



Summary of Chairman's Report for 2016 - 2017

BACKGROUND

- Established in 1909 as the Uganda and East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS)
- EANHS is one of Africa's oldest scientific Societies
- Nature Kenya is the BirdLife partner in Kenya
- Aim - Promotion of the study of natural history and conservation of nature in Eastern Africa

2015-2020 Strategic Pillars

1. **Save Species**
2. **Protect Sites and Habitats**
3. **Encourage Ecological Sustainability**
4. **Empower People to Support Nature**

1. SAVE SPECIES

- Prevent Extinctions**
 - **Land Lease and Purchase:** 6.28 ha of Msidunyi Forest in the Taita Hills leased for 25 years, and the purchase of 14.24 ha underway, to provide habitat for critically endangered Taita Apalis and Taita Thrush
 - **Vulture Awareness** for 32 institutions, a national response strategy for wildlife poisoning developed, and training of 37 local people, to save 4 critically endangered vulture species (Hooded, White-backed, White-headed and Rüppell's vultures)
- Promote Maintenance of Common Species**
 - Trained Site Support Groups (SSGs) monitored common birds at 18 IBAs
 - Kenya Bird Map project mapped bird distribution in 10% of Kenya (in collaboration with National Museums of Kenya, Tropical Biology Association, A Rocha Kenya and Bird Committee)
 - Bird identification and monitoring skills enhanced for SSG members and local guides at 7 IBAs (Arabuko-Sokoke, Dakatcha, Taita, Yala, Mt Kenya, Muumoni and Mutito)



FINAL ADDRESS: Alan Carles making his last speech as the EANHS Chairman during the 107th AGM. PHOTO: J. MWACHARO

2. PROTECT SITES & HABITATS

- Site Identification and Monitoring**
 - 2 new Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) surveyed and defined (Mutitu and Muumoni hills in Kitui County) making 67 IBAs for Kenya
 - 2015 IBA Status and Trends Report produced and distributed
 - Biodiversity surveys at 6 IBAs (Arabuko-Sokoke, Taita, Mukurweini & Kianyaga valleys, Yala Wetland, Dakatcha & Galana Ranch), including 8 University students supported to carry out research
 - 24 community members in Taita Hills trained on IBA monitoring protocol
- Promote Restoration of Degraded Habitat**
 - **Yala wetland restoration:** 300 ha of papyrus rehabilitated; 8404 ha of Community Conservation Areas established; Over 170,000 indigenous tree and 1,200 bamboo seedlings raised; a 67km stretch of Yala River riparian habitat rehabilitated by 30 local groups with 2,000 members.
 - **Forest Restoration:** 245 ha rehabilitated in Kikuyu escarpment, Mt. Kenya and Dakatcha; removal of exotic species in Taita initiated; 9,000 trees planted in Taita;
 - **Trials to raise hard-to-grow seedlings:** 1,000 Indigenous tree seedlings (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*, *Azela quanzensis*, *Brachystegia spiciformis*, *Cynometra webberi*) being propagated by KEFRI as trial for Dakatcha woodland rehabilitation
 - **Removing snares** in Arabuko-Sokoke, 250 snares removed with help from local community



A section of the Taita Hills forests. PHOTO: J. MWACHARO

Cont'd from page 1



Nature Kenya team meeting with Cabinet Secretary, Environment and Natural Resources Prof. Judi Wakhungu (centre) and other ministry officials to discuss safeguarding of Arabuko-Sokoke elephants and implementation of Tana River Delta Land Use Plan.

3. ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

i) Encourage and Promote Sustainable Production and Consumption Patterns

- Lamu County Assembly adopted and approved the Tana River Delta Land Use Plan LUP and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as policy documents
- Draft LUP and SEA for Yala Swamp under final review
- Yala Ecosystem SSG successfully led a campaign against allocation of land within Yala Swamp to Godavari Enterprises
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation guidelines to promote resilience to climate change produced and distributed
- Business case for sustainable restoration of Mt. Kenya Forest published
- Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) project in Mt. Kenya initiated, engaging 5 Community Forest Associations (CFAs); and framework for description of PES Scheme for Yala drafted

ii) Catalyse and Influence Policies, Legislation and Institutional Frameworks for Ecosystem Resilience

- Submitted comments to NEMA on 4 Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and 5 Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for development and policy proposals
- Lobbying to safeguard part of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest from degazettement, and developed a viable elephant corridor strategy for the forest.
- Leading discussions on Kipeto Wind Energy project near Kwenia IBA which would threaten breeding sites for Critically Endangered Rüppell's and White-backed vultures
- Taking part in advocacy campaign against the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) passing through Nairobi National Park, coordinated by Conservation Alliance of Kenya
- Developed Vulture Poisoning Response protocol and internal policy advocacy action plan
- Produced policy guidelines for geothermal energy production for Baringo County
- Working with Kilifi County Government to formulate a County forest policy
- Collaborated with The Biodiversity Consultancy and National Museums of Kenya to organize a well attended national training workshop on Managing impacts from development projects
- Five SSG members are members of County Decision making bodies

4. EMPOWER PEOPLE TO SUPPORT NATURE

i) Build Grassroots Capacity and Networks for Nature Conservation

- Five new Site Support Groups (SSGs) established, making a total of 23 SSGs ; Total SSG membership of 8,557; 3,573 men and 4,984 women
- Capacity built for 7 SSGs in advocacy, resource mobilization and links with County governments
- Twelve SSGs trained on leadership and governance, financial management, records-keeping and group management and conflict resolution
- Organizational Capacity Assessments conducted for 11 SSGs & their training manuals prepared
- 22 SSGs trained on networking and partnerships, and shared experiences during national SSG workshop in September 2016
- Five (SSGs) received a total of Ksh7M funding from County governments and donors

ii) Livelihood Improvement

- Most SSGs are involved in Income generating activities: Ksh 15 million earned by local people (10M butterfly farming in Arabuko-Sokoke; 3.9M Ecotourism, 1.1 M beekeeping, 0.7 M fish farming)
- Four SSGs practicing in table banking ; average of Ksh 50,000 being loaned out per month
- Clean cooking stoves installed in 2,256 households
- Growing incomes from other ventures: tree seedlings, wool, papyrus products, etc.
- Mobilize Public and Political Support for Nature and educate young people about nature
- Environmental education in 10 Resource Centres, reaching over 2,400 adults and 44,100 students
- Over 7,000 students and adults reached through international environmental events
- 139 schools and over 70,000 students reached through school outreach programmes

5. MEMBERSHIP

Build a Constituency and Membership Base for Nature Kenya

- Membership includes individuals, families, corporates (businesses) and local groups.
- Kenya Birding Magazine: Issue #10 produced; Kenya Tourism Board sponsored printing and shipping charges to distribute Kenya Birding at the British Bird Fair
- Membership Recruitment Drives throughout the year
- Bird walks: Members enjoy Wednesday Morning Birdwalks every week and Sunday Birdwatch outings every month; four weekend trips were also organized.



The Kenya Birding stand at the UK Birdfair 2016.

For updates go to
www.naturekenya.org

Editorial Team

Norman Kiboi
Gloria Waswa
Fleur Ng'weno
Serah Munguti
John Mwacharo

Layout John Mwacharo
Front banner J. Mwacharo



NatureKenya

THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

[f Nature-Kenya](https://www.facebook.com/Nature-Kenya)

[@Nature_Kenya](https://twitter.com/Nature_Kenya)

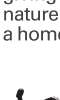
Connecting nature & people

For contributions, advertising and subscriptions - contact us at

P. O. Box 44486 GPO, Nairobi Tel: 020 3537568/ 0780149200/ 0751624312/ 0771343138

office@naturekenya.org www.naturekenya.org

Printed with support from:





Presentation of the Ksh 10 million cheque by Kenya Breweries Limited for Mt. Kenya forest rehabilitation. PHOTO: J. MWACHARO

6. FUNDING & SUPPORT

- Collaboration and support through BirdLife International partnership
- Nature Kenya's fundraising capacity enhanced through a consultancy
- Core development support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Efficient programme delivery and donor reporting

Corporate Engagement and Sponsorships

- Thirty-three corporate members engaged
- Vivo Energy supported Tussock grass planting and a football tournament in Kinangop and tree planting and football in Dakatcha Woodland
- Funding for Mt Kenya Payment for Ecosystem Services concept and restoration of Ksh 8 million approved by Kenya Breweries (KBL)
- Lungs for Kenya Charity Golf Tournament held on 31st March 2017 raised Ksh 1.6 million with 19 corporate sponsorships; a big thank you to Alec Duncanson and other organizers

Thanks to our donors, corporate members, sponsors, supporters and members!



PASSING ON THE BATON: Outgoing EANHNS Chairman Alan Carles (right) shares a word with his successor Dr. Ian Gordon during the 107th AGM. PHOTO: J. MWACHARO

In closing, the Chairman noted that he was in his 80s and retiring this year, and looked back on seven enjoyable and inspirational years:

Successes include:

- International recognition for land use planning in the Tana Delta
- NEMA'S rejection of a Jatropha plantation on forest land in Dakatcha
- Stopping a seismic survey for oil and gas in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve
- Working with Site Support groups on the ground

Challenges remain:

- Conflicts between Development and Conservation, especially in Energy, Railways, Roads and Irrigation
- Funding still largely project-based

Good wishes - Kwaheri

Donors and Partners



naturalist

June Evening Skies

By F. Ng'weno

Planets and moon, June 2017

At sunset, Jupiter shines brightly high in the east, almost overhead. Saturn, much less bright, rises in the east in the evening. During the night, Jupiter, Saturn and the stars seem to move towards the west. (It's actually our earth turning towards the east). Before sunrise, Venus shines brightly in the east.

The moon is near Jupiter on June 3 and 4. Full moon is June 9th, and the moon is near Saturn on the 10th. The waning crescent moon is near Venus before dawn on June 20 and 21. When the new moon is sighted on June 24 or 25, it will mark the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadhan. The holiday of Eid ul Fitr will then be celebrated.

June stars

The planet Jupiter is the brightest light high in the east. South of Jupiter is the blue-white star Spica near the moon on June 5. North of Jupiter is the golden-orange star Arcturus. Further north, low in the sky, is the constellation of the Plough or Big Dipper.

In the south, the Southern Cross is upright on early evenings in early June. It's a group of four bright stars in the shape of a Christian cross. There's also a faint fifth star. The Cross tilts to the west during the evening and during the month. East (left) of the Cross are two very bright stars - Alpha and Beta Centauri in the constellation of the Centaur. Bright Alpha Centauri is actually three stars - the nearest stars to our earth.

in the FIELD

JUNE AT A GLIMPSE

June 3 rd	FoCP Nature Walk
June 7 th	Morning Bird Walk
June 10 th	FoNA Guided Tree Walk
June 14 th	Morning Bird Walk
June 17 th	FoCP Nature Walk
June 18 th	Sunday Bird Watch
Wed 21 st	Morning Bird Walk
Wed 28 th	Morning Bird Walk
Thu 29 th	FoNA 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. The walks will leave the museum by 8:45 am. 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



World Environment Day June 5th

Connecting People to Nature

I'm With Nature



WELCOME ON BOARD

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

FAMILY

Ibrahim Kamau

INDIVIDUAL

Mariah Ngutu Peter
Celine Termote
Christine B Schmitt

INSTITUTIONAL

Haradari Indigenous Tree
Nursery
Wendo Retreat and Arboretum

STUDENT

Lewis Maera
Maxwell Owino
Denis Musava
Faith Mutanu Mackenzie

Ketukei Tipape
Jane Martha
Moses Timayo Octompau
Simon Peter
Sarah Njeri Kariuki
Dennis Mbogo
Grace Wangui Maina
Namu Eva
Sharon Chimasia
Gladys Kibira
Arthur Mutugi
Damaris Wambui
Ronie Otero
Agnes Ayuma
Washington Mathu
Willis Omondi
Violet Owino



Download free QR Readers from the web and scan this QR (Quick Response) code with your smart phone for pictures and more stories.

Yes! Start my NatureKenya membership

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

	Ksh Per Year
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