

## NOMINEES STANDING FOR ELECTION

### **CHAIRMAN**

#### **Mr. Rupert Watson**

Rupert Watson is a self-employed advocate of some 40 years standing in Kenya, specializing in private client and conservation work. He is also a mediator and writer. He has written two natural history books on trout and salmon and more recently "The African Baobab" published by Struik in South Africa. His latest book, "Peacocks and Picathartes - Reflections on African Birdlife" is available from the Nature Kenya shop. He is also a regular contributor to *Swara* and other natural history publications.

### **HONORARY SECRETARY**

#### **Ms. Fleur Ng'weno**

Ms Ng'weno is a naturalist, writer and editor, and has been involved in environmental issues in Kenya since 1963. She has been Honorary Secretary and Vice-Chairperson of the EANHS. She founded the Wednesday morning bird walk in 1971 and led most of them until the pandemic of 2020. Ms Ng'weno was the editor of *Rainbow* Children's magazine and has written several children's books, countless magazine articles and a book chapter in *Ethno-Ornithology: Birds, Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Society*, published by Earthscan. For Nature Kenya, she wrote *Community Guide to Forest Conservation*, and is co-author of *Birds of Dakatcha Woodland IBA, Marine Manual for Coastal Schools, Learning for Sustainable Living in Kenya* and a book on bird ecology and behaviour for children, *Being a Bird*. Since 2014 she has represented Nature Kenya on the Board of the National Museums of Kenya.

### **HONORARY TREASURER**

#### **Mr. James (Jim) Birnie**

Jim Birnie is a retired certified public accountant and certified public secretary and has extensive experience in the areas of audit and accountancy work. He was a partner with Coopers & Lybrand, a major international accounting and financial service company, from 1972 until retirement in 1996. He has served as trustee to a number of pension schemes and charitable trusts, was for a number of years the treasurer of All Saints' Cathedral, Nairobi and is a member of Rotary. Jim was married to Ann, the founder of Friends of Nairobi Arboretum and co-author of "Trees of Kenya" who passed away last year. Interests include travel and the environment.

### **HONORARY EDITOR**

#### **Dr. Charles M. Warui**

Dr. Warui holds a B. Ed Science degree in Botany & Zoology (Egerton University), an MSc in Biology of Conservation (UoN) and PhD in Zoology (Rhodes). He is a Senior lecturer at Murang'a University of Technology teaching Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Entomology. Previously he worked as a scientist at the National Museums of Kenya for 13 years and later as dean, School of Pure & Applied Sciences, at Mount Kenya University (2012-2016). He has interests in Conservation Biology and Environmental Modeling – an area he continues to pursue with his graduate students. He has had several collaborative research projects at Mpala Research Centre and is currently undertaking a joint forest restoration project at Brackenhurst, Limuru, with Nottingham Trent University. He is a research associate at the National Museums of Kenya (since 2012) and serves as an Editor

and Editorial committee member for the *Journal of East African Natural History*. He is a member of Nature Kenya, International Society of Arachnology (ISA) and Entomology Society of Kenya.

### **MEMBER AND TRUSTEE**

#### **Dr. Siro Masinde**

Siro holds a PhD in Systematic Botany from the University of Muenster, Germany and is currently a Principal Research Scientist at the National Museums of Kenya. He is interested in biodiversity research and conservation and the use of digital technologies to support these fields. He previously held international positions as the Regional Coordinator for Africa at ITHAKA, a US non-profit organization helping the global academic and research community access and preserve knowledge by using digital technologies, and as a Program Officer for Content Mobilization at the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Secretariat.

### **MEMBER**

#### **Dr. Geoffrey Mwachala**

Geoffrey Mwachala has been a member of the Society since 1998, and is currently the National Museums of Kenya's editor of the *Journal of East African Natural History*. A botanist specializing in the flora of East Africa, he has authored some forty works, supervised graduate students and has described several species of African plants. As Chief of Research at the National Museums of Kenya, Dr Mwachala oversees several research programmes and guides curation of the Museums' botanical collections. His objectives in life are to provide leadership in research and education, and to promote

utilization of biodiversity, appropriate technologies and indigenous knowledge for sustainable development. Dr Mwachala obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from Kenyatta University, a Master of Science from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom; and a Doctorate from the University of Koblenz-Landau in Germany.

#### **MEMBER**

##### **Mr. Alex Duncanson**

Alex Duncanson arrived in Kenya in 1996 for 3-6 months and never left! He has been a member of Nature Kenya for approximately 7 years and is also a member of the East African Wild Life Society, Kenya Museum Society, Caledonian Society of Kenya, East African Horticultural Society, AFEW (African Fund for Endangered Wildlife) and has been a member of the RSPB (Royal Society for Protection of Birds) for 50 years; the last two organisations are supporters of Nature Kenya. He helped Mike Davidson with the Nature Kenya golf day and after Mike's return to UK, has helped to run the fund raiser for the past five years.

Alex started his working life in Unilever and was employed by them and their offshoot Tibbett and Britten for 34 years. Since then he has been a consultant and project manager in the logistics field, working in such places as DRC and Sudan on United Nations related work, South Africa, TZ, Uganda, Rwanda, Middle East as well as Kenya. He was a Director of Kenya Grange Vehicle Industries Ltd, the Scania distributor in most of East Africa before its takeover by Scania itself. He is currently a director of Wedco Ltd and a trustee of Wedco Trust, both involved in charitable work. He looks forward to the opportunity to contribute further to Nature Kenya.

#### **Executive Committee members 2020/2021**

- Dr. Ian Gordon – *Chairman, term ending 2023 (retiring)*
- Dr. Helida Oyieke - *Vice Chair & Trustee, term ending 2022*
- Mr. Upin Vasani - *Hon Treasurer, term ending 2022 (retiring)*
- Ms. Fleur Ng'weno - *Hon Secretary, Standing for re-election*
- Dr. Charles Warui - *Hon Editor, Standing for re-election*
- Dr. Dino Martins – *Hon. Librarian, term ending 2023*
- Dr. Siro Masinde - *member and Trustee, standing for re-election*
- Ms. Irene Karani Njumbi - *member and Trustee, term ending 2022*
- Mr. James Kashangaki - *member, term ending 2023*
- Mr. Ben Allen – *member, term ending 2022*
- Mr. Rupert Watson - *member, Standing for election as Chairman*
- Mr. Kuria Waithaka – *member, term ending 2022*
- Dr Geoffrey Mwachala – *member, standing for re-election*

#### **Co-opted Members**

- Ms. Heather Elkins
- Dr. Darcy Ogada
- Dr. Benny Bytebier
- Mr. Jim Birnie - *standing for election as Hon Treasurer*
- Dr. Debbie Nightingale
- Dr. Alan Carles

#### **Biographies of Executive Committee members standing for election**



**Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**



**NatureKenya**  
The East Africa Natural History Society