



Talk Title: Bats of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and nearby farmlands

Date and Time: June 11, 2021 2:00 pm (EAT)

Presenter: Simon Musila

Platform: Zoom (virtual)

Talk Description

It is a common belief that protected areas across the globe still harbour incipient species confined to pristine natural areas. But is this perspective valid for all biological species that occur in nature? Are agricultural zones adjacent protected areas of any value for the conservation of fauna inside the protected areas?

The Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (ASF) is the largest coastal forest in eastern Africa. Big as it is an island amid agricultural and human settlement areas. Numerous research studies on bird, plant, herpes, invertebrate and mammal species happen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to estimate their population, distribution and conservation status.

The adjacent agricultural areas have, however, drawn little scientific research interest. Nothing inside these changing landscapes seems to draw attention to conservation efforts. In 2013, **Simon Musila** set out to answer the question; between the interior of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and the adjacent agricultural, which has more bat species? Between 2014-2016, Musila camped at Arabuko, conducting bat surveys in and outside the forest. What he found out from this study was surprising. In this talk, Musila shares some of his fascinating findings. Welcome.

About the Presenter

Simon Musila is a wildlife biologist who holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Wildlife Management from Moi University and Masters (M.Sc.) in Climate Change and Sustainability from Kenyatta University. Musila is currently pursuing a PhD in Biology of Conservation at the University of Nairobi. Musila started his career in conservation biology at Ornithology Section - National Museums of Kenya (NMK) in 2003. In 2008 he joined Mammalogy Section to study mammals. His love for birds remains despite the switch.

Musila's ideal vision for conservation is to see a world where man and biodiversity coexist harmoniously. He sums up: 'People are important, but not more important than flora and fauna that sustain their very own existence. We can all exist without destroying biodiversity.'

