

EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (NATURE KENYA)
MINUTES OF THE 112th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the virtual Annual General Meeting hosted on Zoom on 28th April 2022 at 10:00 am.

Present:

Chairman: Rupert Watson, Hon. Secretary: Fleur Ng'weno, Executive Director: Paul Matiku,
Members present: 129, Members absent with apology: 108.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Society's 111th AGM were unanimously accepted by the members present. (Proposer Ben Allen; Seconders Pieter Pietrowicz and Hesborn Moogi).

2. Matters arising

No issues were raised from the minutes of the 111th AGM.

3. Chairman's Report

The chairman, Rupert Watson, noted that this year marked the end of a six year strategic plan that guided Nature Kenya activities under four strategic pillars: save species, conserve sites and habitats, encourage ecological sustainability, and empower people to support nature.

The chairman summarized Nature Kenya activities in the period 2021-2022, pointing out that Nature Kenya's focus is not only on birds but covers various aspects of nature. He highlighted how Nature Kenya continued to monitor the status of birds, plant trees with commercial organizations, rehabilitate degraded grasslands and carry out excellent advocacy. In particular, Nature Kenya advocated against attempts to weaken the Forest Act, including launching a petition; and against the conversion of about half of the Yala Swamp to a sugarcane plantation.

He noted the importance of creating partnerships. Globally, Nature Kenya was involved with international processes through negotiations in the Convention on Biological Diversity. And locally, community-based Site Support Groups (SSGs) are playing an important role in creating awareness on the value of conserving ecosystems.

The chairman congratulated the team for organizing bird walks and monthly talks despite the constraints of the pandemic, and lauded the organizers for good work done in preparing a successful Golf Tournament. He highlighted how Nature Kenya has been speaking with a loud voice on national issues of conservation through engaging the media. He then introduced the new 2022–2032 strategic plan that will guide Nature Kenya activities: 1. Save Species and Sites 2. Foster Sustainability 3. Build Support 4. Act on Science 5. Consolidate Structures.

The chairman's Report was accepted by the members, *nem con*. Proposer: Geoffrey Wandeto. Seconders: Margaret Vaz, Risper Asembo

[The Chairman's Report was published in the May 2022 Nature Net]

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Jim Birnie presented the Honorary Treasurer's Report. He commended Nature Kenya for managing projects and implementing new projects amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. A summary of the audited annual accounts for the year 2021 had been availed to members. The audited accounts received a clean report from the auditors, indicating good financial control, a healthy financial position, IAS compliant but still donor-dependent. Jim Birnie emphasized the need for Nature Kenya to put more effort in raising unrestricted funding. He noted that Nature Kenya had maintained tax exemption from KRA. He attributed this to the significant work Nature Kenya was doing to conserve the environment.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report was accepted *nem con.* Proposer Lorna Depew, Seconder David Ngige

5. Appointment of Auditor

The Chairman proposed that Carr Stanyer Gitau & Co. be re-appointed Auditors for 2022-2023. The auditors were approved *nem con.* Proposer: Margaret Vaz. Seconder: Lorna Depew

6. Any other business

There was no other business.

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

The Honorary Secretary (Fleur Ng'weno) presented the names of the members standing for election as office-bearers and Executive Committee members:

1. Dr. Helida Oyieke - Vice-chairman & Trustee
2. Mr. James Birnie - Hon. Treasurer
3. Ms. Irene Karani Njumbi - Member & Trustee
4. Mr. Kuria Waithaka - Member
5. Mr. Ben Allen - Member

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

Proposer: Dino Martins, Seconders: Lorna Depew, Margaret Vaz and Geoffrey Wandeto

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 join the various committees and take part in activities of interest to them. In particular, she called on the young people to join the Youth Committee and be part of their thrilling activities.

The meeting came to a close at 11:33 am.