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Editor's Note

Welcome to the *Journal of Conflict Management and Sustainable Development*, Volume 11, No.5. The Journal is an interdisciplinary publication that focuses on key and emerging themes in Conflict Management, Sustainable Development and other related fields of knowledge.

Sustainable Development has been embraced at both the global and national levels as the blue print for socio-economic development and governance. The Journal interrogates and offers solutions to some of the current concerns in the Sustainable Development Agenda. It also explores the role of Conflict Management in the attainment of Sustainable Development.

The Journal has witnessed significant growth since its launch and is now a widely cited and authoritative publication in the fields of Conflict Management and Sustainable Development. The Editorial Team welcomes feedback and suggestions from our readers across the globe to enable us to continue improving the Journal.

The Journal is peer reviewed and refereed in order to adhere to the highest quality of academic standards and credibility of information. Papers submitted to the Journal are taken through a rigorous review by our team of internal and external reviewers.

This volume contains papers on various themes including: *Protecting Our Endangered Species for Sustainability; Changing The Narrative on the Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment: Analysing Ecocentrism as a Possible Method of Environmental Governance in Kenya; Integrating Environmental Social & Governance (ESG) Principles into Corporate Governance in Kenya: Trends, Challenges, and Best Practices; Problematic Overlaps and Duplication of Mandates of State and Governmental Agencies in Kenya: Proposals for Legal and Institutional Reform; Lesson Study: Towards an Improved Instruction in Stem Education in Junior Secondary Schools In Kenya; Management of Industrial Waste water in Kenya: Case study of Mavoko; Does the Law Work? A Case of Kenyan Prison Congestion and the Witchcraft Act; Fostering Sustainable Lifestyles for Posterity; Legislating to Protect and Compensate Whistleblowers in Kenya: An Appraisal of*

the Proposed Whistleblower Protection Bill, 2023; The Phenomena of Resource Curse and How to Navigate around it; Primary Teacher Education and Kenya's Vision 2030. The Lacuna in the Transformation Agenda; Mitigating the Environmental Impact of Oil: Strategies for Sustainable Development; and The Implications of Implementing Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) System: A Comparative Appraisal. The Journal also contains a book review of Towards Human Rights and Prosperity for All and a review of Journal of Appropriate Dispute Resolution (ADR) & Sustainability Volume 2 Issue 3.

We welcome feedback, comments and critique from our readers to enable us to continue improving the Journal.

I wish to thank all those who have made this publication possible including reviewers, editors and contributors.

The Editorial Team also welcomes the submission of articles to be considered for publication in subsequent issues of the Journal. Submissions can be channeled to admin@kmco.co.ke and copied to editor@journalofcmsd.net. Our readers can access the Journal online at <https://journalofcmsd.net>.

Hon. Prof. Kariuki Muigua Ph.D, FCI Arb, Ch. Arb, OGW.
Professor of Environmental Law and Conflict Management
Editor, Nairobi,
November, 2024.

The Implications of Implementing Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) System: A Comparative Appraisal

*By: Michael Sang **

Abstract

This paper examines the implementation of Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) system, analysing its merits and gaps in the context of global and regional security norms. This paper highlights key gaps in Kenya's eTA system such as data privacy concerns, potential for system misuse, adequacy of infrastructure to support seamless implementation, and the readiness of border control to adapt to new digital processes. These gaps point towards the need for robust data protection measures, system security enhancements, infrastructure upgrades, and comprehensive training for personnel. The paper also highlights the legal and policy framework for immigration and visa-free travel into Kenya, which encompasses several key instruments. By comparing Kenya's approach with the robust border control systems of the UK and Australia, it identifies lessons in data privacy, regional integration, and border security enforcement. The study suggests strategies for Kenya to enhance its eTA system, aiming for a balance between facilitating travel and ensuring national security, drawing on international best practices.

Key Words: *Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) System, Kenya, Data Privacy, Border Security, Visa Free Travel, Immigration*

1. Introduction

This paper delves into the recent implementation of Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) system, a pivotal move aimed at streamlining entry

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processes and enhancing security measures at its borders.¹ Amidst the backdrop of a rapidly globalizing world, where the movement of people and goods across borders is more fluid than ever, Kenya's initiative seeks to harmonize with global standards while addressing unique regional challenges. This exploration draws critical insights from the established practices of the United Kingdom and Australia, nations renowned for their robust border control mechanisms.

Through a comparative lens, the paper aims to uncover the strengths and weaknesses of Kenya's eTA system, focusing on its effectiveness in combating illicit activities such as smuggling and human trafficking, the safeguarding of data privacy, and the facilitation of regional integration. By integrating international best practices, Kenya aspires to bolster its border security and foster a safer, more integrated regional and global community.

The paper starts by addressing borderless Travel in a Globalized and Interconnected World. It then discusses The Legal and Policy Framework for Immigration and Visa Free Travel into Kenya. Finally, it underscores an Appraisal of the Merits and Gaps of Kenya's eTA System, drawing lessons from the United Kingdom and Australia.

2. Borderless Travel in a Globalized and Interconnected World

2.1 The Ideal and Practical Application

The ideal of borderless travel is driven by the greater connectivity and interdependence among countries.² This trend supports the demand for reduced border controls, facilitating easier movement of people, goods, and services across international boundaries, thus enhancing economic and social

¹ Kenya Embassy Washington D.C 'Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)' available at <https://kenyaembassydc.org/eta/> accessed 19 February 2024

² Sita (2022) 'The Role of Electronic Travel Authorizations' *Positioning Paper* V1.0

integration.³ Globalization is driving the demand for borderless travel by enhancing economic integration and cultural exchange, making international collaboration and mobility essential.⁴ Developed countries, such as the UK and Australia, which shall be discussed later, recognizing the economic and social benefits, are increasingly adopting measures such as Electronic Travel Authorizations (ETAs) to streamline entry processes while maintaining security. This approach facilitates easier travel for business, tourism, and education, reflecting a broader trend towards more open, interconnected global societies.⁵ However, this ideal faces practical challenges, particularly the issue of massive and irregular migration. Balancing the benefits of increased mobility with the need to manage and regulate migration flows presents a complex dilemma for nations worldwide, requiring sophisticated and balanced policy responses.⁶

2.2 Growing Trend of Visa Free Travel in Africa

The trend of visa-free travel in Africa represents a significant step towards the dream of continental integration, aiming to facilitate easier movement across borders, enhance trade, and foster closer ties among African nations. Despite the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been notable progress in visa policies across the continent.⁷ Many African countries have maintained or improved their visa openness scores, with a push towards more liberal visa policies and the adoption of e-Visa systems.

³ Safebound Moving & Storage 'The Global Citizen: Embracing a Borderless World through Relocation' available at <https://safeboundmoving.com/the-concept-of-a-global-citizen/#:~:text=As%20people%20become%20more%20mobile,to%20embrace%20a%20borderless%20world>. Accessed 19 February 2024

⁴ Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) (2022) 'Evaluation of the Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) Program' E4-2019

⁵ Migration Advisory Committee (2012) "Analysis of impacts" January, London.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Africa Visa Openness Index (2023) 'Africa Visa Openness Report 2023' available at https://www.visaopenness.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/AVOI%E2%80%9C932023_Final_R18_7dec23.pdf accessed 19 February 2024

A growing number of African countries are offering visa-free entry or visas on arrival, with Benin, The Gambia, and the Seychelles leading by offering visa-free entry to all African citizens. The Africa Visa Openness Index notes that 48 out of 54 African countries now offer visa-free travel to nationals of at least one other African country, indicating a move towards greater openness and integration within the continent.⁸

Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) system is part of this broader trend towards facilitating easier travel across borders.⁹ President William Ruto announced plans to abolish visa requirements for foreign visitors, aiming to make Kenya a visa-free country for all by January 2024. This ambitious move is designed to support a borderless Africa, enhancing the ease of travel and potentially boosting tourism and business.¹⁰

However, the implementation of Kenya's eTA system is still underway, with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) clarifying that the current visa application process will remain in place until the new system is fully developed and implemented. The eTA system is expected to pre-identify travellers, streamline entry procedures, and further support Kenya's vision of a more connected and accessible Africa.¹¹

These developments reflect a significant shift towards the ideal of visa-free travel within Africa, aiming to unlock the continent's economic potential and reinforce the sense of African unity. However, the actualization of these policies, including the full implementation of Kenya's eTA system, remains a work in progress,

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Directorate of Immigration & Citizen Services 'Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)' available at <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en> accessed 19 February 2024

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

highlighting the challenges and complexities involved in achieving a truly borderless Africa.

3. The Legal and Policy Framework for Immigration and Visa Free Travel into Kenya

The legal and policy framework for immigration and visa-free travel into Kenya encompasses several key instruments: The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and Regulations, 2023, lay the foundation for the Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) System, streamlining entry processes. The AU Free Movement of Persons Protocol (2018) promotes open borders within Africa, enhancing regional integration. The Data Protection Act, 2019, ensures the privacy and security of personal data within these systems. Communications from the Office of the President and press releases provide insights into the eTA system's implementation, successes, and challenges, highlighting the government's commitment to modernizing entry procedures while safeguarding individual rights and national security.

3.1 Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2023

The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2023, introduced significant changes to the country's immigration framework, particularly emphasizing the implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system.¹² This system mandates pre-screening for travellers entering Kenya, requiring them to apply for and be in possession of an ETA before embarking on their journey to Kenya. Notably, these regulations stipulate that carriers are not to allow passengers without a valid ETA onboard, and failure to comply could result in substantial penalties for the carriers.¹³

Additionally, the regulations enforce the provision of Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR) by carriers, enhancing the ability to pre-identify travellers and assess them against databases for security

¹² Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2023

¹³ Ibid

purposes.¹⁴ The process aims to ensure a balance between facilitating ease of travel and maintaining national security and public safety.

The implementation of the ETA system and the associated regulatory changes were driven by a vision to modernize and streamline Kenya's immigration processes, aiming to facilitate smoother travel experiences while bolstering security measures. Despite the move towards visa-free entry, the requirement for an ETA has raised discussions about its impact on the ease of travel and its comparison to traditional visa requirements, especially given the new costs and documentation requirements for travelers, including those from previously visa-exempt countries.

3.2 The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 2023

The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 2023, significantly update the legal framework to facilitate the implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) system. These regulations amend The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Regulations, 2012. For instance, Regulation 15A is introduced that establishes the eTA system for pre-screening travelers entering Kenya, emphasizing the shift towards digitized entry processes to enhance efficiency and security.¹⁵ Regulation 15B is introduced that mandates that every traveler must apply for an eTA through the designated electronic portal before embarkation, illustrating the move towards streamlining and digitizing the visa process.¹⁶

Regulation 15C is introduced that underscores the responsibility of carriers to ensure passengers hold a valid eTA before boarding, enhancing compliance and

¹⁴ Ibid, sec 14

¹⁵ The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 2023, Regulation 4 introduces Regulation 15 A as an amendment.

¹⁶ The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 2023, Regulation 4 introduces Regulation 15 B as an amendment.

security measures at the point of departure.¹⁷ Regulations 16A and 16B detail the submission of advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) by carriers, highlighting the integration of advanced data processing to improve border security and facilitate smooth travel.¹⁸

These sections underscore the significant shift towards digital governance in travel and immigration, aiming to streamline processes while ensuring robust data protection and security measures aligning with the Data Protection Act, 2019.

3.3 Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) System

The Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) System in Kenya is a new requirement for all international travellers, including infants and children, aiming to streamline the entry process into the country.¹⁹ As of January 2024, visitors must apply for an eTA prior to their departure for Kenya, marking a significant shift from the traditional visa application process. The eTA is a semi-automated system that assesses whether visitors are eligible to enter Kenya, costing \$34 per person. This system is in line with Kenya's efforts to digitize entry procedures and enhance data collection on visitors, aligning with similar systems in place in other parts of the world.²⁰

Applicants are advised to apply for the eTA at least three days in advance of their trip, and it is valid for a single entry, allowing for a stay of up to 90 days. The application process involves providing personal and travel details, including a valid passport with at least six months' validity beyond the planned date of arrival and at least one blank page, a selfie or passport photo, contact

¹⁷ The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 2023, Regulation 4 introduces Regulation 15 C as an amendment.

¹⁸ The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration (Amendment) Regulations, 2023, Regulation 5 introduces Regulation 16 A and B as an amendment.

¹⁹ Directorate of Immigration & Citizen Services 'Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)' available at <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en> accessed 19 February 2024

²⁰ Ibid

information, arrival and departure itinerary, and accommodation booking confirmations. For business travellers, an invitation letter from the visiting company is required. The eTA application is made through the official Kenyan government portal, and upon approval, travellers will receive an email confirmation to be presented at all arrival and departure points in Kenya.²¹

This initiative reflects Kenya's broader vision to foster a welcoming environment for tourists and investors, aligning with the country's goal to enhance visitor numbers and showcase its rich cultural and natural heritage. The eTA system is expected to simplify the travel process, making Kenya a more attractive destination for international travellers seeking to explore its wildlife, beaches, and cultural offerings.

3.3 Protocol to The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (2018)

The AU Free Movement of Persons Protocol, adopted on 29th January 2018, aims to facilitate the free movement of persons, right of residence, and right of establishment among member states of the African Economic Community. This initiative seeks to enhance economic development and integration across the African continent.²²

The AU Free Movement of Persons Protocol outlines provisions directly relevant to Kenya's eTA system, particularly highlighting the importance of facilitating the free movement of persons across Africa. Article 6 ensures nationals of a Member State can enter, stay, move freely, and exit the territory of another Member State in accordance with host state laws, resonating with the eTA system's aim to streamline entry processes.²³ Article 9 emphasizes the issuance of

²¹ Ibid

²² Protocol to The Treaty Establishing The African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right Of Residence and Right of Establishment (2018)

²³ Ibid, art 6

valid travel documents to facilitate free movement, aligning with the eTA system's requirements for travellers to possess valid documentation before entry.²⁴

These provisions support the eTA system's objectives to enhance travel efficiency while ensuring security and compliance with international standards.

3.5 Data Protection Act, 2019

Kenya's Data Protection Act, 2019, aligns with global standards by establishing the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner²⁵ and regulating the processing of sensitive personal data.²⁶ It protects the rights of data subjects²⁷ while imposing obligations on data controllers and processors²⁸, a crucial aspect for the secure implementation of systems like the Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA).

The Data Protection Act, 2019, in relation to Kenya's eTA system, ensures the protection of personal data collected from travellers. It mandates that data processing must be lawful, transparent, and secure, safeguarding individuals' privacy rights²⁹. This Act requires the system to adhere to principles such as data minimization, accuracy, and storage limitation, ensuring data is used strictly for its intended purpose and is protected against unauthorized access or breaches.³⁰ The provisions of Kenya's Data Protection Act, 2019, directly impact the eTA system by ensuring that the collection, processing, and storage of travellers' personal data are conducted within a legal and secure framework. This legal framework mandates the eTA system to adopt measures that protect data privacy, requiring transparency in data processing and adherence to principles

²⁴ Ibid, art 9

²⁵ Data Protection Act, 2019, Part II

²⁶ Ibid, part V

²⁷ Ibid, sec 26

²⁸ Ibid, part IV

²⁹ Ibid, sec 25

³⁰ Ibid

such as minimizing data collection to what is necessary, ensuring accuracy, and limiting storage duration. This compliance enhances travellers' trust in the eTA system, bolstering Kenya's position as a secure and attractive destination for international visitors.

3.6 Communication from the Office of the President on Implementation of the eTA

It details the implementation of Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) system, following a Presidential directive for visa-free entry from January 2024. It introduces a digital platform for traveller identification, with exemptions for certain groups such as EAC citizens and diplomatic or official passport holders. This aligns with global trends towards streamlined, secure border management, yet underscores the need for comprehensive data protection and system readiness to handle the increased flow of travellers efficiently.³¹

3.7 Press release on initial success and challenges of Kenya's eTA system

It provides an overview of the initial success and challenges of Kenya's eTA system, introduced to streamline entry into the country. It reports significant early adoption, with 32,000 applications in the first week and \$1 million in revenue, highlighting the system's potential economic benefits. However, it also touches on operational aspects needing refinement, such as the review and simplification of application requirements to enhance user experience. This analysis reveals the eTA system's impact on tourism and foreign exchange, while also indicating areas for ongoing improvement to meet the dual goals of accessibility and security.³²

³¹ Communication from the Office of the President on Implementation of the eTA dated 5 January 2024 available at <https://immigration.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Communication-on-ETA-05.01.2024.pdf> accessed 20 February 2024

³² Ministry of Interior and National Administration (2024)ETA Rakes In One Million Dollars In Week One of Introduction' *Press Release*

4. An Appraisal of the Merits and Gaps of Kenya's eTA System: Lessons from the United Kingdom and Australia

This section aims to critically evaluate Kenya's eTA system, focusing on its strengths and areas for improvement. By examining the United Kingdom and Australia's approaches to electronic travel authorizations, the paper seeks to identify best practices and lessons that can enhance Kenya's system. The choice of the UK and Australia is strategic; both nations have advanced, well-established eTA systems that balance security concerns with traveller convenience, offering valuable insights for Kenya's ongoing efforts to refine its eTA system.

4.1 Data Privacy Concerns

4.1.1 The Kenyan position

Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) system, while enhancing border security and travel facilitation, has raised concerns due to the lack of detailed guidance on the storage and processing of private data collected through Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR). To address data privacy concerns within Kenya's Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) system more deeply, it's crucial to examine specific shortcomings related to data protection. These include unclear policies on the duration and security of data storage, inadequate guidelines on the processing of sensitive personal information collected through Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR), and a lack of transparency regarding the use of data analytics and sharing with third parties. Strengthening these areas is essential for safeguarding travellers' personal data against potential breaches and misuse.³³

4.1.2 Lessons for Kenya

Learning from the United Kingdom and Australia, Kenya could benefit from

³³ UNWTO & WTTC (2012) 'The Impact of Visa Facilitation on Job Creation in the G20 Economies: p13-14

centralizing its passenger information management system to ensure secure and efficient data handling. Additionally, integrating safeguards for enhanced digital privacy protection, such as encryption and access controls, could further secure personal information against unauthorized access and data breaches, aligning with global best practices in data privacy and security.

To address data privacy concerns within its eTA system, Kenya can look to the UK's Data Protection Act 2018, the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which enforces strict principles to ensure personal data is handled lawfully, fairly, and transparently.³⁴ This includes using data for explicit purposes, keeping it no longer than necessary, and ensuring it is protected against unauthorized access or damage. The Act emphasizes the importance of stronger legal protections for sensitive information and outlines individuals' rights regarding their data.³⁵ Adopting similar comprehensive legal frameworks could provide a structured approach for Kenya to enhance digital privacy and data protection within its eTA system.

4.2 Regional Integration Aspects

4.2.1 The Kenyan position

Kenya's eTA system currently exempts only the citizens of East African Community (EAC) member states from its requirements, reflecting a regional approach to integration and mobility.³⁶ Excluding other African nationals from Kenya's eTA exemption, currently limited to EAC member states, may inadvertently undermine broader African integration and mobility goals. This approach could restrict economic, social, and cultural exchanges, potentially side-lining Kenya from the benefits of wider continental free movement

³⁴ Data Protection Act 2018

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Directorate of Immigration & Citizen Services 'Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)' available at <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en> accessed 19 February 2024

initiatives, such as those envisioned by the AU Free Movement of Persons Protocol. A more inclusive policy could enhance regional cohesion and unlock mutual benefits across the continent.

4.2.2 Lessons for Kenya

Learning from the UK and Australia, which have arrangements to facilitate travel for certain regional groups or through bilateral agreements, Kenya could consider expanding its exemption policy. This expansion could include all African Union member states, aligning with the AU's vision for more seamless intra-African travel and economic integration. Such a move would not only enhance regional unity but also promote tourism and business within the continent.³⁷

Australia's visa policy, which encompasses a universal visa regime and electronic visa system, could offer insights for Kenya in expanding regional integration under the eTA system. Australia's arrangements, such as the eVisitor and ETA subclasses, streamline entry for a broad range of nationalities, emphasizing ease of access while maintaining security.³⁸ These models suggest Kenya could benefit from similar frameworks to extend eTA exemptions to all African Union member states, fostering greater regional mobility and integration.

4.3 Impact on Other Entry/Exit Points

4.3.1 The Kenyan position

Kenya faces challenges in enforcing border controls effectively, which can lead to

³⁷ Czaika, Mathias and Neumayer, Eric (2017) 'Visa restrictions and economic globalisation'.

³⁸ Easy-Tourist, 'The eVisitor or eTA: The visa for travelling to Australia' available at <https://www.easy-tourist.com/australia-visa.htm#:~:text=The%20eTA%20or%20eVisitor%20allows,without%20a%20traditional%20tourist%20visa.&text=The%20average%20price%20of%20an,%E2%82%AC80%2C%20including%20processing%20fees>. Accessed 19 February 2024

issues with smuggling and human trafficking across its borders.³⁹ Kenya's challenges in enforcing border controls effectively include limited resources, technological gaps, and coordination issues among enforcement agencies.⁴⁰ These challenges hinder effective monitoring and control of the borders, making it easier for smuggling and human trafficking activities to occur.⁴¹ Strengthening these areas could significantly improve border security and mitigate these risks.

4.3.2 Lessons for Kenya

Kenya could look towards models from the United Kingdom and Australia, which have robust border control systems in place. These countries utilize advanced technology and intelligence-sharing networks to strengthen their border enforcement, ensuring that visa exemptions do not compromise national security or facilitate illegal activities. Adopting similar strategies could help Kenya enhance its border security and address smuggling and human trafficking concerns.

The UK's use of e-borders⁴² and Australia's SmartGate system,⁴³ for instance, automate entry and exit checks, allowing for efficient processing of travellers while identifying potential security threats. These systems are supported by comprehensive databases and international collaboration, ensuring timely information exchange to combat smuggling and human trafficking. Kenya

³⁹ RS Saddam (2023) Trafficking of Women Across the Borderlands in Kenya 9(2) Africa Amani Journal 1-30.

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² National Audit Office (2015) 'E-borders and successor programmes' available at <https://www.nao.org.uk/reports/home-office-e-borders-and-successor-programmes/> accessed 19 February 2024

⁴³ The Australian Border Force 'Smartgates' available at <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/smartgates/arrivals#:~:text=SmartGates%20automatically%20process%20passengers%20through,may%20leave%20the%20airport%20faster.> Accessed 19 February 2024

adopting such advanced practices could significantly strengthen its border security framework.

Conclusion

The implementation of Kenya's eTA system marks a significant stride towards enhancing national security and facilitating smoother travel. Drawing lessons from the UK and Australia's advanced border control measures, Kenya can address existing gaps in its system, particularly in data privacy, regional integration, and combating illicit activities. This paper underscores the importance of adopting international best practices in technology and intelligence sharing to strengthen Kenya's border security. As the country moves forward, integrating these lessons will be crucial in ensuring the eTA system effectively balances open borders with stringent security measures.

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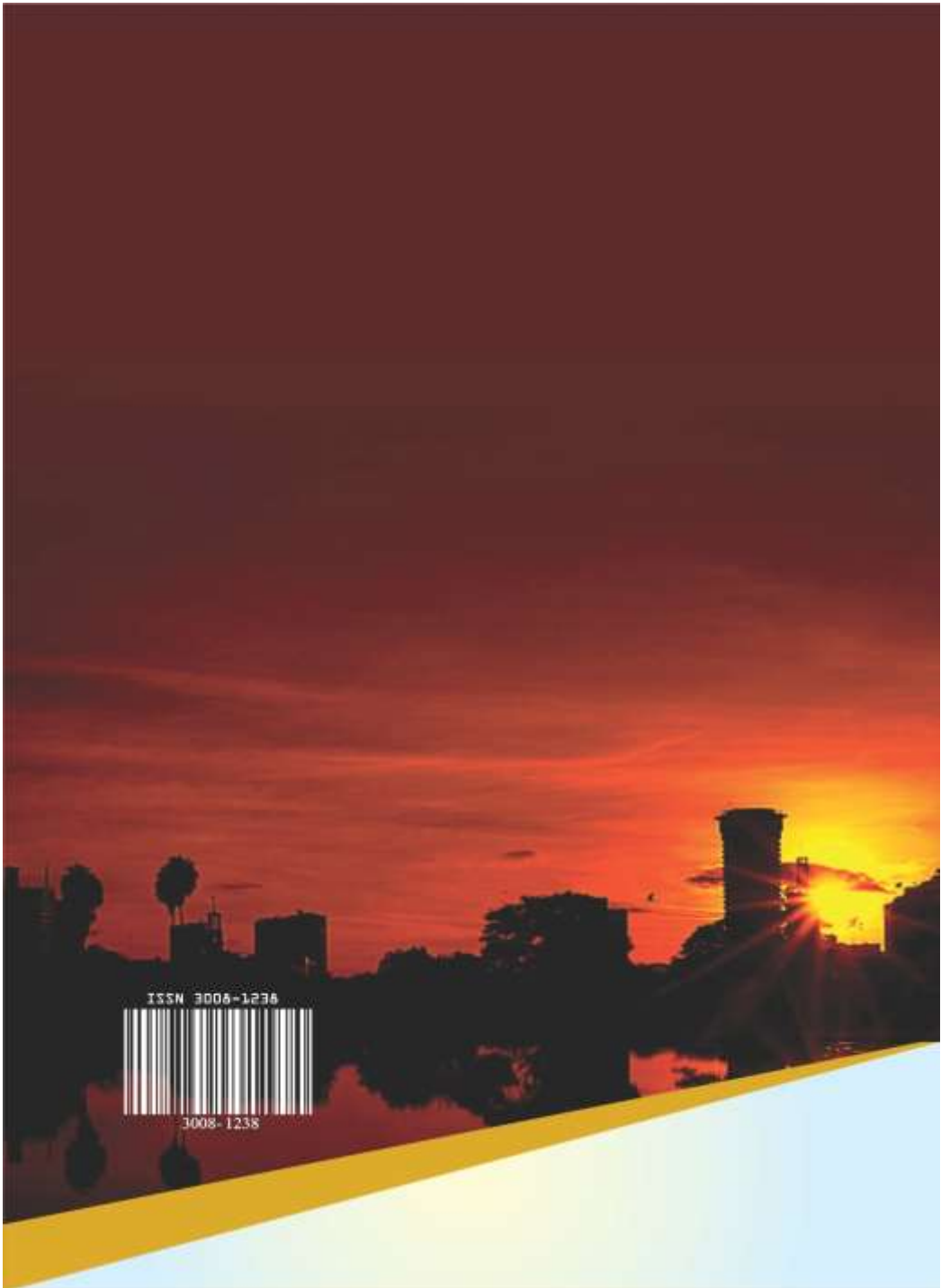
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