



EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (NATURE KENYA) MINUTES OF THE 111th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 19th May 2021 at 10:00 am

Present: Ian Gordon, Chairman; Fleur Ng'weno, Hon. Secretary; Paul Matiku, Executive Director; and 92 members.

Apologies: Eighty-eight members sent apologies

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Society's 110th AGM were accepted by the meeting *nem con*.
(Proposer Mike Davidson; Seconders Patricia Jentz, David Waithaka and Ben Allen)

2. Matter arising

No matters arising were raised.

3. Chairman's report

The Chairman, Dr Ian Gordon, summarized Nature Kenya's activities 2020-2021. He pointed out the serious challenges to conservation during the period, including the Covid-19 pandemic, and an increase in infrastructure. The chairman noted that the impacts of Covid-19 included: reduced unrestricted income; staff working from home; Nature Kenya office closed to members and the public; Museum galleries and joint library closed part of the year; limited sales; only electronic *Nature Net* newsletter and *Kenya Birding* magazine; events and field trips postponed; increased threats to species and sites, and loss of conservation related community livelihoods such as the temporary collapse of the butterfly farming business in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

The chairman then highlighted the overarching responses to address the challenges, including: policy advocacy, Covid-19 safety; engagement with the private sector; promoting sustainable production techniques; forging partnerships; use of science; land restoration; land purchase; and developing local support. He noted that Nature Kenya's response to Covid-19 had been effective despite the severe effects. Nature Kenya managed to support Site Support Groups to increase monitoring, awareness and advocacy; supported Kipepeo butterfly farmers with loans, until their exports resumed, enhancing resilience and reducing threats to the forest; and supported the January 2021 water fowl counts. Precautionary measures to keep the staff and partners safe were observed, and Nature Kenya came up with innovative ways of implementing project activities to generate results.

As he retires, Dr Gordon expressed much appreciation to members and Nature Kenya staff for the support accorded to him during his tenure.

The Chairman's Report was accepted by the meeting, *nem con*.
Proposer Dino Martins; seconder Francis Mungai.

The Chairman's Report was published in the June 2021 Nature Net

4. Honorary Treasurer's report

Ben Allen presented the Honorary Treasurer's Report. The summary of the East Africa Natural History Society (Nature Kenya) audited accounts for 2020 reported a healthy financial position, well-controlled, professionally managed and IAS compliant, but still donor dependent. More effort and new strategies were required to grow and sustain membership income streams.

Reactions to the Treasurer's report

Patrick Lumumba asked: Members are below 1000, yet on social media we have thousands of followers. What are we doing to turn these followers to members? Dr. Matiku responded that growing the membership is a puzzle: our excellent work is liked by many, however, very few want to pay to become members. He welcomed members to share good suggestions and help in the membership recruitment.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report was accepted by the meeting, *nem con*.
Proposer Helida Oyieke, seconders Elizabeth Maloba and Rupert Watson.

5. Appointment of Auditor

The Chairman proposed that CarrStanyerGitau & Co. be re-appointed Auditors for 2021-2022.
The auditors were approved *nem con*.
Proposer Ben Allen and seconders Kevin Ngeiwo and Said Athman.

6. Any other business of which due notice in the form of the Resolution to be proposed has been given to the Honorary Secretary, signed by not less than two members, not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting.

The Executive Committee proposed a Constitutional amendment to remove the NAMES of branches:

Amend Article XVI of the EANHS Constitution to DELETE (d)

XVI. BRANCHES

Branches of the Society may be formed with the approval of the Committee and Registrar of Societies and they will adopt the same Constitution as that of the headquarters with the following exceptions:

(a) The aims and objects will not include the formation of branches

- (b) Amendments to the Constitution can only be made by the headquarters of the Society in accordance with the provisions of Rule XX
- (c) The provisions of Rule XXI shall apply to branches but, in addition, branches will not be dissolved without consultation with their headquarters.
- (d) The branches formed in member countries of the East African Community shall bear the following names;
- (i) “Nature Kenya” in respect of the Kenya Branch of the Society.
 - (ii) “Nature Uganda” in respect of the Uganda Branch of the Society.
 - (iii) “Nature Tanzania” in respect of the Tanzania Branch of the Society.

The proposed amendment was approved *nem con*.

Proposers Peter Ngunjiri, Said Athman and Rupert Watson; and seconder David Waithaka

7. Election of Office-bearers, Trustees and members of the Executive Committee

The Honorary Secretary presented the names of the members standing for election as office bearers and committee members:

1. Mr. Rupert Watson – Chairman – for 2 years
2. Mr. James (Jim) Birnie – Honorary Treasurer – for 1 year
3. Ms. Fleur Ng’weno – Honorary Secretary – for 3 years
4. Dr. Charles M. Warui – Honorary Editor – for 3 years
5. Dr. Siro Masinde – Member and Trustee – for 3 years
6. Dr. Geoffrey Mwachala – Member – for 3 years
7. Mr. Alex Duncanson – Member – for 2 years, to complete Rupert Watson’s term

The slate of office bearers and committee members was accepted *nem con*.

Proposer Ben Allen and seconder Heather Elkins.

Pieter Pietrowicz and Helida Oyieke congratulated and thanked the outgoing team for their excellent work and dedication. The incoming chairman Rupert Watson registered much gratitude for the opportunity and thanked the outgoing chair.

8. Report by Committees, Projects, Library and Journal

Vivienne Nandokha, manager of the EANHS/NMK Library and Resource Centre presented highlights from the activities of Committees, Projects and Partners of the East Africa Natural History Society (Nature Kenya). She encouraged members to support and join committees of interest, and to use the library services which are currently undergoing modernization of its technologies for better service delivery.

A summary of this presentation was published in the September 2021 Nature Net

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 11.30 am.