

# MWIBALE ROCK ECOLOGE

BUNGOMA DISTRICT, KENYA

OWNER Local Community SUSTAINABLE MASTER PLANNER EDSA (United States) ARCHITECT Hitesh Mehta (Kenya/United States)  
COMMUNITY ECOTOURISM SPECIALIST John Ochola (Kenya)

**M**wibale Rock Lodge is located to the south of Bungoma town on a rock promontory (Mwibale Rock Hill) within Bungoma District, Western Kenya. The lodge will have a capacity of twenty beds and a cultural center that will be used by all the Luhya subtribes for cultural entertainment. Other amenities include an outdoor amphitheater and a gazebo to be located at the top of the rock hill.

Only environmentally friendly materials sourced from the region will be used on the project: Rock from the existing site will completely camouflage the lodge within the hill, and all external materials will be natural—wood, stone, or grass—their earth colors making the lodge blend further into its surroundings. Water will be captured from the existing dam, filtered, and used for drinking, washing, and cooking, and dry composting toilets will be used to save water. Energy will be conserved through use of solar power and candles. Unskilled and semiskilled construction workers will be

sourced from the immediate community while skilled staff will be sourced nationally. Handicrafts, pottery, and other cultural products will be purchased from the whole of Western Province.

Mwibale Rock Lodge will be developed using a partnership model: Donors will provide initial seed funding, the private sector will build and operate the lodge, and the local community will provide the land, labor, and materials.

The lodge implementation is currently in need of a private sector partnership.

