



SPECIAL 108th AGM Issue

Committees & Projects Report

Below is a summary of the reports presented at the 2018 AGM:

COMMITTEES/SPECIALIST GROUPS

Insect Committee

Promotes the understanding and conservation of insects and other invertebrates in the country.

Contact: insects.eanhs@gmail.com

Highlights

- Maintenance and repair of Pollinator Garden (Boscowen) at City Park
- Talks on pollinators by Dr. Dino Martins
- *Our Friends the Pollinators: A Handbook of Pollinator Diversity* can be downloaded from <www.discoverpollinators.org>
- Databasing, sorting and maintenance of insect specimens from various Insect Committee sites and the collection at NMK



PHOTO: PETER USHER

Bird Committee

Activities include ornithological advice, publications, taxonomy, bird ringing, records and databases and supporting Nature Kenya's bird walks.

Contact: birds@naturekenya.org

Highlights

- January water-bird counts completed with funding from AFEW
- Raptor Working Group working with key players in the energy industry (private and government) on ways to minimize collisions and electrocution
- National House Crow Control Committee established to oversee invasive House Crow control
- Ngulia bird ringing successfully ringed 18,212 Palearctic migrants in Nov-Dec; Nairobi Ringing Group continue ringing on a regular basis.

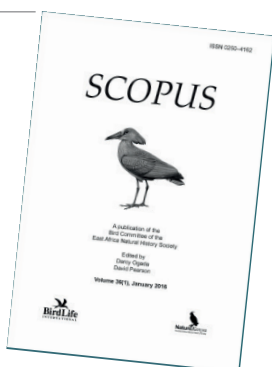


PHOTO: ZAREK COCKAR

Scopus

Journal of East African Ornithology
Peer-reviewed ornithological journal

Contact: scopus@naturekenya.org



Kenya Bird Map

Using citizen science to record and understand the distribution of Kenya's birds.

Contact: <kenyabirdmap@naturekenya.org> or see kenyabirdmap.adu.org.za

Highlights

- Launched KBM blog (kenyabirdmap.wordpress.com)
- The updated BirdLasser app now covers the entire African continent, not just Kenya.

Succulenta East Africa

Focused on growing and learning about succulent plants.

Contact: susieallankenya@gmail.com

Publications include:

- *Conservation of Kenyan Succulent Plants* (2018)
- *The Pollination of East African Succulent Plants*
- *The History of Succulent Plants in Kenya*
- *Taxonomy Without (too many) Tears*
- *An ABC for Succulent Plant Enthusiasts*
- *Uses of Succulent Plants in East Africa*

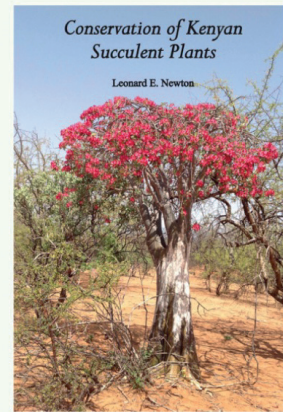


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUCCULENTA E.A

Environmental Policy and Legislation Working Group (ELPWIG)

Advocacy group that contributes to environmental policies & legislation.

Contact: policyadvocacy@naturekenya.org

Highlights

- Submitted memoranda to the National Assembly on the Energy, Irrigation, and Petroleum Bills 2017
- Submitted comments on EIA studies for railway lines and dams
- Provided Input on several County Integrated development plans
- Submitted comments to the Taskforce to inquire into Forest Resources Management and Logging Activities in Kenya.

Kenya Herpetofauna Working Group

Activities include identification, training, and conservation of amphibian and reptile habitats.

Contact: dwasonga@museums.or.ke or khwginfo@gmail.com

Highlights

- Inventory of amphibians and reptiles at the National Museum of Kenya grounds and Nairobi City Park
- Found first record of threatened Manherti's ridged frog (*Ptychadena mahnerti*) in Irangi Forest, Embu County.
- Conducted a certificate course on the Biology of reptiles and amphibians at NMK.

COMMITTEES/SPECIALIST GROUPS REPORT 2017 - 2018

Youth Committee

Activities include trips and outings, outreach, networking and volunteering.

Contact: youthcommittee@naturekenya.org

Plants Committee

Main goal: nature conservation and capacity development for young botanists and biodiversity enthusiasts.

Contact: plants@naturekenya.org or judithwanza@yahoo.com

Highlights

- An inventory of the plant species at Kantis Fossil Site (KFS) in Ngong and labeling of key woody species such as *Acacia*, *Searsia* and *Acokanthera*, indicating local names, at Kantis FS.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PLANT COMMITTEE



Mammal Committee

Using citizen science to map mammal distribution and promoting the conservation and appreciation of Kenya's mammal heritage.

Contact: benrisky@gmail.com or musila@museums.or.ke

Highlights

- So far one-third of Kenyan mammal species mapped; ten threatened species mapped; one invasive mapped.

Samaki Working Group of Kenya

Creating awareness and appreciation of fishes of Kenya and promoting fish conservation and sustainable use.

Contact: info@kenweb.or.ke

Highlights

- Excursions to Rueka Dam and Ruiru weighbridge in Kiambu, Chania River in Nyeri, and Mbagathi River
- Training on Aquaculture and training on Trout farming.
- Community outreach to Egerton University Environmental Clubs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMAKI WORKING GROUP



Habitat Restoration Initiative for East Africa (HARI)

Creating awareness and appreciation of fishes of Kenya and promoting fish conservation and sustainable use.

Contact: anne_mbora@yahoo.co.uk

Highlights

- Initiated Restoration of Ondiri Swamp in Kikuyu
- Developed Simple Guidelines on Good Nursery Practices and Field Planting booklet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARI

Friends of Nairobi Arboretum (FoNA)

Aims to maintain the Arboretum for recreation, education and scientific knowledge.

Contact: fona@naturekenya.org or 0727 300 933

Highlights

- Wawye Avenue constructed.
- Drafting 2018-2011 Arboretum Management Plan 2013-2017
- Planted trees – indigenous and exotic – and added new benches.
- Quarterly clean-up exercises and monthly public lectures and films continued.
- Participated in the 2017 Nairobi International Trade Fair.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FoNA

Friends of City Park (FoCP)

Aims to protect and restore City Park.

Contact: cityparkfriends@naturekenya.org
www.friendsofcitypark.org

Highlights

- Finalized Strategic Rehabilitation Framework and Action Plan, distributed to stakeholders and park visitors
- Working with Nairobi City County, Nairobi Water, National Museum and World Bank to include landscaping and ecological restoration of Kibagare River in NAMSIP project design
- Identified and replaced beacons around Park boundary
- Pollinator Garden at City Park functional and accessible
- Trained 26 Nature Guides
- Partnered with Arzoo Foundation for children's art exhibition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FoCP

For updates visit
www.naturekenya.org

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Email: office@naturekenya.org

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Nairobi Biodiversity Park

Now focusing on documenting and promoting seasonal wetlands on the northern edge of Nairobi National Park.

Contact: fleur@africaonline.co.ke

Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

Activities including monitoring and reporting illegal tree felling & poaching of animals; creating awareness of the value of the forest; and supporting Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Adjacent Dwellers Association (ASFADA).

Contact: deborah.goodhart@btinternet.com
https://www.friendsarabukosokoke.org

Highlights

- Tukero Ole Kina elected chairman
- Received funding from Minara Nature Foundation, Oak Foundation and African Fund for Endangered Wildlife
- Funded road-clearing in the forest
- Purchased motor bikes and bicycles for use by KWS and KFS
- Working with AFEW on an education project.

Journal of East African Natural History

Publishes papers and notes in the field of natural history.

Contact: Bytebier@ukzn.ac.za or cmwarui@yahoo.com

Highlights

- Produced two (electronic) issues in 2017 – Vol 106 part 1 and part 2.
- Both are available through BioOne or African Journals Online.

PARTNERS

Tropical Biology Association (TBA)

An international NGO building the capacity of people, and their institutions, to better protect natural resources.

www.tropical-biology.org

Highlights

- Two month-long field courses in Tanzania & Borneo
- Five short courses for 75 managers from 18 African countries
- Organized Ecosystem Service for Poverty Alleviation-Professional Development Course trained 20 lecturers from 9 Kenyan Universities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TBA

The EANHS/NMK Library

One of the best Special Libraries in Kenya. Recorded tremendous growth in collections, mainly through donations and exchange.

Contact: aowano@museums.or.ke

Highlights

- The library has over 27,000 Books, over 30,000 Reprints, over 60,000 Journal issues, over 22,000 Newspapers and over 300 Audio visual materials
- 2017-18 Main donors: Book Aid International, Biodiversity International, Mr. Kevin Muchiti, Mrs. Margaret Njonjo, Mrs. Burton and Prof. Jack Harris
- Collaborations and Partnerships: Biodiversity Heritage Library, Writers Guild Kenya and Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium.

Four bright planets in evening sky

BY FLEUR NG'WENO

When clouds clear in September, you can still see four bright planets across the evening sky. Brilliant Venus is in the west (where the sun sets). Bright Jupiter is higher in the west. Golden Saturn, less bright, is high overhead at sunset. Mars, very bright this year and glowing orange in colour, is high in the southeast.

The crescent moon is near the blue-white star Spica on Sept 12, near Jupiter on Sept 13 & 14 and near the reddish star Antares (in Scorpio) on the 15th. The moon, waxing larger, appears very close to Saturn on Sept 17, close to the star Nunki (in Sagittarius) on the 18th and near Mars on Sept 19 & 20.

In the morning sky, the planet Mercury and bright star Regulus are close together at the start of the month, joined by the waning crescent moon on the 8th.

Moon, Sept '18

Sept 3, last quarter (looks like a half moon overhead at dawn). Sept 9, new moon. Sept 16, first quarter (looks like a half moon overhead at sunset). Sept 25, full moon.

Sun, Sept '18

The equinox – when day and night are of equal length, all over the world – is Sept 23 this year. Here on the equator, the sun seems to both rise and set earlier (compared to the clock) in Sept-

Oct-Nov.

September Stars

The fishhook shape of the constellation Scorpius, the Scorpion, moves towards the southwest, followed by the planet Saturn. With binoculars, you can see several star clusters near the Scorpion's tail and stinger. To the south (left) of the Scorpion is the constellation Sagittarius, the Archer of the ancient Greeks. The stars of Sagittarius seem to form the shape of a teapot, or a basket with handles.

The bright star Altair is high in the northeast. Two stars, northwest and southeast of Altair, seem to escort it in the sky. North of Altair, lower in the sky, is the brilliant white star Vega. To the east (right) of Vega is the bright star Deneb. Altair, Deneb and Vega form a giant triangle in the northern sky.

On a clear, dark night, look carefully in the sky northeast of Altair. You may see a group of five stars, like a kite with a string. Can you imagine these stars as the little constellation of Delphinus, the leaping dolphin?

Comet

A green-coloured comet, 21P/Giacobini-Zinner, may pass within 58 million km of the Earth in early September. At that time, it may be bright enough to see with the naked eye. Check the internet for updates. ☾

Journal of East African Natural History Vol. 107, No. 1, August 1, 2018 has just been published

The following papers are now available from BioOne (<http://www.bioone.org/toc/eanh/107/1>) and African Journals Online (<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jeanh/issue/view/17274>)

Insights Into the Natural History of the Little Known Maned Rat *Lophiomys imhausi* through Examination of Owl Pellets and Prey Remains

Darcy Ogada

Conservation Status of the Elegant Yellow-Black Bush-Cricket *Meruterrana elegans* (Orthoptera: Phaneropterinae) - A Critically Endangered Species on Mount Kenya

Claudia Hemp and Andreas Hemp

Comparative Ecology and Behaviour of Eastern Potto *Perodicticus ibeanus* and Central Potto *P. Edwardsi* in Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda
Averee M. Luhrs, Magdalena S. Svensson & K. Anne-Isola Nekaris

The East African Flora, and Those Who Study It, Have Lost a Great Friend, Kew Botanist Sally Bidgood

Ib Friis

SEPTEMBER AT A GLIMPSE

Sep 1 st	FoCP Nature Walk
Sep 5 th	Morning Bird Walk
Sep 12 th	Morning Bird Walk
Sep 15 th	FoCP Nature Walk
Sep 16 th	Sunday Bird Watch
Sep 19 th	Morning Bird Walk
Sep 26 th	Morning Bird Walk Public Lecture

Bird ringing every Tuesday morning (check with Ornithology section, National Museums).

Birders Please Note! The Wednesday Morning Birdwalks meet at 8:30 am at the Nairobi National Museum. Transport is on a self-help basis. The group meets in the courtyard of the Nairobi National Museum, past the entrance to the galleries. We normally return at about 12:30 pm.

The Sunday Birdwatch on the **THIRD** Sunday of each month now also meets at 8:30 am, at the same location. It is a day trip; please bring water and lunch.

Mombasa Birdwalks On the 3rd Saturday of each month. For meeting time and place, please contact Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540; or Doris Schaule <dorischaule@gmail.com> / 0722-277752. Or check Facebook page: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/>>
Contact the office for information on other birdwalks in Kakamega, Kisumu, and other sites

Ngong Forest walks - 1st and 3rd Saturday at 9.00 am. Contact Simon 0729-840715



THIS MASHUJAA DAY
19th - 21st OCTOBER 2018

Explore Maasai Mara

National Reserve

COST
KSH 17,300 PP

Cost Covers:
Transport
Meals
Guide fees
Camping fee & camping equipment
Gate fees for Citizens only

For Enquiry & BOOKING Contact Norman on: 0739 200 216
news@naturekenya.org

NEW ARRIVALS

Get one of these amazing pin badges:

Long-crested Eagle, Golden-rumped Sengi, African Elephant, and Maasai Giraffe.

These and more items are available at the Nature Kenya shop.

For inquiries kindly call 0739 200 216



NEW MEMBERS

Nature Kenya (the EANHS) would like to welcome the following members to the East Africa Natural History Society:

CORPORATE

Pride Inn Hotels

FAMILY

Marco Montefiori
Anthony Kitema
Beatrice Omoto
Syed Sadiq

INDIVIDUAL

Caloline Wanjiku
Tomas Polo
Endale Ashenafi
Nguyai Kimani
Matthew David
James Ware

Juliet Kananu Mbaka
Rene Dommain

INSTITUTIONAL
CHEHE-CFA

STUDENT

Joan Nelima
Eric Macharia
Harriet Shikote
Laura Khakavo
James Odhiambo
Thomas Sagima
Mary Kahoi
James Oyamo

Yes! Start my NatureKenya membership

Surname _____
First Name _____
Ms/Mr/Title _____
Address _____
Tel. _____
Mobile _____
Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

<i>Ksh Per Year</i>	
Full	2,000
Sponsor	6,000
Family	2,800
Student	1,200
Schools, Clubs	1,500
Corporates	20,000 -30,000



JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

- Select 'Lipa na Mpesa'
- Select 'Pay Bill'
- Enter business number **100300**
- Enter account number (**put your lapsed membership number or write new member**)
- Enter the amount, enter your PIN
- Confirm details & press OK

For details on associated groups such as Youth Committee, Succulenta, and Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, City Park or Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, contact office@naturekenya.org