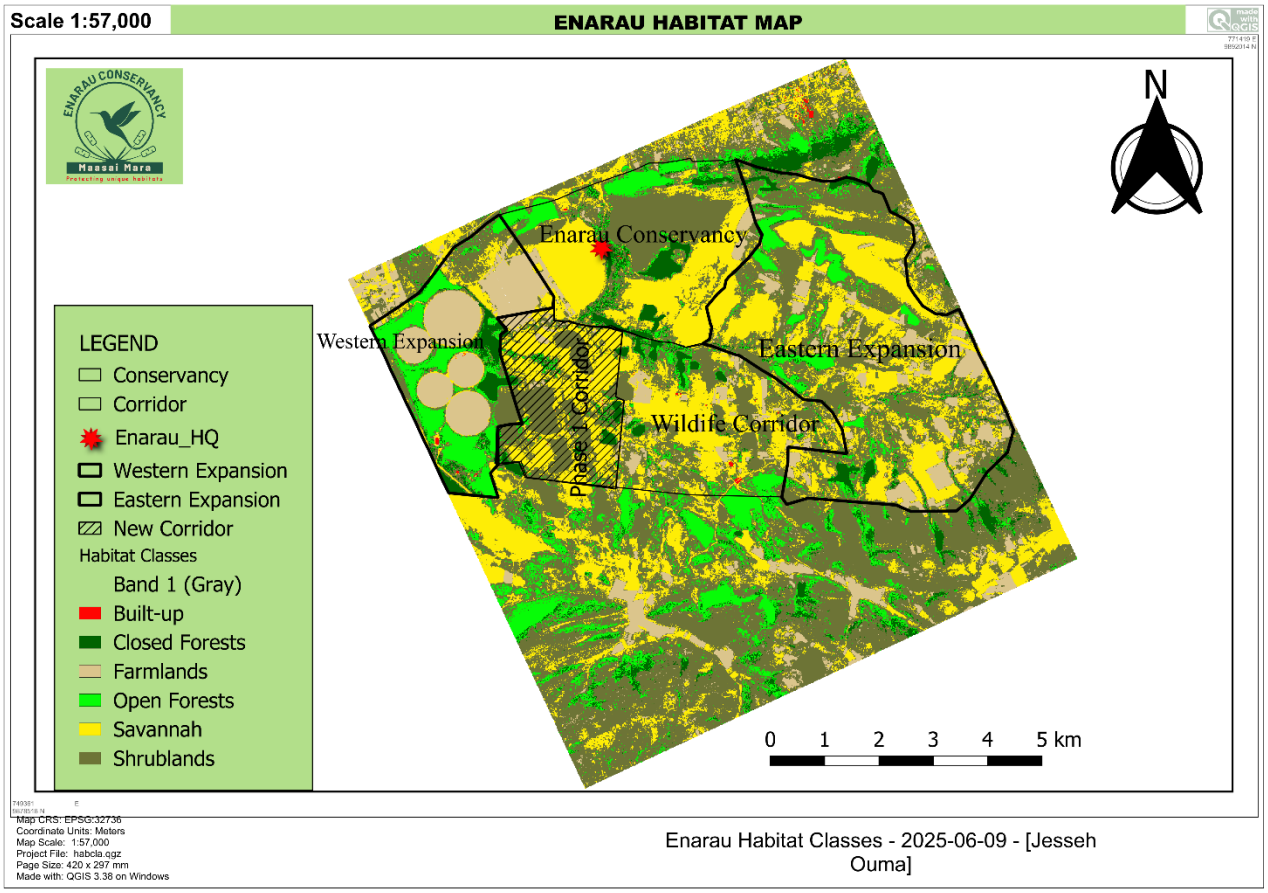

Figure 3. Habitat map for the project area; Enarau conservancy -the polygon in black shows the current boundary

5.2 Annex 2 – Registration Certificate

Shared separately

5.3 Annex 3 – Exclusion List

Activities	**Included in Project ('Yes' or 'No')**
Any project activities leading to or requiring the destruction [1] of critical habitat [2] or any forestry project which does not implement a plan for improvement and/or sustainable management.	NO
Any activity which could be associated with the significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection of cultural heritage (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).	NO
Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the CITES/Washington convention [3].	NO
Illegal, harvesting or trading in any wildlife resources.	NO
Destructive fishing methods or drift net fishing with a net more than 2.5 km in length, explosives and/or poison.	NO
Large-scale commercial logging operations for use in primary tropical moist forest.	NO

Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests [4].	NO
Exploitation of diamond mines and marketing of diamonds where the host country has not adhered to the Kimberley Process, and exploitation of other conflict minerals [5]	NO
Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour, [6] harmful child labour [7], modern slavery and human trafficking [8].	NO
Projects that include involuntary physical displacement and/or forced eviction.	NO
Production or activities that encroach on lands owned, or claimed or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of such peoples [9].	NO
Harmful and unsafe production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone layer depleting substances [10], and other toxic [11] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [12], wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally	NO
Production or trade of arms, ammunition, weaponry, controversial weapons, or components thereof (e.g., nuclear weapons and radioactive ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti -personnel mines, enriched uranium).	NO
Procurement and use of firearms.	YES
Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	NO
Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	NO
Production or trade of tobacco and other drugs	NO
Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking [13].	NO
Any trade related to pornography, prostitution or sexual exploitation of any form.	NO
Production or trade in radioactive material. This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded	NO
Production or trade in unbound asbestos. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20%.	NO
Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.	NO
Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations [14].	NO
Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [15].	NO
Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	NO
Projects involving the planting or introduction of invasive species	NO
Projects that increase the dependency of primary participants and other stakeholders on fossil fuels.	NO

Notes:

[1] Destruction means (1) the elimination or severe reduction in the integrity of a habitat/area caused by a major and long-term/prolonged change in land-use or water resources or (2) the modification of a habitat such that this habitat's ability to fulfil its function/ role is lost.

[2] The term critical habitat encompasses natural and modified habitats that deserve particular attention. This term includes (1) spaces with high biodiversity value as defined in the IUCN's classification criteria, including, in particular, habitats required for the survival of endangered species as defined by the IUCN's red list of threatened species or by any national legislation; (2) spaces with a particular importance for endemic species or whose geographical range is limited; (3) critical sites for the survival of migratory species; (4) spaces welcoming a significant number of individuals from congregatory species; (5) spaces presenting unique assemblages of species or containing species which are associated according to key evolution processes or which fulfil key ecosystem services; (6) and territories with socially, economically or culturally significant biodiversity for local communities. Primary forests or high conservation value forests must also be considered as critical habitats.

[3] https://cites.org/eng/disc/text.php

[4] Sustainably managed forests are forests managed in a way that balances ecological, economic and socio-cultural needs.

[5] Conflict minerals, including tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold, can be used to finance armed groups, fuel forced labour and other human rights abuses, and support corruption and money laundering. See the EU Regulation on conflict minerals: https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/development-and-sustainability/conflict-minerals-regulation/regulation-explained_en

[6] Forced labour means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

[7] Harmful child labour means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Employees must be at least 14 years of age, as defined in the ILO's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (C138 – Minimum Age Convention, Article 2), unless local laws require compulsory school attendance or a minimum working age. In such circumstances, the highest age requirement must be used.

[8] Modern slavery is comprised two key components: forced labour and forced marriage. These refer to situations of exploitation that a person cannot leave or refuse due to threats, violence, deception or coercion. (https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf)

[9] https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/fpic/en/

[10] Any chemical component which reacts with, and destroys, the stratospheric ozone layer leading to the formation of holes in this layer. The Montreal Protocol lists Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), their reduction targets and deadlines for phasing them out.

[11] Including substances included under the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and WHO "Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability".

[12] PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of highly toxic chemical products that may be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950 to 1985.

[13] Any direct financing of these projects or activities involving them (for example, a hotel including a casino). Urban improvement plans which could subsequently incorporate such projects are not affected.

[14] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal (1989).

[15] "Critical cultural heritage" is considered as any heritage element recognised internationally or nationally as being of historical, social and/or cultural interest.

5.4 Annex 4 – Environmental and Social Screening

The section has been completed by answering each risk question and, where relevant, details have been included of any activities that will be carried out to better understand or mitigate potential risks. It has been removed from here but will now feed into the PDD.

5.5 Annex 5 – Notification of Relevant Authorities

Correspondence addressed to the authorities with overall responsibility for land management and greenhouse gas emissions assessment within the project region informing them of the project will be provided in the PDD

5.6 Appendix 1 – Criteria for Key Biodiversity Areas

A. Threatened biodiversity		
A1 Threatened species		Assessment parameters
A1a	≥0.5% of global population size and ≥5 reproductive units (RU) of a CR/EN species	(i) no. of mature individuals (ii) area of occupancy (iii) extent of suitable habitat (iv) range (v) no. of localities (vi) distinct genetic diversity
A1b	≥1.0% of global population size and ≥10 RU of a VU species	
A1c	≥0.1% of global population size and ≥5 RU of a species listed as CR/EN due only to past/current decline [= Red List A1, A2, A4 only]	
A1d	≥0.2% of global population size and ≥10 RU of a species listed as VU due only to past/current decline [= Red List A1, A2, A4 only]	
A1e	Effectively the entire population size of a CR/EN species	
A2 Threatened ecosystem types		
A2a	≥5% of global extent of a CR or EN ecosystem type	
A2b	≥10% of global extent of a VU ecosystem type	
B. Geographically restricted biodiversity		
B1. Individual geographically restricted species	≥10% of global population size and ≥10 RU of any species	(i) no. of mature individuals (ii) area of occupancy (iii) extent of suitable habitat (iv) range (v) no. of localities (vi) distinct genetic diversity
B2. Co-occurring geographically restricted species	≥1% of global population size of each of a number of restricted range species in a taxonomic group: ≥2 species or 0.02% of the total number of species in the taxonomic group, whichever is larger	
B3. Geographically restricted assemblages		
B3a	≥0.5% of global population size of each of a number of ecoregion-restricted species in a taxonomic group: ≥5 species or 10% of the species restricted to ecoregion, whichever is larger	(i) no. of mature individuals (ii) area of occupancy (iii) extent of suitable habitat (iv) range (v) no. of localities
B3b	≥5 RU of ≥5 bioregion-restricted species or ≥5 RU of 30% of the bioregion-restricted species known from the country, whichever is larger	
B3c	Site is part of the globally most important 5% of occupied habitat for ≥5 species in the taxonomic group	(i) relative density of mature individuals (ii) relative abundance of mature individuals
B4. Geographically restricted ecosystem types		
	≥20% of the global extent of an ecosystem type	
C. Ecological integrity		
	Site is one of ≤2 per ecoregion with wholly intact ecological communities	composition and abundance of species and interactions
D. Biological processes		
D1. Demographic aggregations		
D1a	≥1% of global population size of a species, over a season, and during ≥1 key stage in life cycle	no. of mature individuals
D1b	Site is among largest 10 aggregations of the species	no. of mature individuals
D2. Ecological refugia	≥10% of global population during periods of environmental stress	no. of mature individuals
D3. Recruitment sources	Produces propagules, larvae or juveniles maintaining ≥10% of global population size	no. of mature individuals
E. Irreplaceability through quantitative analysis		

5.7 Appendix 2 – Criteria for Important Plant Areas

Sub-criterion	Threshold
(A) Threatened species	
A(i) Site contains one or more **globally threatened** species	Site known, thought or inferred to contain **≥1%** of the global population AND/OR **≥5%** of the national population OR the **5 "best sites"** for that species nationally, whichever is most appropriate
A(ii) Site contains one or more **regionally threatened** species	Site known, thought or inferred to contain **≥5%** of the national population, OR the **5 "best sites"** for that species nationally, whichever is most appropriate
A(iii) Site contains one or more **highly restricted endemic** species that are potentially threatened	Site known, thought or inferred to contain **≥1%** of the global population AND/OR **≥5%** of the national population, OR the **5 "best sites"** for that species nationally, whichever is most appropriate
A(iv) Site contains one or more **range restricted endemic** species that are potentially threatened	Site known, thought or inferred to contain **≥1%** of the global population AND/OR **≥5%** of the national population, OR the **5 "best sites"** for that species nationally, whichever is most appropriate
(B) Botanical richness	
B(i) Site contains a **high number of species** within **defined habitat or vegetation types**	For each habitat or vegetation type: up to 10% of the national resource can be selected within the whole national IPA network OR the **5 "best sites"** nationally, whichever is the most appropriate
B(ii) Site contains an **exceptional number of species of high conservation importance**	Site known to contain **≥3%** of the selected national list of species of conservation importance OR the **15 richest sites** nationally, whichever is most appropriate
B(iii) Site contains an **exceptional number of socially, economically or culturally valuable species**	Site known to contain **≥3%** of the selected national list of socially, economically or culturally valuable species OR the **15 richest sites** nationally, whichever is most appropriate
(C) Threatened habitat	
C(i) Site contains **globally threatened or restricted** habitat/vegetation type	Site known, thought or inferred to contain **≥5%** of the national resource (area) of the threatened habitat type OR site is among the best quality examples required to collectively prioritise **20–60%** of the national resource OR the **5 "best sites"** for that habitat nationally, whichever is the most appropriate
C(ii) Site contains **regionally threatened or restricted** habitat/vegetation type	Site known, thought or inferred to contain **≥5%** of the national resource (area) of the threatened habitat type OR site is among the best quality examples required to collectively prioritise **20–60%** of the national resource OR the **5 "best sites"** for that habitat nationally, whichever is the most appropriate
C(iii) Site contains **nationally threatened or restricted** habitat/vegetation type, AND/OR habitats that have **severely declined in extent** nationally	Site known, thought or inferred to contain **≥10%** of the national resource (area) of the threatened habitat type OR site is among the best quality examples required to collectively prioritise up to **20%** of the national resource OR the **5 "best sites"** for that habitat nationally, whichever is most appropriate