



Nature Kenya Committees and Projects Report 2020-2021

COMMITTEES

INSECT COMMITTEE

Promotes the understanding and conservation of insects and other invertebrates in the country.

Milestones 2020/2021

- Free insect identifications with requests spanning East Africa (59 IDs)
- Talks and lectures on pollinators by Dr. Dino Martins
- Fieldwork for joint project on "Ecology of Invasive Species" with University of Texas ongoing and hoping to start on other sites
- 8,600 downloads & 1,567 views of Our Friends the Pollinators: A Handbook of Pollinator Diversity from discoverpollinators.org & academia.edu



Globe Skimmer (*Pantala flavescens*) PHOTO: DINO MARTINS

insects.eanhs@gmail.com

BIRD COMMITTEE

Activities include ornithological advice, publications, taxonomy, bird ringing, records, databases and supporting Nature Kenya's bird walks.

Milestones 2020/2021

- Supported and participated in Museum-KWS-Nature Kenya water bird counts in January 2021.
- Discussions on the status of Lesser Flamingos in East Africa, the English names of African birds and recording bird names in local languages.

birds@naturekenya.org



Flamingos at Lake Elementeita. PHOTO: JOSEPH OLE KODONYO

SCOPUS - JOURNAL OF EAST AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGY

Impact measured by African Journals Online:

- Articles downloaded in 55 Countries with a 30% increase in downloads since 2019

Important recently published works:

- Birds species richness in the Montane ever green forests of Udzungwa mountains
- The history and biology of Ruvu weavers
- The conservation status of forest birds of the Siria plateau and Western Maasai Mara.

scopus@naturekenya.org

KENYA BIRD MAP PROJECT

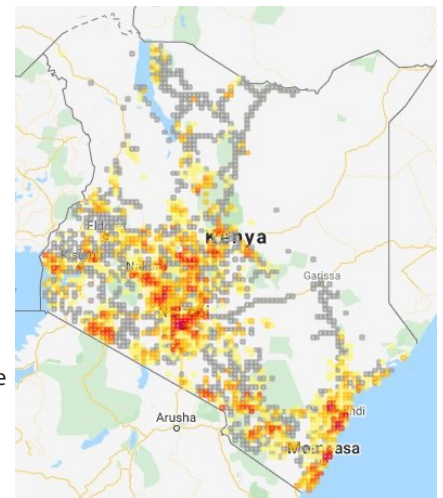
Aims to map the distribution of all of Kenya's bird species and describe their status with the help of input from Citizen Scientists – volunteer members of the public.

Milestones 2020/2021

- 18% of Kenya has been covered so far. Northern and Eastern Kenya remain by far the least covered.

Statistics as of 05 April 2021:

- Total records submitted: 379,046
- Observers who have submitted records: 386
- Pentads covered: 1,231
- Highlight of 2020: First record of Spotted Creeper on the Kenya Bird Map. Seen and photographed by Peter Wairasho and Jeff Mwok on 27 November 2020



kenyabirdmap@naturekenya.org

SUCCULENTA EAST AFRICA

Devoted to growing and learning about succulent plants.

Milestones 2020/2021

- Held a talk during AGM "The Life of Seasonal Wetlands" by Fleur Ng'weno.
- Four newsletters were sent to members. They were used to warn members against disclosing the precise locations of wild plants in written articles and photographs. This was after poaching of populations of rare *Aeonium stuessyi* and *Monadenium shebeliense* was brought to their attention.
- Published "Aloes in the Garden – an Identity Parade" (a guide to identifying the 50 aloe).

Andrena Low <jalow5@gmail.com>

Bob Entwistle <robertentwistle@gmail.com>

COMMITTEES & PROJECTS

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY WORKING GROUP (ELPWIG)

Milestones 2020/2021

Provided submissions on :

- Memoranda on the National and County Government estimates of revenue and expenditure including to National Treasury and Planning for FY 2020/21, Tana River and Nakuru Counties.
- Five sector level comments on policies and legislation submitted including Draft Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Regulations, 2020 by Ministry of Environment and Forestry .
- Submitted comments on two Senate and 2 National Assembly bills among them The Wildlife Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill, 2020.
- Contributed to five County level legislation including Kilifi , Busia and Siaya County Climate Change Bill 2020 .
- Provided input to 6th National report on Convention on Biological Diversity prepared by Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
- Submitted comments to 11 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes on projects proposed near sensitive conservation areas.
- Raised concerns on activities and projects potentially posing negative environmental impacts, such as *Malewa Dam will spell doom to Lake Naivasha*; and sustained advocacy against construction of a section of the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu transmission line on the southern edge of Lake Elmenteita.

policyadvocacy@naturekenya.org

KENYA HERPETOFAUNA WORKING GROUP

Activities: Organizing workshops, talks and awareness creation.

Milestones 2020-2021

- A three-days rapid survey at Bahati Ridge estate (Thika). 10 members participated in the activity. A total of nine specimens were recorded representing six species of reptiles and amphibians.
- Postponed the one week Biology course on Reptiles and Amphibians. This is an annual activity.



PHOTO: HESBORN MOOGI

khwinfo@gmail.com or office@naturekenya.org

YOUTH COMMITTEE *Connecting Youth with Nature*

Its purpose is to engage the youth in conservation activities.

Milestones 2020/2021

- Tree planting and awareness creation at Kibera in collaboration with Slum-Going Green CBO attended by 80 people
- Commemorated World Wetlands Day at Michuki Park. Carried out clean up exercise, bird watching and fishing. 65 attended
- Awareness creation at Centre for Tourism Training and Research (CTTR) attended by 22 individuals
- Camping trip for members to Kilimambogo where 30 individuals participated.

youthcommittee@naturekenya.org



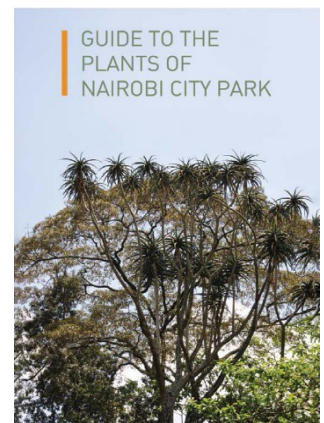
YC members in Kyeleni, Kilimambogo. PHOTO BY: HESBORN MOOGI

PLANT COMMITTEE

Promote plant interest and conservation in Kenya.

Milestones 2020/2021

- Produced "*Guide to the plants of Nairobi City Park*" and printed 300 copies. Available at Nature Kenya shop
- Participated in fieldwork at Chyulu Hills. 176 plants were collected and preserved.
- Participated in iNaturalist app Training workshop & thereafter, fieldwork at the NCP where they were introduced to using the app to map the threatened and invasive plants for monitoring purposes.
- New records to NCP checklist made; *Alstroemeria* sp. an escape from cultivation and *Calyptocarpus* sp. (a new weed).



GEORFFREY MWACHALA, ITAMBO MALOMBE, PAUL M. KIRIKA & JUDITH NYAMAI

botany@museums.or.ke or office@naturekenya.org

Twitter: @EAHerbarium_NMK

For updates visit

www.naturekenya.org

EDITORIAL TEAM

Fleur Ng'weno, Gloria Waswa, John Mwacharo, Caroline Chebet and Serah Munguti

LAYOUT

John Mwacharo

FRONT BANNER

Lorenzo Barelli



THE EAST AFRICA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY



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Email: office@naturekenya.org

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MAMMAL COMMITTEE

Promote conservation and appreciation of Kenya's mammal heritage through citizen science and other forms of public engagement.



Milestones 2020/2021

- Launched Mammal Atlas Of Kenya app in collaboration with Spotteron (Austria) and National Museums of Kenya.
- To Install & upload records Check Google Play store

mammalcommittee@gmail.com

Tel: 0710641981/072709373

SAMAKI WORKING GROUP OF KENYA

Creates awareness, appreciation of fishes of Kenya and promotes fish conservation and sustainable use.



PHOTO BY: HESBORN MOOGI

Milestones 2020/2021

- Monthly fishing excursion at Ruera dam (Ruiru). Eight members participated and more than 100 small fish were caught representing 2 species i.e. Nile tilapia *O. niloticus* and multicolor fish *Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor victoriae*. Major aim of the excursions is to teach members practical skills on fishing and fish identification.
- Rapid assessment for three days at Lakes Nakuru, Naivasha, Bogoria and Baringo on impacts of rising levels of water bodies. The exercise involved four members. There were more fish observed.

info@kenweb.or.ke

HABITAT RESTORATION INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN AFRICA-HARI

Activities: Establishment of tree nurseries, awareness creation, checklist of restoration and rehabilitation initiatives in Kenya.

Milestones 2020-2021

- Developed a concept note on rehabilitation of riparian of Kanthakame river, together with CFA of Njukirie forest station in Embu County.
- Developed concept note on restoration strategy of Kibauni hill in Machakos County.

william.wambugu@yahoo.com or office@naturekenya.org

PROJECTS

FRIENDS OF NAIROBI ARBORETUM (FONA)

Maintaining the Arboretum for Recreational, Educational and Scientific Knowledge.

Milestones 2020/2021

- His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, toured Nairobi Arboretum on June 5, 2020, to mark World Environment Day.

He witnessed the drilling of a borehole now complete and ready to supply water.

- Preparation of tree list as per each section currently underway for easier identification.
- Radisson Blu Hotel sponsored:
 - Block paving of Battiscombe, Wawiye Avenue to Arboretum walk.
 - Construction of modern washrooms.

fona@naturekenya.org or education@nairobiarboretum.org

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ANN BIRNIE

FONA founding chair, Mrs. Ann Birnie, passed away, in November 2020 after a brief illness.



Her Legacy:

- She was referred to as Tree Lady for reviving the neglected Nairobi Arboretum
- She initiated Friends of Nairobi Arboretum (FONA) in 1993 under the umbrella of NK and KFS
- She introduced the monthly tree walks
- In 2007 she drew trees that appeared on Kenyan stamp
- Publications:
 - *A Guide to the Arboretum*
 - *Trees of Kenya*
 - *Tree News for Friends* among others
- In her honour, "Friends" are planning an event to install a memorial "Ann Bench" to commemorate her life and celebrate her achievements and growing legacy.

FRIENDS OF CITY PARK

Committed to protecting and restoring City Park.

Milestones 2020/2021

- FoCP was part of the Steering Committee chaired by KFS charged with developing a comprehensive plan for restoration of City Park. Our concept master-plan and background documents were integral to the restoration plan.
- Partnered in "Saws Off Our Trees" march to City Park during World Cities Day that led to saving of the iconic Fig Tree (Mpaka Rd, Westlands) and a first band performance at the City Park Band Stand since 1976.
- FoCP working with Kenya Horticultural Society in an inclusive and competitive restoration of the City Park fishpond area (works projected to start in June 2021).
- Commissioned a professional presentation on City Park Regeneration (Concept, Design and Costs) to be presented to KFS and used for fundraising towards park rehabilitation activities.
- Tagged endemic and rare plant species on 1/3 of the park area to guide preliminary clearing of paths/trails by KFS and NMS.



Participants during Steering Committee planning meetings and a workshop that was led by FoCP in June 2020. PHOTOS: COURTESY OF FoCP

Website: www.friendsofcitypark.org; **Tel:** 0713 130005

Email: cityparkfriends@naturekenya.org

Facebook: [Focp.rafiki](https://www.facebook.com/focp.rafiki); **Twitter:** [@cityparkfriends](https://twitter.com/cityparkfriends)

COMMITTEES & PROJECTS

NAIROBI BIODIVERSITY PARKS

Milestones 2020/2021

- Hillside with rare plants recognized in Nairobi National Park management plan 2020-2030.

PARTNER

TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

About TBA

An international NGO that is building the capacity of people, and their institutions, to better protect natural resources.

Milestones 2020/2021

- Ran online Masterclass in W. Africa on project management and fundraising. 36 CSOs benefitted and 71 Conservation managers trained
- Developed a new **Moodle platform for online courses.**
- Hosted the **inaugural Earth Optimism Nairobi event;**
 - 2021 virtual event shared 20+ stories of hope receiving over 30,000 Impressions on Facebook, Twitter Reach 75, 200, Website Views 3,494, LinkedIn Views: 3,212, YouTube Impressions; 3,472
- Hosted a webinar on impacts to its Citizen Science training (in Kenya) in April 2021.
- Ran two short courses training 26 individuals from eight African countries under 'Citizen Science in Africa.'

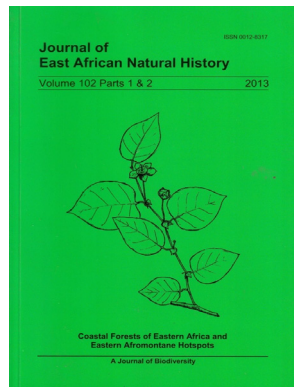
www.tropical-biology.org

JOINT EANHS-NMK

JOURNAL OF EAST AFRICAN NATURAL HISTORY

Milestones 2019/2020

- Vol 109 Part 1 and Part 2 (2020) published .
- Available online (only) via BioOne and African Journals Online (Open Access).
- Income from BioOne in 2019 was \$10,048.
- Total income since we joined BioOne in 2007 => \$ 98,787.
- Editorial committee expanded from 9 to 20 members.



Bytebier@ukzn.ac.za

THE EANHS LIBRARY

Milestones 2020/2021

- Physical and E-resources available.
- COVID-19 guidelines followed.
- Projects for 2021
 - NK to support improved IT infrastructure
 - Migration from CDS-ISIS software to KOHA
- Current Awareness Service
 - Keeping members informed of ongoing and emerging issues.



PHOTO: VIVIENNE NANDOKHA

library@museums.or.ke

Climate change is real more than ever

The effects of climate change are now being felt more than ever. Last month, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its report. The report cited human activity as the leading cause of unprecedented and irreversible changes to the climate. Every region on Earth, including Kenya, is affected in multiple ways. The changes experienced will increase if urgent drastic measures are not taken. Ironically, marginalized communities that contribute the least to global warming suffer the most from the adversities of climate change.

Currently, Nature Kenya is pursuing various approaches to assist vulnerable communities at different sites to cope with climate variabilities. Climate-smart agriculture is one of these approaches. This approach seeks to transform and remodel agricultural systems to support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. Farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks in Tana River, Lamu, Siaya, Busia, Kilifi and Taita-Taveta counties are beneficiaries under the climate-smart agriculture initiative. We will share more on these in our subsequent newsletter issues.

Please support us as we work to build community resilience to climate change.

The Covid 19 situation in the country is still worrying. At Nature Kenya, we remain cautious - wearing masks, washing hands and working from home when we can. We are doing all we can to keep staff and members safe!

Membership activities are taking place with caution:

1. Wednesday Morning and Sunday Bird walks will continue this month. See back page for details.
2. The Nature Kenya office is closed. However, membership can be renewed online <http://naturekenya.org/support/membership/> or via M-Pesa. Books, honey, etc. may be purchased online or with M-Pesa (Paybill 100300, Account: write in your purchase) and collected on Mondays or by arrangement. Ring the bell at the entrance of the office behind the galleries.
3. Members will continue to receive an electronic version of the Nature Net.
4. The EANHS/NMK Library is open to the public. Museum galleries and sites are open to the public under Ministry of Health guidelines (as of the end of August 2021).

For clarifications or to report your observations on species and sites, kindly contact us through email: office@naturekenya.org or telephone: 020 3537568, 0780 149200, 0751 624312, 0771 343138

Dr Paul Matiku,

Executive Director, Nature Kenya - the East Africa Natural History Society

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Birding Updates

Wednesday Morning Birdwalks and **Sunday Birdwatch** are on! All September 2021 Wednesday morning birdwalks will take place at the Nairobi National Museum and Michuki Memorial Park.

September 19th **Sunday Bird Watch – Giraffe Centre**. Meet at the Giraffe Centre Main Gate, at 8:30am.

Birders Please Note: Participants are meeting on site. For Wednesday Morning Birdwalks at the Nairobi National Museum, meet at 8 am in the open space in front of the entrance to the museum galleries, near the Fisheries gate. Subject to Ministry of Health guidelines, no loaning of binoculars, no sharing of binoculars and guidebooks and no pooled transport. Please do not ask for lifts. Masks are a must and you may carry your own sanitizer.

Bird Ringing at Nairobi National Museum grounds usually takes place on Tuesday mornings. Ringing in Karen may be arranged on September 10th. Please confirm with Titus Imboma <imbomati911@gmail.com> Phone 0721-649452.

Mombasa Birdwalks are held the 3rd Saturday of each month. To check meeting time and place, check Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/> Or contact: Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540 or Kelvin Mazera <klvnrua@yahoo.com> / 0720-928783

Mark your calendars for October Big Day—**9 October 2021!** <https://ebird.org/octoberbigday>

Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far. Wherever you are on 9 October, take a few minutes to join the world of birding. By taking part in October Big Day you're also joining the second-ever Global Bird Weekend and celebrating World Migratory Bird Day. Be a part of the global team, and help set a new record for birding.

We recognize that COVID-19 continues to impact our communities. Even if your local conditions have improved, we encourage everyone to put safety first, follow local guidelines, and bird mindfully. You can bird from home and still participate in October Big Day!

In order to coordinate the birding effort in Kenya, if you plan to take part on 9 October 2021, please send your name, contacts and location to Richard Kipng'eno at <news@naturekenya.org> or to Pete Steward on WhatsApp +44 7473 957279.

Send your birding records to:
Kenya Bird Map <http://kenya.birdmap.africa/>

If you have questions re KBM, write to <kenyabirdmap@naturekenya.org>

Stay updated with the birding scene in Kenya by signing in to the new Kenyabirdsnet platform on Google Groups at:
<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/kenyabirdsnet>

After signing in you will be able to post your records at:
kenyabirdsnet@googlegroups.com

September Skies

BY FLEUR NG'WENO

Planets, Sept '21

When Nairobi skies cleared the third week of August, I could see brilliant Venus in the west. In the east, the full moon rose below golden Saturn and bright Jupiter. These planets are still easy to see on clear nights this month. In the first week of September, Venus seems to be close to the bright, blue-white star Spica. (In fact, Venus is between the Earth and the sun, while Spica is far out in space.)

Little Mercury is also visible, below Venus, over the sunset, rising and brightening until mid-month. Then it's Mercury's turn to seem close to Spica; and together the planet and the star slowly sink towards the horizon.

The slender crescent moon is (seems to be) near Mercury on 8 September, near Spica on the 9th and near Venus on the 10th. The waxing gibbous moon is near Saturn on the 16th and near Jupiter on 18 September.

September Stars

The constellations of the Scorpion – with the star Antares as its fiery eye – and Sagittarius, the Archer – forming a teapot or basket shape – stretch across the southwestern sky (see August Nature Net). The moon is near Antares on 12 September, near Nunki in Sagittarius on the 15th.

The bright star Altair, flanked by two fainter stars, is high overhead. North (left) of Altair and low in the sky is the brilliant white star Vega. It's in a tiny constellation called the Lyre. Below Altair, east of Vega, is another bright star, Deneb.

On a clear, dark night, away from city lights, you may see the Milky Way stretching like a pale ribbon across the sky, past Deneb, Altair, Sagittarius and the Scorpion. It is our galaxy, made up of millions and millions of stars.

In the morning before dawn, the constellation of Orion the Hunter is high in the east, with the brightest star, Sirius, to the south, and the second brightest star, Canopus, further south.

Moon Sept '21

Sept 7: New moon; look for the thin crescent moon above the sunset, near Mercury, on the 8th. Sept 13: First quarter (half-lit moon overhead at sunset). Sept 20: Full moon. As it is the full moon nearest the equinox, it is called the Harvest Moon. Sept 29: Last quarter (half-lit moon overhead at dawn).

September Sun

The equinox is on Sept 22 this year; the sun will be in the south until the next equinox in March. For us on the equator, the sun will also rise early and set early during the next 3 months. ☀

Yes! Start my NatureKenya membership

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	
<i>Ksh Per Year</i>	
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