MEP October 2025 Report

The Mara Elephant Project (MEP) rangers on parade during the October Mashujaa Day Celebrations convened by the County Government of Narok at Sogoo High School in Narok South Sub County.

GENERAL

In October, MEP staff took part in two important trainings, data protection and mental health awareness, leading up to World Mental Health Day. The data protection session equipped staff and rangers with essential tools to manage and safeguard information responsibly, reinforcing MEP's commitment to transparency, integrity, and accountability across our work. The mental health awareness training was highly interactive, bringing together all departments and rangers in group activities that encouraged open conversations, teamwork, and reflection. These sessions reminded us that caring for our mental wellbeing is just as vital as protecting wildlife. At MEP, we believe that strong teams create lasting impact and investing in our people strengthens every part of our mission to protect elephants, communities, and wild spaces.

SECURITY, ANTI-POACHING & CONFLICT

In collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Vet Dr. Njoroge from the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT) Mobile Vet Unit in October, the MEP team participated in the de-collaring and treatment of collared elephant Kiambi at Ol-Kinyei Conservancy. The collar was safely removed after serving its purpose of tracking and monitoring his movements for over 8 years.

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

In October, MEP rangers removed 74 snares pushing the total number of snares removed by MEP in 2025 to an unbelievable 1,000. Since 2022, the number of snares removed has almost doubled year-to-year. These snares, set by bushmeat poachers, are designed to trap smaller wildlife but they also pose a threat to elephants. Hidden in thick undergrowth, the nearly invisible wires can easily entangle an elephant's legs or trunk, causing potentially life-threatening injuries. On their daily foot patrols, MEP rangers are vigilantly looking for these deadly traps. When they find them, they dismantle and remove them by hand a challenging but vital task in protecting wildlife across the Mara.

MEP rangers assisted our partner KWS Vet Dr. Njoroge from the SWT Mobile Vet Unit to respond to an elephant with multiple arrow wounds. Located from the air in the Mau Forest, the elephant was successfully treated for injuries on both front legs and one hind leg. After the treatment, MEP rangers stayed close to monitor his recovery.

Preserving the Masai Mara is a shared responsibility. While regular waste management is carried out by dedicated teams across the Maasai Mara National Reserve (MMNR), its vast size (spanning over 580 square miles) means that some areas can be difficult to reach and that litter occasionally blows in from surrounding settlements and camps. In Late October, MEP joined partners from across the Mara for a volunteer clean-up to help fill those gaps and give back to the place that gives the Mara so much. Over 300 participants from NGOs, companies and tourist camps joined forces to collect and recycle waste found in the MMNR. These volunteer efforts don't replace the important maintenance already happening year-round; they complement it to strengthen community involvement and reaffirm the importance of collectively caring for the Mara.

Overall, in October, MEP rangers alongside government partners arrested 10 habitat destruction suspects, confiscated three power saws and 2,990 posts, removed 74 snares, destroyed nine charcoal kilns, 37 charcoal sacks and mitigated 21 human-elephant conflict incidents.

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

HELICOPTER

The MEP helicopter was in action in October assisting our partners KWS in collaring and translocating a bull elephant from Solio ranch to Meru National Park. A powerful reminder of collaboration in action, protecting Kenya's giants one flight at a time. Also, in October, MEP was featured in the latest edition of RotorHub International magazine. The article highlights how our helicopter and pilot Marc Goss support elephant conservation and local communities across the Mara ecosystem. We're grateful to Rotorhub International for showcasing the role of our helicopter in protecting Kenya's wildlife and for recognizing the dedication of our aviation team, rangers, and partners who make this work possible. Check out the article in full (page 60) on this Link.

DRONES FOR CONSERVATION

The MEP drone patrol teams conducted aerial patrols across the Mara in October recording a total of 123 events including 33 elephant sightings, four search and rescue operations, 43 elephant monitoring exercises, six cattle count exercises, assisted in three treatment operation, and drones were also flown 33 times in the whole month of October to mitigate 21 human elephant conflict cases.

In October, MEP rangers witnessed something amazing. They responded to a report that elephants entered a fenced in settlement area. Upon arrival, they found a young family group, a 20-year-old mother, her 7-year-old sub-adult, and a three-week-old calf. With careful coordination, they deployed their drone to help the elephants navigate the fences while guiding them back to safety. That's when it happened. They captured the elephant mom using one of the fence posts to pry open the wired fence so the young calf could safely pass through. A clever mom who got a little help from her ranger allies. The family was safely guided back into Naboisho Conservancy.

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

Late one evening in the Maji Moto area in October, the MEP 'Mobile' ranger team responded to a report of a lone bull elephant wandering closely to community settlements. Using the DJI Mavic 3T thermal drone, the rangers were able to quickly locate the elephant in the dark and safely guide him away from the area without harm. Some elephants are known to rest within protected areas during the day and move into settlements at night in search of food or water. Before thermal drones, mitigation techniques were limited at night, but now operations are efficient and effective to reduce risk to both the elephants and people.

This mother and her calves were trapped within a maze of fences. The MEP 'Foxtrot' ranger team rapidly responded and deployed their drone to start delicately guiding them out. It took about an hour of coordinated efforts with the vehicle on the ground, but eventually they got them to safety. Without drones, operations like this would have taken much longer and been more stressful for both the elephants and our ground teams.

Also, in October, the MEP 'Mobile' ranger team deployed their drone to guide a herd of elephants moving toward a settlement area back to safety. The Maji Moto area lies between the Loita Hills and the open plains and is known for high levels of human-elephant conflict (HEC) as it forms part of a key elephant corridor connecting Mosiro and the Maasai Mara. To better understand elephant movements and reduce HEC, MEP alongside our government partners has collared elephants like Lempiris in this region, with plans to track additional individuals to inform our mitigation response. Mitigation situations like this remind us how crucial it is to balance the needs of wildlife with the safety of people, and how impactful boots on the ground are to promote coexistence.

COMMUNICATIONS & FUNDRAISING

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

In October, MEP celebrated World Habitat Day, Kenya Mashujaa Day and Halloween. MEP also released the 3rd quarter newsletter highlighting collaring and treatment operations, the upcoming UltraMARAthon event in November, trainings, and the success of the just concluded Wildlife Ranger Challenge. Read the full article here

Mara Elephant Project Trust in Kenya received $726,186 in donations in October. Thank you to the Basecamp Explorer Foundation – Kenya, Kampur Travel Diaries and all those who gave in support of the Ultramarathon.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

In October, MEP hosted 17 guests from the Oakland Zoo at Serena Mara Camp and another group of 20 guests from Kicheche Mara Camp. MEP is grateful for the support and the fruitful partnerships cultivated.

The MEP long-term monitoring (LTM) team recently had the opportunity to engage 30 enthusiastic students from two schools in a biodiversity camp supported by Governors' Camp through their Children in the Wilderness program. During the camp, MEP joined our partners to lead interactive sessions, nature walks, and hands-on learning experiences to promote a deeper appreciation of the vital role biodiversity plays in sustaining life and ecosystems. Our goal in joining experiences like this are to foster environmental awareness among the young learners and inspire them to become future ambassadors for conservation in their communities.

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

MEP had the opportunity to attend a human–elephant conflict meeting in the Maji Moto area, together with representatives from KWS, and approximately 133 community members. The community shared their concerns related to HEC, which included destroyed fences, crop raiding, livestock killing by elephants, damage to water points, and children being unable to attend school due to elephants frequenting paths near learning institutions. Despite the frustration expressed by the affected families, the discussion concluded on a positive note. MEP raised awareness on how the increasing number of fences in the landscape restricts elephant movement, leading them to remain in the area and escalate conflict. KWS committed to processing compensation claims every three months, while the community agreed to allocate space for a ranger camp and collaborate with rangers to help reduce HEC incidents and improve local safety.

RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

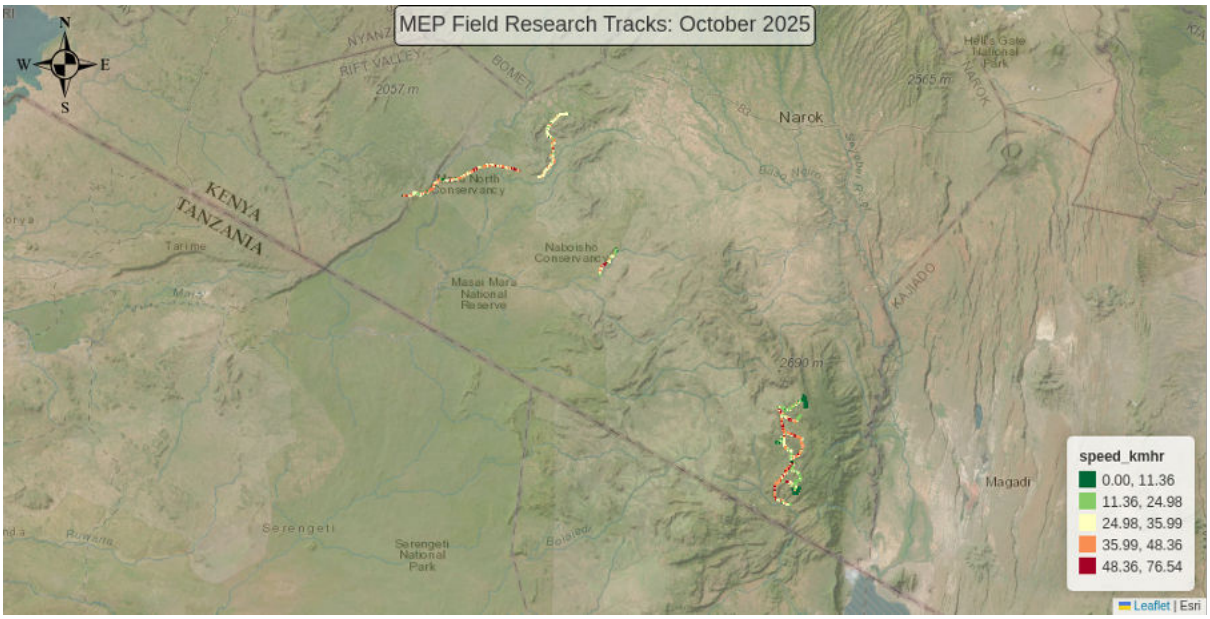
Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) Team

The long-term monitoring (LTM) team conducted 24 elephant sightings, recording 130 individuals which included 45 cows, 22 bulls, 40 sub-adults and 23 calves. This continuous monitoring is important as it helps track elephant population trends and movement patterns, supporting informed conservation decisions across the Greater Mara landscape.

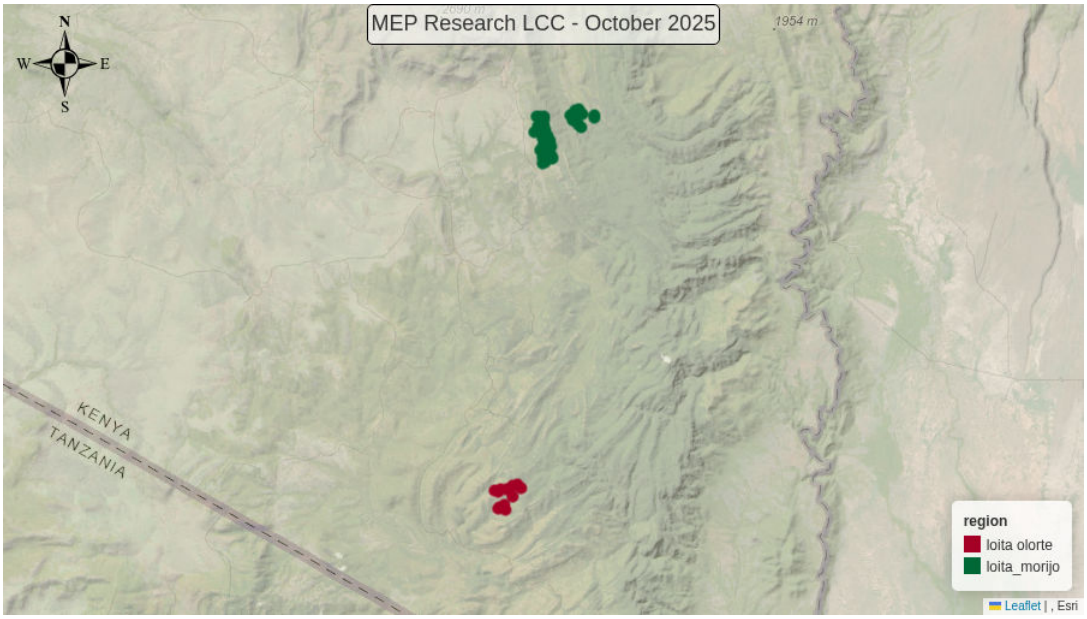
Also, in October, members of the research team, Sarafina Sironka and Francis Odero, visited Kalepo Community Conservancy to introduce the ElephantBook, EarthRanger and Ecoscope software systems. The main aim was to help Kalepo community rangers and researchers to learn how to record elephant sightings, identify individuals, and track movements using digital tools for data and reporting management. This visit helped build the team's skills and encouraged the use of technology in conservation. MEP also strengthened collaboration between the conservancy and other partners working to protect elephants and improve wildlife monitoring in this landscape.

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

Data and Reporting Team



Movements of MEP's two field assistant in October. All of our field assistants are working on mapping fences, roads, and landcover ground-truthing points using motorbikes and our TerraChart app. They covered a total of 260.76 km and recorded 5.1 km of fences and 69 LCC points in October.

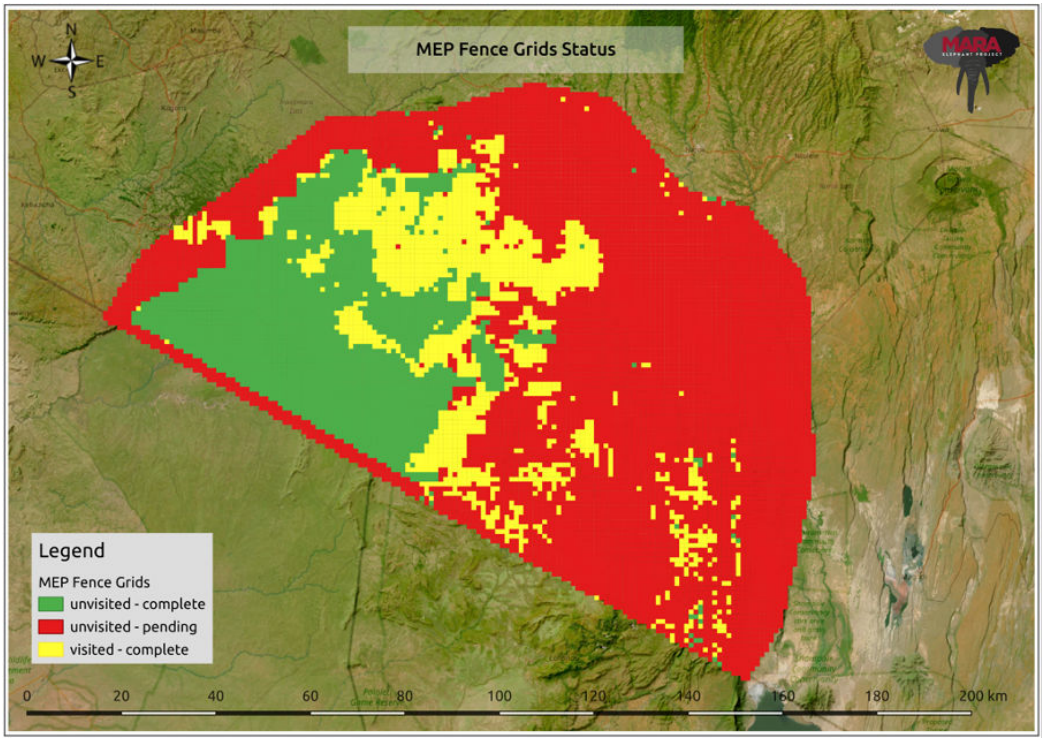


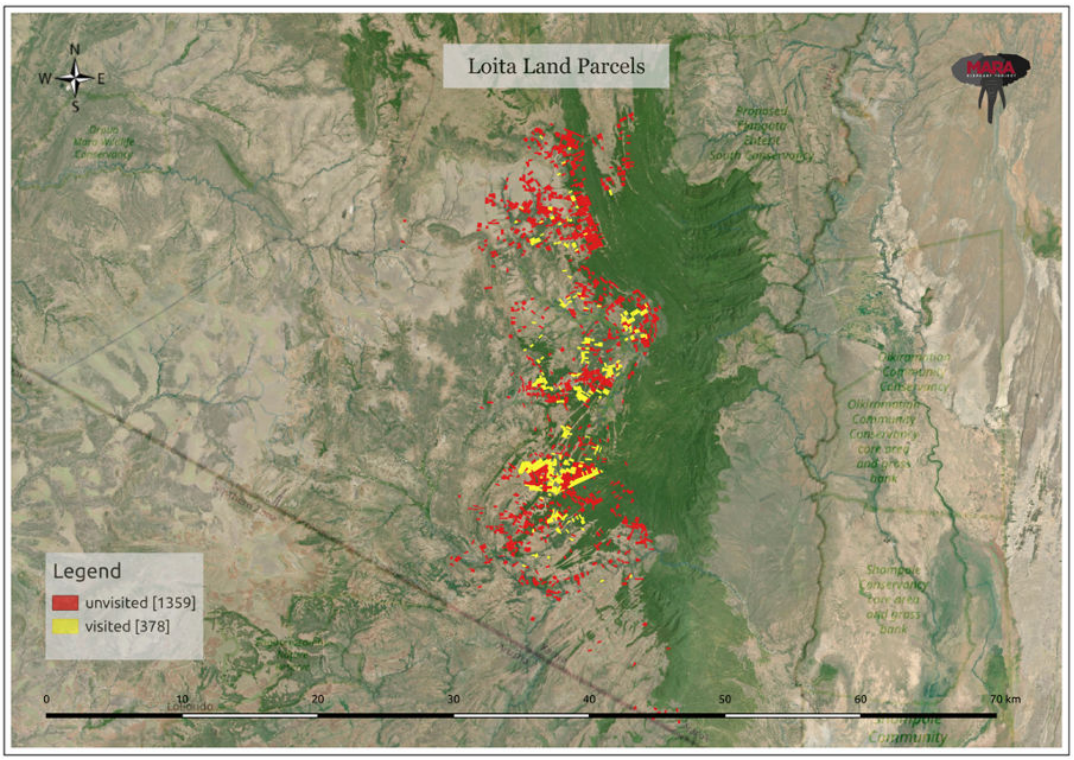
69 LCC points were collected in the month of October.

Geospatial Mapping

In October, MEP's field assistants visited a total of 65 grids. (40- Visited Complete, 25- Unvisited Complete). They mapped a significant number of roads and physical features, including 5.1 km of fences. Also, 378 land parcels across the Loita region were visited. The LandDX team summarized this month's data as depicted in the image below.

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org





P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

MEP Coexistence Farm

General Update

The MEP coexistence team, under the out-grower program, held a meeting at one of the rosemary farms, attended by 21 participants. The session focused on financial management and provided an opportunity for participants to refresh their knowledge from previous entrepreneurship training. Notably, several women have since initiated small personal businesses, demonstrating improved well-being and reinforcing the value of livelihood diversification as a key component of human-wildlife coexistence.

After a year of dedicated care and close monitoring, the team successfully harvested the first batch of tea tree. The crop, nurtured from planting through its full growth cycle, yielded an impressive 3,815 kilograms of fresh tea tree material. The harvest was delivered to *Kutoka Ardhini*, a local processing unit in the Mara linked to Fair oils, ensuring that farmers benefit from a sustainable and transparent value chain. In the middle of the month, a group of elephants visited the site and, for the first time, destroyed our kitchen garden. They consumed nearly all the onions—both bulb and leafy varieties—along with spinach, tulips, beetroot, and Managu that had already matured. Interestingly, the elephants showed little interest in the Sukuma wiki (kale), leaving most of it untouched.

In the last two days of the month, the CEO and Deputy CEO, and the coexistence project manager attended the Mara Coordination Forum organized by The Maa Trust. The forum aimed to bring together organizations working across the Mara in both development and conservation sectors to enhance collaboration, reduce duplication of efforts, and ensure that no areas or communities are left unattended. The meeting provided a valuable platform for sharing lessons, aligning activities, and strengthening partnerships toward a more coordinated and impactful approach to conservation and community development in the Mara ecosystem.

Education Program

The conservation education team successfully completed end-of-year assessments in ten schools. As part of the exercise, the team screened The Elephant Queen film for all students to enhance their understanding of the relationship between elephants, communities, and the importance of habitat protection and long-term conservation efforts. This creative approach effectively leveraged students' interests to promote awareness and

P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

dialogue on wildlife conservation. Please find attached the detailed end-of-year assessment notes for your reference.

On October 10, the team celebrated *Mazingira Day* at Olorkoti High School by planting 350 trees together with students and teachers. The Form Four students expressed a strong desire for the MEP Education Program's support as they hope to leave a lasting legacy for future classes through environmental stewardship. During the event, the team also showcased the use of drones in conservation, inspiring students to think innovatively and see how technology can play a key role in protecting wildlife and the environment, promoting hands-on environmental action but also encouraging young people to view themselves as part of the solution to conservation challenges.

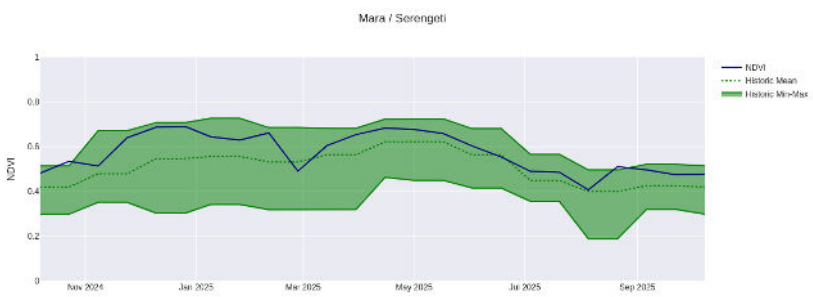
Climate Report
MEP's Co-Existence Farm Rainfall Recording October 2025

Date	Rain gauge 2 (200m2)
2025_10_4	66
2025_10_20	23
2025_10_23	6.4
2025_10_24	4
2025_10_25	14
2025_10_29	7.4
2025_10_30	3

ENVIRONMENT: NDVI

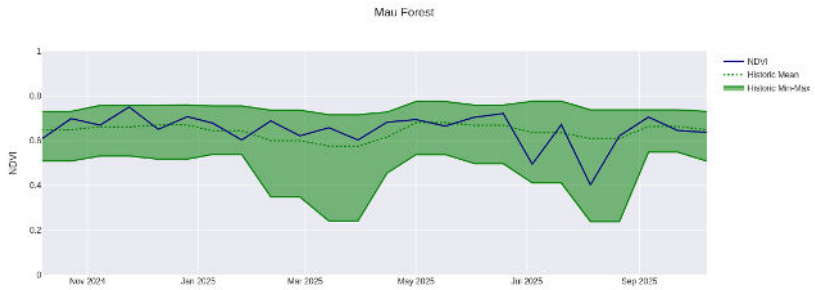
The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is a measure of plant photosynthetic activity. Higher NDVI indicates the plant is greener. The blue trend line shows the current value, while the green shaded area shows the min-max range of values centered around the green trend line from values measured back to February 2000.

Greater Mara Ecosystem (GME)

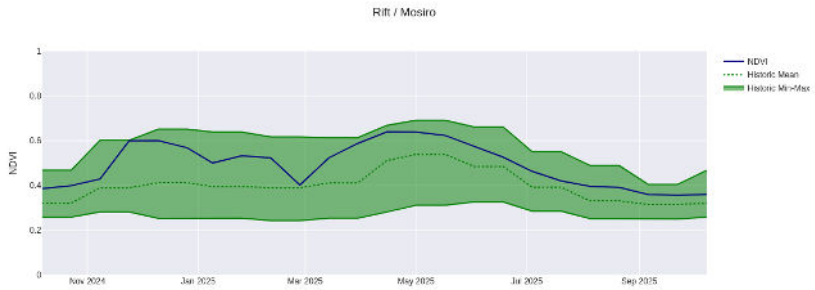


P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

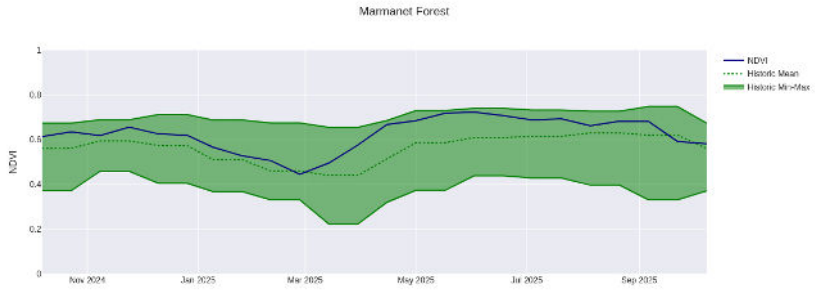
Mau



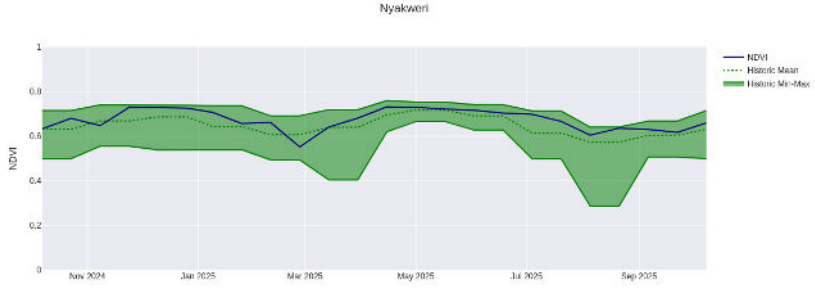
Rift Valley /Mosiro



Marmanet Forest

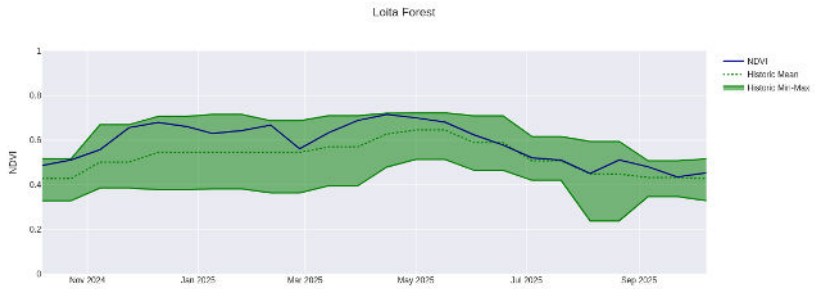


Nyakweri Forest

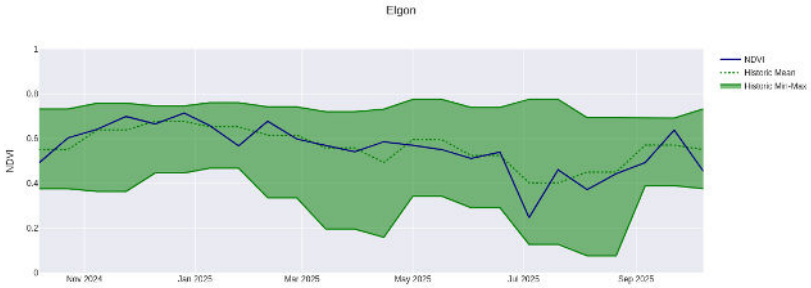


P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org

Loita Forest



Elgon



P.O. BOX 2606 · NAIROBI · 00502 · KENYA · TEL: +254707280033 · +254742016702
USA Office: 4000 W. 106TH STREET · SUITE 125-238 · CARMEL · INDIANA · 46032 · USA · 317-344-2863
E-MAIL: info@maraelephantproject.org · www.maraelephantproject.org